

## **Public Behavior Policy**

Patchogue-Medford Library has adopted this Public Behavior Policy for the safety and comfort of all who use the Library. The Library Board of Trustees has established procedures and rules, in accordance with Section 262 of the Education Law of the State of New York, by which patrons and visitors may enjoy the Library's facilities and services.

Library users who violate the Rules of Conduct may be subject to suspension of their Library privileges, exclusion from the Library, and/or legal action. Copies of the Rules of Conduct are posted throughout the building and are available on the Library's website at [pmlib.org](http://pmlib.org) or by request.

Committing or attempting to commit any activity that constitutes a violation of any federal, state, or local statute or ordinance, such as but not limited to, the following are not permitted on Library property:

- Engaging in sexual conduct or indecent behavior on Library premises, as defined under New York Penal Law
- Using controlled substances on Library premises
- Smoking or other use of tobacco inside the Library
- Consuming alcoholic beverages on Library premises

### **Rules of Conduct**

Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, using library materials or equipment or attending programs may be asked to leave the building. For the most effective use of the Library, patrons are expected to observe rules of common courtesy. Patrons who are not courteous to others will be asked to stop the discourteous behavior or to leave the Library. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be asked to leave the building. Discourteous behavior which will not be tolerated in the Library includes but is not limited to:

1. Engaging in loud, abusive, or threatening language.
2. Creating unreasonable noise such as loud, boisterous talking or using personal electronic equipment without headphones or at a volume that is audible to others.
3. Engaging in conduct that interferes with other Library users' ability to reasonably use the Library or staff's ability to perform their duties.
4. Loitering, congregating, and hanging around.
5. Rearranging furniture; more than one person per chair.
6. Defacing or destroying library material or property.
7. Monopolizing the public telephones.
8. Eating or drinking on library property.
9. Arguing, propagandizing, or preaching.
10. Soliciting, petitioning, or distributing materials or canvassing on Library premises.
11. Carrying weapons or weapon-like items on the Library premises.
12. Using cell phones in other than designated areas (Main and Side entrance ways between the glass doors, Lower Lobby).
13. Bringing animals, other than service animals, inside the Library buildings.

14. Prolonged or chronic sleeping.
15. Using Library restrooms for bathing, shaving, washing hair, or other matters of personal hygiene.
16. Entering the building without footwear or clothing.
17. Picture taking or videography without the permission of the subject.
18. Use of the library for business purposes is prohibited.

The Library Director or the Director's designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these Rules of Conduct. Unacceptable behavior on the part of the Library user can result in loss of Library privileges. Depending on the severity of the violation, the Library will institute discipline ranging from a verbal warning, through denial of specific privileges, such as use of Library computers, to denial of the right to use the Library for a specified time period.

Each person shall have the right to submit a written notice of appeal to the Board of Trustees within thirty (30) days of any action taken by the Library Director which suspends borrowing privileges or revokes the right to enter the Library premises.

Approved: February 19, 2013

Revised: August 15, 2018