

Derby Public Library Patron Code of Conduct

The Library strives to provide a comfortable, welcoming environment for all users. It is the purpose of this document to define unacceptable behavior that would interfere with this goal. Information contained in this document should be observed by all Library users and will be applied without discrimination. Violations will result in appropriate 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 Library privileges to legal prosecution. The level of action shall be within the sole discretion of the Library Director and his/her designee.

Unacceptable behavior, such as loud talking, playing of loud music on portable devices, or undue physical movement which causes excessive noise levels, creates disturbances and interferes with others use of the Library is not permitted anywhere in the Library.

Loitering on Library grounds, creating a disturbance, obstructing an entrance to the Library, or any breach of peace as defined by Connecticut State Law (Sec.53a-181) is not permitted in or around the Library. All patrons must leave the premises after closing unless they are participating in scheduled program or meeting.

Interference with, or the harassment or intimidation of other patrons, Library staff or volunteers represents unacceptable behavior. This includes all unwanted or abusive conduct by word, act, look, or gesture.

No Library property may be misused, mutilated, damaged, or defaced, nor may any material be removed from the Library without being checked out properly.

The Library staff may ask to examine a user's bags to assure compliance with the Library's check-out procedures.

Library furniture and equipment should be used appropriately.

Cell phones should be silenced. Their use should be limited and at a level that is not disturbing to others.

Covered drinks and snacks are permitted in the Library, with the exception of the Local History Room and Computer Areas, provided that all trash is properly disposed of and other patrons are not disturbed. Great care should be taken and any damage caused by food or drink will be subject to full payment by patron.

Prior approval from the Library Director or his/her designee is required to take photographs, video recordings, or audio recordings in the Library

Since the Library is not designed to serve as a public shelter or lounge, sleeping, lingering aimlessly, and misuse of the rest rooms are not allowed.

Animals are not allowed inside the Library unless they are official service animals. Animals left outside of the Library must be on a secured leash and not disruptive to patrons entering and leaving the building, and they must not cause noise levels that are disruptive to patrons inside the building.

Solicitation, vending, and distribution of petitions or surveys, other than Library-related, are not permitted in the Library or on Library grounds without prior consent by the Library Director or his/her designee.

Patrons shall not conduct any business for trade, profit, or promotion of beliefs.

Proper attire, including shirts and shoes must be worn at all times inside the Library and on Library grounds.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Library building. Outside ash receptacles can be found at all three Library entrances.

Alcohol is not permitted anywhere inside the Library building or on Library grounds.

Roller skates, scooters, skateboards, bicycles, or similar devices may not be brought inside the Library building. Bicycles should be parked and locked at the provided bike rack.

Personal items must be kept within sight of the owner at all times. Library staff will not watch or guard patron property. Personal items cannot be used to reserve space for patrons. Any such items may be removed by Library staff and relocated. The Library is not responsible for any loss of personal items or information left on Library property, including relocated items.

Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or criminal law or ordinance is prohibited in the Library building or on Library grounds. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to: use or possession of weapons, possessing, selling, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, engaging in peeping, stalking, or indecent exposure, engaging in sexual activity, etc.

For information on Children's Behavior, Young Adult Behavior, and Computer Usage, see individual policies.

Adopted by Board of Directors on March 18, 2015