



PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Purpose:

To set forth the responsibilities of parents, guardians and caregivers whose children or vulnerable adults use the Pima County Public Library.

Policy:

The Pima County Public Library welcomes all members of the public and hopes that visitors will come to know libraries as warm, inviting, and enriching places. Parents, guardians and caregivers must realize that there can be risks associated with leaving children or vulnerable adults unattended at a library. The Library does not and cannot act as a baby-sitter or day care center and will not monitor children or vulnerable adults who are left unattended.

To enhance the library experience for, and minimize the risk to, children and vulnerable adults, the following requirements apply:

1. The responsibility for the safety and well-being of every child and vulnerable adult using the library rests with the parent, guardian or caregiver, not with library personnel.
2. Children under the age of eight (8) must be attended at all times by a responsible adult or caregiver who is at least 14 years old.
3. Children age eight (8) and older, and vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the Customer Code of Conduct, are welcome to be in the library unattended if they have contact information for a responsible adult or teen who will be available to provide assistance, if needed.
4. Children are not to remain at the library after closing. If a child under 18 or vulnerable adult is left alone at a library at closing, or if a library closes because of an emergency situation, library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian or caregiver. If a parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be contacted, or the child or vulnerable adult is not picked up within 10 minutes after closing, library staff will call law enforcement who will assume responsibility for the individual.



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Definition:

For purposes of this policy, ‘vulnerable adult’ means an individual who is eighteen years of age or older and who is, because of a mental or physical impairment, unable to:

1. Protect himself from abuse or exploitation by others; or
2. Comprehend or comply with the Library’s Customer Code of Conduct.

Adoption Date: August 7, 2007
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