**JUVENILE AND VULNERABLE ADULT PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY**

The Sullivan County Public Library strives to create a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable environment for patrons of all ages, especially children and vulnerable adults. A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18 who is unable or unwilling to care for themselves.

The Library respects the rights and privacy of all patrons. Staff will intervene only when juveniles or vulnerable adults are left unattended and/or if issues relating to safety and well-being or disruptive behaviors occur.

To best serve Library patrons, the following rules have been put in place:

1. Absolutely no running, rowdy play, disruptive or destructive behaviors are allowed inside or outside the Library facilities.
2. Patrons must use inside voices and appropriate language at all times while visiting the Library.
3. Computer use by children may be limited to two 30-minute sessions per day.
4. Students aged 17 and under who have been suspended from school may only visit the Library to work on homework during school hours.

Any patron not following the rules or causing a disturbance will be asked up to two times by Library staff to stop the offending behavior. If the behavior continues after two warnings, the patron will be asked to leave the Library for the day or longer, depending on the severity of the behavior. If a child or vulnerable adult does not or is not able to leave when asked, a parent or legal guardian will be called to attend to his or her behavior. If a parent or legal guardian cannot be reached, Library staff may call local authorities.

If a child or vulnerable adult has been left unattended at the Library at time of closing, ~~the child~~ they may use the Library’s phone to call a parent or legal guardian before the Library closes. If they have not been picked up by closing time, Library staff may call the police to retrieve them. Library staff are unable to offer patrons ride homes under any circumstances. When possible, two adult Library staff members will remain with them until they have been retrieved.

While every effort will be made to ensure a child’s safety, the Library cannot assume responsibility for children under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults, nor can staff assume responsibility for patrons left at the Library after closing. This is particularly true during inclement weather and after dark. All children and vulnerable adults should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency. The Library may at times request this information to keep on file. Parents and/or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their those they care for, regardless of whether they accompany them or not to the Library.