

**Geauga County Public Library
Operating Policy Manual**

SECTION: UNATTENDED VULNERABLE ADULTS
NUMBER: 955
EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 25, 2025
PROCEDURE YOUTH SAFETY & VULNERABLE ADULTS

The library welcomes patrons of all ages and encourages them to utilize its programs, services, and resources. A vulnerable adult is defined as an individual aged 18 or older who experiences physical, mental, or emotional challenges that may affect their ability to manage self-care or independent decision-making without support.

Every reasonable attempt will be made within the limitations of the Geauga County Public Library to accommodate the special needs of individuals or groups of attended vulnerable adults. Library staff are not trained to provide care for vulnerable adults and a responsible adult, legal guardian, or caregiver should accompany vulnerable adults while they are using the library. This responsible adult, legal guardian, or caregiver is responsible for the safety, managing the behavior, and monitoring the activities of the vulnerable adult in their case.

If the responsible adult, caretaker, or legal guardian cannot be reached, library staff will contact the local law enforcement agency to take charge of the situation involving the vulnerable adult.

Library employees are not permitted to escort vulnerable adults away from the library facilities, unless an emergency occurs and library staff are leading patrons to safety.

In an unattended vulnerable adult comes to the attention of library staff and refuses the supervision of a responsible adult, legal guardian, or caregiver while in a library facility, the vulnerable adult will be held to the same rules of conduct as all library patrons.