



Vulnerable Adults Policy

Date Adopted: March 20, 2025

Dates Amended: N/A

The Gardiner Library strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons, including those vulnerable adults who require assistance in utilizing the Library. A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for their own care or manage their own behavior without assistance.

Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the *Gardiner Library Code of Conduct Policy* and who can care for themselves are welcome to use the Gardiner Library unattended. Vulnerable adults are expected to have contact information for a responsible family member, caregiver, or guardian who can assist them in an emergency. Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and have adequate supervision at all times.

Library staff will not monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building or grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior. Sudden emergencies may occur in the Library and, in such cases, the Gardiner Library assumes no responsibility for unattended vulnerable adults.

If it is determined that a family member, caregiver, or guardian is needed to remove a vulnerable adult or pick up a vulnerable adult for any reason, and a family member, caregiver, or guardian cannot be reached by telephone within 15 minutes, Library staff may call the police. A staff member will remain with the vulnerable adult until the authorities arrive.

If a vulnerable adult is still at the Library at closing time and a family member, caregiver, or guardian cannot be reached within 15 minutes by telephone, Library staff may call the police and report the vulnerable adult as abandoned. A Library staff member will remain with the vulnerable adult until the authorities arrive.

Under no circumstances will any Library staff member drive a vulnerable adult home.