

Policy Manual

Section:	Infrastructure Services
Subject:	Vulnerable Children Signage Policy
Policy Number:	039
Approval Date:	2020-09-21
Approved By:	Resolution #R20-09-339
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 16 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 (sixteen (16) years, or as determined by the Director of Infrastructure acting reasonably), 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

Appendix "A"

Vulnerable Children Warning Signage

Application Form

A. Applicant Information			
Last Name	First Name		
Street Address		Unit No.	Lot/Con
Town/City	Postal Code	Province	Phone Number
Email Address			
B. Vulnerable Child Information			
Child's Name (First, Last)		Child's Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Child's Disability			
C. Declaration of Applicant			
<p>By filling and signing this application, the applicant agrees to the following as approved by Town Council in accordance with the Town's Vulnerable Children Signage Policy number 039. (Please acknowledge each by placing a check in each box).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> As Applicant I am the parent and/or legal guardian or otherwise having lawful custody of the Child identified in this Application <input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge and agree that the sign will only remain in place for a predefined period of five (5) years or when the child reaches the age of sixteen (16), whichever occurs first, or as determined by the Director of Infrastructure acting reasonably. It is the responsibility of the applicant to reconfirm the need for the sign after the 5 year period. <input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge and agree that: 1) the posting of a requested sign is no assurance of child's safety at any particular time nor that safer conditions now exist in the area in the vicinity of the requested sign; 2) The child's safety remains the sole responsibility of the parent/legal guardian(s) and 3) There is no substitute for proper supervision and education as it relates to safety and traffic. <input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge and agree that The Corporation of the Town of Essex shall not be held liable nor have liability with respect to and as Applicant/Parent/legal guardian and on behalf of the Child I hereby waive, release and agree not to sue the Corporation of the Town of Essex for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages that may be suffered or incurred arising out of, or in any way related to this Application. <input type="checkbox"/> I consent to the collection/use/disclosure of the personal information provided in this application, such information as may be reasonably necessary to perform the services contemplated by this application or for such other lawful and necessary purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> I will notify the Town of any positive changes in the child's impairment that may warrant the removal of the sign. <input type="checkbox"/> I will notify the Town in a timely manner of any relocation to another place of residence. The sign may be relocated to the new place of residence if deemed eligible by the Director of Infrastructure Services. 			
Signature of Applicant		Date	

D. Approval Authority (Office Use Only)	
Director Approval	Date
Roll No.	
Removal Date	

Application Checklist:

- Completed application form.
- Copy of Proof of Child's age (ie. birth certificate, passport, health card).
- Copy of a physician's statement confirming the disability.