

Sidney Memorial Public Library	Manual Name: Public Policies
Policy Name: Safe Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy (See also Code of Conduct)	Date Effective: 9/9/26
Section: Patrons II H	Date Approved/Revised: 9/8/2020; 7/23/2026, 9/8/2026
Safe Child Policy and Vulnerable Adult Policy The Sidney Memorial Public Library is committed to providing a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for all of our patrons. However, at no time will the Library assume the responsibility of a surrogate care provider for children or vulnerable adults in the Library. A vulnerable adult is any person over the age of 18 who has a physical, mental, or emotional condition that significantly impairs the individual's ability to care for themselves or manage their own behavior without assistance (NY State Law § 260.31). The library does not have staff, training, or State Certification to act as a childcare facility or in lieu of trained staff or family / caregiver for vulnerable adults. While it is tempting to believe the library is a safe place that your child can visit without worrying about their safety, the library is a public building open to the entire community. Parents / caregivers should use the same precautions for ensuring their child's / vulnerable adult's safety in the library as they would in any other public location. With this in mind, we have put the following rules into place: • Children 12 and younger are to be under the direct supervision of a parent/guardian or responsible caregiver 15 years of age or older who assumes full responsibility for him/her during the entire library visit. The parent/guardian/caregiver may not leave the premises without the child. If the child is found to be unattended and displaying disruptive or inappropriate behavior, the staff will attempt to find the child's parent/guardian/caregiver. If the staff member is unable to locate anyone in this position, a law enforcement official may be notified. • For children attending a program held in the library, the parent/guardian/caregiver must remain in the building. It is important if the child needs to leave the program for any reason that the parent/caregiver be present to ensure their safety. • Children 13 to 17 are young adults and are considered independent users. Parents / Caregivers are responsible for the conduct of any child under the age of 18 or vulnerable adult whether they are in the company of that child or not. • It is recommended that children / vulnerable adult visiting the library have some form of identification in his or her possession during the entire visit. This information should also include a telephone number. When a child or vulnerable adult engages in behavior in the Library that is potentially dangerous to themselves or others or engages in activities particularly annoying to other library users, a staff member will speak to the responsible adult concerning the problem and request that they provide closer supervision for their child / vulnerable adult. Library staff will not physically restrain a child / vulnerable adult. If the problem continues the Library Director will be notified. If children or vulnerable adults are left unattended after library closing time, library staff will not give rides, nor will they wait for parents / caregivers to arrive to pick up their children / vulnerable adults. Library staff will contact the local police department immediately. Unattended children / vulnerable adults will be turned over to their custody and staff will place a sign on the door stating that "unattended children / vulnerable adults are with the Sidney Police at (607) 561-2301. Once located, parents / caregivers will be given a copy of this policy and informed that	

all future incidents will be handled exclusively by the local police department. Continued violation of this policy will result in suspension of library privileges for the family.

Approved by Board:
9/8/26

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