

Vulnerable Person Policy

A. PURPOSE and DEFINITION

Durham County Library strives to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable persons* in and around the library.

A vulnerable person is an individual who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for his/her own care or manage his/her own behavior without assistance.

B. POLICY

Vulnerable persons who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended to and have adequate supervision at all times. A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring activities and managing the behavior of vulnerable person during their library visits. The Library does not assume responsibility for vulnerable persons while they are in the building or on Library property.

Vulnerable persons who can understand and follow Durham County Library's Courteous Conduct Policy, and can provide for their own needs, are welcome to remain in the library unattended. All library customers are expected to follow the rules of conduct outlined in Durham County Library's Courteous Conduct Policy. Vulnerable persons left unattended should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver in case of emergency and can contact them as needed. It is not the Library's responsibility to retain this information.

Library staff are responsible for assisting all Library customers and cannot adequately monitor unattended vulnerable persons. Staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver when a vulnerable person's health or safety is in doubt, if their behavior disturbs other library customers, if their actions violate any of Durham County Library's Courteous Conduct Policy or the parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at the time of the Library's closing. Library staff are not responsible for preventing vulnerable persons from leaving



Library grounds or monitoring or managing their behavior. If a vulnerable person is left without a ride after closing, staff will contact the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety of the adult.

C. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all library customers and/or persons on library property.

D. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all public service staff and facility supervisors to understand this policy fully so as to ensure fair and equitable application. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Director and the Community Engagement Administrator, with the advice of the Board of Trustees, to interpret, monitor and recommend updates to this policy. The Library Director is the final authority in regard to enforcing this policy.

Effective July 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baggett".

Tammy Baggett-Best
Library Director