

PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Library Board of Trustees has established standards of acceptable behavior that will protect patrons, staff, and the equipment and materials in the library and will allow everyone to enjoy the library's resources. Any activity that interferes with the rights of other patrons to use the library, that would result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others, or that could result in damage to the library's facilities, equipment, or materials is considered disruptive and unacceptable.

The library reserves the right to require anyone who violates the behavior policy to leave library property for the remainder of the day or evening. Depending on the severity or frequency of the violation, library privileges may be suspended for a specific period of time. Unlawful activities will be reported to the Brookfield Police Department.

The following activities are not allowed at the Merrick Public Library:

- Any activities prohibited by local, state, or federal laws
- Consumption of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco or illegal drugs and the use of vaping devices (see MGL, Ch. 270, Sec. 21-22)
- Creating a disturbance by making excessive noise, using profanity, or engaging in other disruptive conduct (MGL, Ch. 272, Sec. 41)
- Interfering with another person's right to use the library
- Interfering with the library staff's performance of their duties
- Threatening behavior, including but not limited to verbal abuse, violence, threats of violence, and possession of weapons
- Bringing animals into the library, except those needed to assist a disabled person (MGL, Ch. 272, Sec. 98A). Service animals must be leashed and under physical control of the handler at all times
- Eating and/or drinking near library materials or technology
- Projecting sound with audio devices
- Misusing the restrooms (i.e. using them as a laundry or washing facility)
- Soliciting patrons and staff for donations or for the purpose of obtaining signatures on petitions, or canvassing of any kind
- Entering "Staff Only" areas without permission
- Running in the building or climbing on library furniture
- Excessive or inappropriate displays of affection
- Abusing, damaging, or defacing library materials, equipment, or property (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 100)
- Theft of library materials, use of false identification to obtain a library card, or use of another person's library card without his/her permission (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 99A)
- The use of skateboards, roller blades, scooters, bicycles, or any other similar device in the library building

In addition:

Patrons are required to be fully clothed, including shirt and footwear, for program attendance and within the library building.

Parents and guardians are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their young children, age 12 and under, while using the library. Parents may be liable for damage done by a child under 18 (MGL, Ch. 231, Sec. 85G). For more information, please see our Child Safety Policy.

The library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Library staff may address any other behaviors which interfere with the use and enjoyment of the library by other patrons, or which interfere with the library staff in the performance of their duties.