

VULNERABLE CHILD POLICY

PURPOSE: The Shaler North Hills Library is concerned with the safety and well-being of children in the library, particularly those who are at risk because of their vulnerability.

A “vulnerable” child is defined as one who is unable to care for his or her physical and psychological needs or is too young to be safe alone inside and outside the facility. Although this may include older children, it applies to all children eight years of age or younger.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The accompanying adult is responsible for the vulnerable child while in the library.

An accompanying adult may not leave a vulnerable child unattended in the Children’s Rooms, or in any other room of the library.

An accompanying adult may not leave a vulnerable child in the temporary care of another young child who is ten years or younger.

The library cannot be responsible for the safety or well-being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.

The library staff cannot be responsible for any child who is left unattended.

The library staff cannot be responsible for preventing children from leaving with an adult who is not the proper chaperone.

The library staff will deal with children left at closing who are too young to go home alone safely by calling the police if the parent or guardian cannot be located, Staff will remain with that child until the police arrive.

ADOPTED: June10, 1998

AMENDED: