



143 Genesee Street ▪ Avon, NY 14414 ▪ (585) 226-8461 ▪ avonfreelibrary.org

Children & Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy

The mission of the Avon Free Library (the Library) is to create an inclusive, safe, and welcoming space for all of its patrons, including children and vulnerable adults. Parents, guardians, or caregivers are ultimately responsible for the safety and welfare of children using the Library. Staff cannot take responsibility for the care and supervision of children. Parents or guardians should ensure that children visiting the library:

- Understand appropriate behavior as described in the Patron Code of Conduct.
- Understand basic personal safety (e.g. “stranger danger”). The library is an open facility and cannot monitor children’s interactions with other patrons.
- Understand parental/guardian expectations regarding usage of the library and its materials. Library staff cannot monitor or restrict access to information.
- Have emergency contact information of a responsible adult (including address and phone number) who is reachable at all times.
- Are in good health.

Children under the age of 8 must be under supervision (near or in sight) of a caregiver at all times in the Library. If a child under the age of 8 is found in the Library unattended, staff will attempt to locate the child’s parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian cannot be located, local law enforcement or the appropriate social service agency may be contacted.

Children age 8 and over may use the Library unattended. Parents and guardians are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children’s behavior. A responsible adult should also be conveniently available to pick up children in the event of an emergency, illness, unplanned early closure of the Library, or if the child engages in disruptive behavior.

Unattended children who violate the Patron Code of Conduct may be asked by staff to cease use of library facilities. In these cases, staff will work with the child to contact a parent or guardian; if a parent or guardian cannot be reached, staff may contact local law enforcement. Serious or repeated violations may result in the child being denied unsupervised access to the library in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Patron Code of Conduct.

Vulnerable Adults

A vulnerable adult is defined as an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair that person’s ability to provide adequately for their personal needs and safety, or manage their behavior without assistance.

Vulnerable adults must have a parent, guardian, or caregiver 18 years or older with them while in the Library who can adequately provide for their personal needs or manage their behavior if needed.

Violations of the Child and Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy may result in suspending library privileges for the individual and/or family.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees on April 30, 2018
Amended by the Board of Trustees on November 25th, 2024*