

Ledyard Public Libraries' Behavior Policy

In our efforts to provide a comfortable environment for all library users, we have established a Library Behavior Policy for our patrons. The purpose of the Policy is to define unacceptable behavior and also to suggest conduct that is appropriate in a library.

Violations of the Policy will result in increasing levels of action, ranging from asking the patron to leave the library for the remainder of the day to the patron's permanent loss of all library privileges to legal prosecution. The level of action shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be within the sole discretion of the Library Director or his or her designee. When serious incidents occur or when police are called to respond to an incident, an Incident report is filed with the Library Director

1. Unacceptable Behavior causes excessive noise levels, creates disturbances, interferes with other patrons' use of the library, damages library property and is not permitted at the library. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Loud, disruptive conversations, including shouting;
 - b. Use of profane and/or abusive language;
 - c. Harassment of others, either verbally or by physical actions. This includes any actions that other patrons or staff members perceive to be harassing;
 - d. Threatening others either verbally or by physical actions. This includes any actions that other patrons or staff members perceive to be threatening;
 - e. Use of alcohol and narcotics is not permitted. Patrons under the influence of either alcohol or narcotics will not be allowed on the Library premises;
 - f. Throwing, running and climbing in the library;
 - g. Indiscriminate pulling of materials from shelves in a manner that disrupts the orderly and proper arrangement of library materials;
 - h. Radios and other sound producing devices may not be used in the library unless they are used with headphones and the sounds are not audible to others;
 - i. Use of cell phones should be limited, discreet and at a level that is not disruptive to others. In consideration of other patrons we ask that cell phone conversations be taken out to the lobby. (See Cell phone policy)
2. Library staff cannot be expected to assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children, under the age of eighteen. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children.

3. In accordance with our policy on unattended children, children (10) years of age and younger must be accompanied by, and at all times, be under the supervision of, a parent or other responsible caregiver. The library staff and this policy recognize that the children's area of the library may be louder and have more commotion than the adult areas of the library. However, if a child is disruptive and cannot be quieted or calmed, the parent or caregiver must remove the child from the library.
4. All patrons must leave the premises after closing, unless they are participating in a prescheduled program or meeting.
5. Anyone involved in the theft, defacement or mutilation of library materials or property will be subject to arrest and prosecution.
6. Food and drink spillage can damage valuable resources. Patrons shall refrain from having food or drink around any computer or electronic equipment and exercise care with food or drink around other library resources. The patron is responsible for any damage done by their food or drink.

These policies are drafted in accordance with Sec. 11-32 and Sec. 53-21a of the Connecticut General Laws.

Adopted by Ledyard Library Commission 03/21/2016