

Lambertville Free Public Library

Code of Conduct Policy

The Lambertville Free Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted this Library Code of Conduct Policy to help ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of all patrons, employees, and volunteers. Library patrons are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects respect for fellow patrons, library staff, and library policies, and to behave in a manner that does not hinder others from using the library or library materials.

This policy is intended to provide clear and reasonable rules to guide behavior while in the library and on library premises. Unacceptable behavior includes actions in the library or on library premises that interfere with the use of the library by others, create a risk of injury to oneself or others, inhibit or disrespect the work of library staff, disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of the library, or create a risk of damage or injury to library, staff, or patron property.

The Library Code of Conduct is to be observed by everyone in the building or on library grounds. Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Engagement in any activity that constitutes a violation of federal, state, or local criminal statutes or ordinances
- Disobeying the reasonable direction of library staff members
- Photographing, filming, or recording other patrons without their consent
- Damage, defacement, or theft of any library or patron property or material
- Abuse, removal, or misplacement of library equipment, furniture, and materials.
- Possession of weapons of any type, except by law enforcement officers.
- Possession, distribution, or use of alcohol
- Possession, distribution, or use of controlled substances
- Smoking of any kind, including e-cigarette devices
- Sexual conduct
- Use of profanity, use of abusive or threatening language, making threatening gestures, bullying, or engaging in disruptive physical conduct
- Unreasonable noise levels including shouting, loud talking, disruptive conversation, uncontrolled or repeated ringing of cell phones, or loud cell phone conversations
- Use of personal electronic equipment at a volume that disturbs others
- Leaving personal items unattended for extended periods of time, either inside the library or on library grounds
- Leaving children or adults who are in need of supervision unattended
- Solicitating, petitioning, or canvassing in the library or on library premises

- Rollerblading, roller skating, skateboarding, or using wheeled shoes in the library or on library premises
- Bringing animals inside the library beyond the front desk area, with the exception of documented service animals or those animals allowed to be at a library-sponsored event
- Disregarding the Library's Internet Use Policy
- Exhibiting a lack of personal hygiene that causes interference with the use or enjoyment of the library by others
- Engaging in prolonged sleeping that interferes with others' use and enjoyment of the library
- Use of the library restrooms for anything other than their ordinarily intended purpose, it being understood that such purposes do not include bathing, shaving, or washing hair
- Refusing to be fully clothed or to wear footwear within the library building
- Refusing to leave the library at closing time

LIBRARY RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Library staff members may ask a patron who violates this Code of Conduct to leave the library with or without prior warning.

If a child's behavior becomes overly disruptive, staff members have the discretion to request that the parent/caregiver take the child out of the library until the child is ready to behave appropriately. Likewise, staff members have the discretion to ask children who are above the age of nine to leave the library if their behavior is overly disruptive.

In situations where staff members feel that the health, safety, or security of library users or staff members is threatened, they may take any and all appropriate action including, but not limited to, calling the police for assistance.

Any person who repeatedly violates these rules, or any person who commits a single, serious violation of the rules, in addition to being required to leave the library, may be subject to a suspension of on-site library privileges for a specified period of time, or may have their on-site library privileges revoked entirely, at the discretion of the Library Director.

Anyone whose privileges have been suspended or revoked may request to have the decision reviewed by the Library Director. A further appeal may be taken, upon written request, to the Library Board of Trustees. If library privileges are reinstated, those privileges will be contingent upon the patron's adherence to the Library Code of Conduct.