

Patron Behavior Policy

For the purposes of this policy “The Library” refers to the John Jermain building and immediate premises surrounding the building, as well as its digital and offsite presence; these rules for patron behavior apply in all current and evolving settings, both physical and virtual and the Library will enforce its Patron Behavior Policy in all library designated spaces, including its social media accounts. Any patron who violates the library rules and regulations may be denied the privilege of access to the Library, its programs, and its electronic accounts by the Library Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Library Director.

Patrons are encouraged to read, study and use library materials, and to take part in programs or similar activities associated with the use of a public library. Any person not so engaged may be required to leave the library premises. Patrons are prohibited from engaging in any activity which constitutes an annoyance, disruption, distraction, or safety or health hazard to other patrons or library staff, as well as the orderly and peaceful use and enjoyment of the library and library premises:

The following are examples of behavior and activity NOT permitted in the Library:

Refusing to wear and/or properly wear Personal Protective Equipment such as masks, when such use is required by the library due to public health conditions

Refusing to comply with established Social Distancing Guidelines as implemented by the Library when necessary for public safety

Interfering with other patrons’ reasonable expectation of privacy

Interfering with Library staff’s performance of their duties

Leaving children under the age of ten (10) unattended on the premises

Using harassing, obscene, abusive, or insulting language or gestures

Causing a disturbance by arguing, propagandizing, or proselytizing

Soliciting, gambling, distributing leaflets or petitions, congregating, or sleeping in the library or on library premises

Engaging in loud or boisterous activities

Consuming food or beverages outside of designated areas

Smoking or vaping on Library property. Library property means anywhere within the Library building and outside of the building within 100 feet of a library doorway pursuant to Public Health Law, Article 13-E, known as the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).

Skateboarding on Library premises

Listening to music, movies, or other audio content without the use of headphones

Possessing, distributing, or consuming alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances or misusing legal substances such as glue or prescription medications

Possessing or using a dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is defined as any instrument, article or substance that is used for or readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury. This includes but is not limited to firearms, knives, swords, plastic/metal knuckles, taser, pepper spray, etc. New York State Penal Law establishes the Library as a Sensitive Location in which concealed carry of a firearm is prohibited. Any violation of that law will, in addition to sanctions imposed by the Library, be referred to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

Damaging, defacing, destroying, or stealing any material, equipment, or property belonging to the library, fellow patrons or library staff

Accessing the Library's restricted staff network and/or the proprietary data stored thereon without permission, or using the Library's public network for criminal purposes or to violate the privacy of others

Rearranging library shelving, furnishings or furniture, or using it improperly, including sitting on or putting feet on tables, or excessive spreading of personal effects including computing devices, bags, clothing and papers

Talking on cell phones inside the library, with the exception of designated areas

Entering the building without footwear or appropriate clothing

Bringing any pets, with the exception of service dogs and miniature horses trained as service animals as allowed under The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation.

Library personnel will enforce these rules. Patrons not complying will be asked to leave. Library personnel are authorized to contact the police to ensure compliance.

Any patron who violates the Library rules and regulations may be denied the privilege of access to the Library by the Library Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Library Director. Any patron whose privileges have been denied may have that decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Approved By the Board of Trustees: December 2018

Amended April 2020; Amended May 2020

AMENDMENTED JULY 2022