

Library Code of Conduct

The Board of Trustees has adopted a Library Code of Conduct to ensure a comfortable, clean and safe environment for all library patrons. This policy is intended to provide clear and reasonable rules to guide patron behavior while in the library or on the library premises.

Unacceptable behavior includes actions in the library or on the library premises that interfere with the use of the library by other patrons, creates a risk of injury or a health risk to other patrons or library staff, inhibit the work of library staff, disrupt a peaceful enjoyment of the library or create a risk of damage to library, patron or staff property.

For these reasons, the Library Code of Conduct is to be observed by all the library patrons.

Unacceptable behavior in the library or on the library premises includes but not limited to:

1. Any activity that constitutes a violation of federal, state or local criminal statutes or ordinances;
2. Damage, defacement or theft of any library, staff or patron property or material;
3. Possession, distribution or use of alcohol;
4. Possession, distribution or use of dangerous control substances;
5. Use of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices;
6. Engaging in disruptive behavior, including staring at another person with the intent to annoy or intimidate that person, or following another person around the library's building;
7. Carrying concealed or unconcealed weapon, unless authorized by law;
8. Carrying or using a toy gun or water squirt gun;
9. Sexual activity, contact or assault or any act of lewdness prohibited by New Jersey Statutes Annotated 2C: 14-1 through 2C: 14-8 and any other sexual activity which is inappropriate in a public place;
10. Use of profanity, abusive or threatening language or threatening gestures, or abusive or threatening physical contact.
11. Unreasonable noise levels including loud talking and or disruptive conversations, uncontrolled or repeated ringing of cell phones or wireless devices, and loud cell phone conversations;
12. Use of any electronic equipment that disturbs others;

13. Any activity not in compliance with Library Policy Section 309, Internet Acceptable Use Policy;
14. Solicitations, petitions or canvassing in the library or on the library premises, except as specified in Library Policy Section 705, Solicitations;
15. Obstructing the entrances and exits of the library, lobby, aisles and passageways;
16. Leaving bicycles unattended at the library entrance rather than in the bicycles rack;
17. Rollerblading, roller skating, skateboarding or wheeled shoe use in the library, or bringing in bicycles, skateboards, scooters or similar equipment inside the library;
18. Entering the library wearing inappropriate attire that may include but not limited to bare feet, bare chest, swimwear, cleats, or other athletic footwear that may damage the library flooring;
19. Consumption of food and beverages except at authorized library event;
20. Bringing animals inside the library with exception of service animals or those allowed at an authorized library event;
21. Lack of personal hygiene that interferes with the use and enjoyment of the library by other or interferes with the work of the library staff;
22. Use of the library restrooms for bathing, shaving or washing hair;
23. Photographing or videotaping without prior permission of the Library Director or those being photographed.
24. Moving, defacing or otherwise abusing furniture or equipment, including standing on tables or chairs or putting feet on tables.
25. Diapering or changing the clothing of a baby or toddler in any part of the library other than one of the public; restrooms;
26. Leaving unattended children or adults who are in need of supervision;

ENFORCEMENT:

Any library patron who violates the Library Code of Conduct or other rules or regulations of the library will be asked by the library staff to leave the library and its premises, and may be denied the privilege of access to the library and its premises. The Springfield Police will be called when appropriate. The decision to suspend the library privileges of a patron may be made only by the Library Director or her/his designee at the Director's absence.

An appeal to the Library Director's decision to suspend a patron's library privileges may be made in writing to the Library Board of Trustees within five (5) business days of the start of suspension period. The Library Board of Trustees shall provide a written response within ten (10) business days of their receipt of the written appeal.