

Freetown Public Libraries Patron Conduct Policy

The Freetown Public Libraries encourages persons of all ages to use its facilities and resources to meet their educational, informational, and recreational needs. To this end, the Freetown Public Libraries are responsible for establishing a Patron Conduct Policy in order to maintain a safe and welcoming environment, to protect the rights and safety of library patrons, volunteers and staff, and to protect the library's materials, equipment, facilities and grounds.

Please be aware that:

- The Library is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged on Library premises.
- You must wear clothing and shoes in the Library at all times
- Parents/Caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library.

Prohibited Conduct

Includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law, or other library policy.
- Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.
- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, library volunteers, or staff, including stalking, staring, lurking, or sexual misconduct including exposure, inappropriate touching, or any excessive public display of affection.
- Using abusive language or profanity
- Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the library.
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of library property in the building **or** on the grounds including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment.
- Trespassing in non-public areas, being in the Library without permission of an authorized library employee before or after library operating hours, or camping on library grounds.
- Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
- Creating disruptive noises such as loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards.
- Using audio devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others.
- Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a manner that disturbs others. Cell phone and pager audible ringers must be turned off.
- Gambling and group activities which are disruptive to the library environment.
- Littering, in the building or on the library grounds.
- Smoking, chewing, vaping or use of synthetic or any other tobacco products in the library
- Soiling or otherwise damaging library furniture and finishes, including carpeting and upholstered furniture.
- Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which alone or in their aggregate impede the use of the library by others.

- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the library, except as authorized by the library director.
- Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended. Any unattended items are subject to immediate confiscation and disposal.
- Filming or photographing children without parental/guardian consent.

Children in the Library

The Freetown Public Libraries welcome children of all ages to the library. However, the responsibility for the safety and well-being of every child using the library rests with the parent, guardian or caregiver. The Library staff is not responsible for children who are left unattended at the Library. To enhance the library experience for, and minimize the risk to children, the following requirements apply:

- Children twelve (12) years of age or younger MUST be accompanied and supervised by a parent guardian or designated adult caregiver at all times in the library.
- Parents/Caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. Parents/Caregivers who leave young children unsupervised or ignore their disruptive behaviors may be asked to leave.
- Children age thirteen (13) and older who can understand and follow the Patron Conduct Policy are welcome to be in the library unattended if they have contact information for a responsible adult who will be available to provide assistance, if needed.
- Unaccompanied children determined by staff to be disrupting normal library activities will be given a warning and may be asked to leave if the behavior persists. If a child refuses to leave the library and a parent/caregiver cannot be reached, a staff member may contact the Freetown Police Department to take custody of the child.
- Library staff are not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closing. If arrangements cannot be made for immediate pickup, the Freetown Police Department will be contacted.

Enforcement

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. The Freetown Board of Library Trustees authorizes the Director or their designee to temporarily restrict or revoke the library privileges of any individual who violates this Patron Conduct Policy. Repeated failure to comply with the Library's established Patron Conduct Policy may result in the permanent loss of library privileges and/or referral to proper authorities. Expulsion for more than one week may be appealed in writing to the Library Director and Board of Trustees.