

LIBERTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BEHAVIOR POLICY

(RULES OF CONDUCT)

Behavior Policy

Introduction

The Liberty Public Library's behavior policy has a threefold purpose: to protect the rights and safety of the library customers, to protect the rights and safety of staff members and to preserve the library's materials, facilities and property.

For everyone's safety and protection, the Library reserves the right to inspect an individual's belongings including purses, backpacks, bags, parcels, shopping bags, briefcases and other items to prevent unauthorized removal of library materials and equipment or for the health and safety of staff and other customers.

The Liberty Public Library supports the rights of individuals to free and equal access to information and use of the library without discrimination, intimidation, threat of harm or invasion of privacy. The Liberty Public Library is dedicated to providing friendly, courteous and respectful service and an enjoyable, clean and comfortable environment for all Library users.

Library staff will courteously, but firmly, enforce this policy.

Definitions and Scope

Harassing is defined as any repeated verbal or nonverbal conduct which is specifically intended or reasonably expected to frighten, embarrass, seriously annoy, or anger the person or persons who are the object of such conduct or which the person accused has reason to know is likely to produce such reactions, or as any repeated verbal communication which, by its very utterance, inflicts injury, fear, or other emotional trauma or upset, or tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace, and which conduct serves no legitimate purpose.

These rules shall apply to all buildings, interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by the Liberty Public Library (such buildings and grounds are hereafter referred to as the "premises") and to all persons entering in or on the premises.

Policy

Conduct will not be permitted if it is disruptive, disturbing, or potentially harmful to others, if it otherwise interferes with the enjoyment and use of the Library by other customers, or if it is inconsistent with the Library's mission. This includes, but is not limited to: disorderly conduct, noise, or activity that interferes with the rights of others whether intentional or inadvertent; physical abuse or threatening behavior or language; disobeying the directions of library staff; or, the misuse of library materials, equipment or furnishing. Expulsion from the library and/or loss of library privileges, on a temporary or permanent basis, may result from violations of this policy.

Examples of Unacceptable Activities

The following are examples of behaviors which are not permitted because they interfere with the enjoyment and use of the Library by other customers, present a health or safety hazard or are inconsistent with the Library's mission. **This list is not all-inclusive, but is provided to illustrate the types of behaviors prohibited under this policy.**

- Consuming food or drink.
- Sleeping, lying down or engaging in activities that interfere with library use.
- Engaging in loud, aggressive or threatening conduct; fighting or challenging another to fight; using profane language or obscene behavior or engaging in harassing behavior of any kind.
- Engaging in loud conversations, screaming, yelling or making any other noise that disturbs other library users.

- Interfering with another person's use of the library or with the library personnel's performance of their duties.
- Damaging, defacing, misusing or stealing of library materials, equipment or computer resources.
- Tampering with, altering, editing or damaging computer hardware and/or software.
- Using personal electronic equipment including mobile devices, with or without headphones, at a volume that is audible to others. Cellphones or other communication devices may be used for brief conversations as long as the volume is not a disruption to staff or users.
- Entering or using the premises in bare feet or without a shirt.
- Placing feet on tables or chairs.
- Bathing or changing clothing on library premises.
- Having bodily odor that is so offensive as to constitute a disturbance to other customers and/or library personnel, whether from lack of personal hygiene, alcohol, perfume, cologne or any other odor producing condition.
- Engaging in any kind of sexual activity or lewd behavior or sexually harassing any other person.
- Using bicycles, roller-blades, skateboards or other sports equipment in or on library premises.
- Leaving a child under the age of 10 unattended on library premises.
- Blocking aisles or pathways so that access to library materials, equipment or facilities is prohibited.
- Entering staff areas by customers or improperly using stairwells or other areas in and around the library building.
- Soliciting within the library or on its premises or distributing and/or posting literature that has not been approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- Bringing into the library leashed or unleashed animals, other than guide and service animals, which have not been approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- Gambling.
- Carrying weapons of any kind.
- Using, distributing or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Using any tobacco products in or on library premises; including e-cigarettes and vapor pipes.
- Committing any act that would violate any State, Federal or local law, ordinance or regulation.
- Using any library resource, including its public access computers/wi-fi network to engage in illegal activity which violates this policy or to injure or harass another person.

Loss of Library Privileges

By authority of the Liberty Public Library, persons who violate the behavior policy may be restricted from the Library or from the use of the library facilities, on either a temporary or permanent basis. Those unwilling to leave, or who do not leave within a reasonable amount of time after being instructed to do so by the staff, may be subject to prosecution.

Any person whose library privileges have been revoked under this policy may make a written request to the Executive Director for reinstatement of privileges. Reinstatement of privileges may be conditioned on future compliance and will be at the sole discretion of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Library policies are posted on the Liberty Public Library web site (www.libertypubliclibrary.org) and are available upon request. Requests should be directed to: Executive Director, Liberty Public Library 189 North Main Street, Liberty, NY 12754, (845) 292-6070.

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