

G.A.R. Memorial Library Code of Conduct

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, orderly, and comfortable atmosphere in which all Library patrons can use the Library's materials and services most effectively. Patrons, as well as staff, should be mindful of the effects of their behavior on others using the Library's facilities.

PERMITTED BEHAVIOR

Behavior is permitted which does not disturb or infringe on the rights of other Library patrons and staff and is not prohibited by law or these regulations.

- Persons who, because of a handicap or disability, must speak and/or be spoken to in a loud voice shall be allowed to do so.
- Sleeping is allowed for short periods of time, provided that other patrons are not disturbed.
- Game playing is allowed, provided that other patrons are not disturbed.
- Drinking of non-alcoholic beverages is allowed, provided that the drinks are in covered containers.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

The Library does not allow illegal behavior or any behavior that is disruptive to library use. These behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Eating or drinking alcoholic beverages
- Running and noisy activities
- Loud talking. Conversations must be kept low enough so that other patrons are not disturbed.
- Harassment of other patrons or of Library staff through abusive language, following, or staring
- Soliciting or selling
- Objectionable personal hygiene
- Smoking and vaping
- Use of marijuana or illegal drugs
- Petitioning or distributing materials
- Disruptive cell phone use
- Vulgarity or obscenity in speech, actions, or publicly viewed material
- Excessive noise separate from an authorized Library program
- Non-service animals. Service animals, either certified or while in training, are allowed inside the building, along with animals brought in for scheduled programs.
- Bicycles are not allowed inside the Library. Bicycles shall not be left anywhere where they would make an entrance inaccessible or partially inaccessible.
- Not wearing a shirt or shoes
- Leaving children unattended by a responsible caregiver (an older child is not considered a responsible caregiver)
- Any illegal activity, including stealing, damaging or altering Library or patron property
- Failing to abide by Library policies

At the discretion of the Library Director, or his/her designee, other behaviors or actions not listed above may be deemed unacceptable and may incur the same consequences as those behaviors defined in this policy.

Library staff have the authority to implement library policies and to determine appropriate standards of conduct. Patrons in violation of this policy, or otherwise breaking the law or causing a disturbance in the Library, will be asked to leave the building and Library grounds. Persons refusing to leave will be referred to the West Newbury Police Department for removal.

If inappropriate disruptive behavior persists on multiple occasions, the Library Director may proceed with a Notice of Trespass for a specific period of time commensurate with the infraction.

Approved by the G.A.R. Memorial Library Board of Trustees on September 12, 2023