

## Policy Manual

Section:	Infrastructure Services
Subject:	Vulnerable Children Signage Policy
Policy Number:	039
Approval Date:	2020-08-04
Approved By:	Resolution #
Prepared By:	Director of Infrastructure Services

### 1.00 Objective

To address concerns for children who are near or adjacent to roadways and relating to children with disabilities. The approach includes the installation of a ‘vulnerable children warning sign’, a new symbolic traffic sign to warn motorists of vulnerable children within residential neighbourhoods.

### 2.00 Definitions

#### **Vulnerable Children**

Children under the age of 13 who may be at risk or limited by disability (as defined under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (“AODA”).

#### **Vulnerable Children Warning Sign**

A warning sign, as described by the Ontario Traffic Manual that identifies the potential for vulnerable children in the geographic area.

### 3.00 Scope

The aim is to encourage motorists to acknowledge that a Vulnerable Child is in the area using Vulnerable Children Warning Signs to implement a greater level of caution. The Vulnerable Children Warning Sign also allows the Town to note multiple Vulnerable children in the area without increasing the number of signs required.

## 4.00 Vulnerable Children Sign Procedure

### 4.01 Sign Requests Application

Warning signs may be installed upon request by the **parents (and/or legal guardian or person otherwise having lawful custody) of the Vulnerable Child** provided they supply the Town with the following information and verification:

1. The 'Vulnerable Children Warning Signage Application Form' completed and submitted to Infrastructure Services as provided in Appendix A attached.
2. A physician's statement confirming the disability.
3. Concurrence from the parent(s)/ legal representative of their understanding that the sign will only remain in place for a predefined period of five (5) year increments, and will be removed when the child reaches a specified age (thirteen (13) years), or in the event there is no reconfirmation from the parent(s) / legal representative requesting the sign, that the requirement for the sign is still valid after the initial five (5) year installation period. (Age confirmation may include a sworn statement of the child's date of birth).
4. Written acknowledgement from the parent(s) of their understanding that the sign is no guarantee of their child's safety and that they remain responsible for the monitoring of their child's activities.
5. A commitment to notify the public agency in a timely manner of any positive changes in the child's impairments (for example, cochlear implants, use of a hearing aids etc. for children with hearing impairments).
6. A commitment to notify the public agency in a timely manner of any relocation to another place of residence.

These stipulations require close tracking by the Town utilizing various forms of documentation, including roll numbers, and ownership information.

### 4.02 Sign Requests Installation

Upon completion of Section 4.01 of this policy, the Town will procure the requested warning sign and complete the installation in the location satisfactory to the Director of Infrastructure Services, or their delegate.

## 5.00 Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of the Director of Infrastructure Services to ensure that staff is aware and follow this policy.
- It is the responsibility of the Operations Manager to ensure that signs are installed in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual and that the sign is included in the Town's Asset Management Inventory.



- It is the responsibility of employees of the Town of Essex to ensure that the procedures set forth in the policy are adhered to.

## 6.00 References

*Ontario Traffic Manual*