

Fitchburg Public Library Rules of Conduct

Welcome to the Fitchburg Public Library. The Library is supported by taxes of the people of Fitchburg who expect our facility to be clean, comfortable, and safe for the purpose of selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings. To this end, the Library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

Use of the Library is only for the above stated purposes. Library staff and/or Fitchburg Police Officers will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the Library's established rules, regulations, and policies could result in removal from the premises and exclusion from the Library for a period of one day to one year, or an arrest or prosecution. Violations could also result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including the use of computers, equipment, and materials.

Users of the Library and its facilities must engage in activities for which the Library is intended.

The following actions are examples of **conduct NOT ALLOWED** on Library property:

- Loitering—spending time in and around the library without using any library services;
- Failing to comply with a staff request;
- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, or local or other applicable law, or Library Policy;
- Carrying firearms and weapons of any type (except by law enforcement);
- Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs;
- Inappropriate displays of affection;
- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing patrons, volunteers, or staff, including but not limited to stalking, staring, lurking, inappropriate touching, and indecent exposure;
- Stealing, damaging, breaking, soiling, or altering Library property, including computers and printers;
- Soliciting;
- Patrons may not engage in any behavior or activity that creates an intimidating or hostile environment for others, including other patrons, library staff, or volunteers;
- Patrons should not approach others with the intent to convince them of their personal religious, political, or other views;
- Trespassing after being served with an order of No Trespass;
- Trespassing on Library property after 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, shouting, or screaming,;
- Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others;
- Using cell phones, pagers, and other communications devices in a manner that disturbs others—audible cell phone and pager ringers must be turned off;
- Using restrooms for bathing and shampooing, or doing laundry, or occupying the restroom for more than 15 minutes;
- Littering;
- Smoking, chewing, and other tobacco use including vaping and using loose tobacco and rolling papers on Library property;
- Entering or being in the Library without shoes, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment;
- Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended—these unattended items are subject to immediate confiscation;
- Using wheeled devices in Library property or on Library grounds, including use of skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, motorized or non-motorized scooters, and large shopping carts (except for motorized ADA assistive devices, wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, and rolling briefcase type devices);
- Moving library furniture from where it is placed by Library staff;
- Lying down or sleeping in the Library; having feet on furniture or blocking aisles, exits or entrances;
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children;
- Eating and drinking, except for beverages in covered containers.

Should any person feel an employee of the Fitchburg Public Library, or all of the employees of the Fitchburg Public Library, has violated their rights, that person shall make a claim to the Fitchburg Police Department or to the Library Director. That person shall not confront any employee of the Fitchburg Public Library relative to their claim. The City of Fitchburg shall investigate that claim. If the City of Fitchburg's investigation is unsatisfactory to the person involved, the person shall refer the matter further to the Fitchburg District Court Clerk's Office.

Date Adopted by the Board of Trustees:

Effective Date:

Supersedes Policy: Fitchburg Public Library Rules of Conduct adopted February 13, 2019.