

Unattended Children or Vulnerable Adults

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Revised:

Reviewed:

Policy Statement:

Powers Library welcomes and encourages all people to visit the library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support all persons, however, library staff are not able to provide short- or long-term childcare, short- or long-term adult care, or to assume responsibility for unattended children or vulnerable adults.

Unattended children or vulnerable adults are defined as children or adults of *any* age who need supervision, but are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver. Children and vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the library and must have adequate supervision while in the library. While staff may take action to prevent such action, Powers Library is not responsible if children or vulnerable adults leave library property unattended.

Regulation:

Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of the person in their care when they are in the library and on library grounds. Children or vulnerable adults are expected to respect library property (both inside and outside) and other patrons and staff.

Powers Library staff will make all attempts to contact a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child or vulnerable adult is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other library users, staff, or the normal operation of library business.
- An unattended child or vulnerable adult is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to their own health or safety, or the health or safety of others.
- An unattended child or vulnerable adult is left alone at the library at closing time.

Powers Library – Moravia, NY

Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Staff may try to call a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver to come pick up the person. If the parent, guardian, and/or caregiver is reached and requests that the person be allowed to walk home, staff will fill out an Incident Report detailing this information. **Under no circumstances will library staff transport the person or take the person away from the library.**

If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or do not respond within 15 minutes, Powers Library will work with local agencies as needed. Once 15 minutes have passed, staff will call the local police non-emergency number to request that police pick up the child or vulnerable adult at the library.

If police pick up the child or vulnerable adult, staff will post a notice on the front and back doors that the person was taken to the Police Department. Do not post the person's name! Library staff or police will inform the parent, guardian, or caregiver of the library's policy regarding unattended children or vulnerable adults.

In the event of repeated incidents, Powers Library will send a letter to the parent, guardian and/or caregiver (certified mail, return receipt) that states the library policy regarding unattended children or vulnerable adults, and informs the individual that if the child is again left unattended, the police will be notified immediately.