

POLICY FOR SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR VULNERABLE ADULTS

READING COMPANY TECHNICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Supervision procedures are designed to reduce the possibility of abuse or exploitation of children, youth or vulnerable adults, and to protect staff persons and volunteers from unfounded accusations.

1. The two adult rule – Regardless of the size group, there will always be at least two adults present. This may include the presence of an adult ‘roamer’ who moves in and out of rooms/ activities.
2. No child, youth or vulnerable adult will be left unsupervised while participating in a activity/event.
3. All activities should occur in open view. Each room or space where activities/events occur must be open to public view. For example: enclosed spaces such as classrooms or offices shall have a viewing window, a glass panel in the door, a ½ door configuration or an open door.
4. No person shall supervise an age group unless he/she is at least 18 years of age or older and is at least 5 years older than the children/youth being supervised.

Definitions:

Child or children or youth – any person who has not reached his/her eighteenth birthday

Vulnerable Adult – A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who, because of a mental or physical dysfunction, is unable to manage his/her own resources, carry out the activity of daily living, or protect himself/herself from abuse or neglect without assistance from others.

REPORTING:

Reporting of an allegation of child abuse is required whenever there is “reasonable cause to suspect” that abuse has occurred (PA Child Protective Services Law), Title 23 Pa. C.S.S. Chapter 63). Reasonable cause to suspect abuse can occur (1) when any staff or a volunteer personally witnesses an incident of abuse, (2) when an allegation of an event of abuse is made to staff or volunteer by a third party, and/or (3) when a child or vulnerable adult discloses abuse to staff or a volunteer. It is crucial that reporting be immediate and the allegations dealt with as soon in time as possible to the incident or disclosure.

Reports of suspected abuse of child or vulnerable adult between the ages of 18 and 21 are made to the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Hotline (24-Hour service) at 1-800-932-0313 or to the Child & Youth agency of the county in which the alleged abuse occurred. Reports of suspected abuse of vulnerable adults over the age of 21 are made to the Pennsylvania State Police.

Adopted 1/3/2012