

Appropriate Patron Behavior Policy

Turner Free Library

Randolph, Ma

The services and facilities of the Turner Free Library are supported by the taxes of the people of Randolph and the State of Massachusetts. They are equally available to all people of Massachusetts, who expect our library to be a clean, comfortable, and safe place for browsing, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending community functions and programs. While everyone has an equal right to access library services and facilities, no person has the right to interfere with the ability of others to use and enjoy library resources, services, and facilities. Subsequently, the library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving the property and physical plant of the library.

The Children's Room is reserved for use by children ages 12 and younger, and their parents or guardians. The Teen Area is reserved during non-school hours for students currently enrolled in middle school or senior high school or to students being home-schooled of similar ages. Patrons not included in these categories may be required to leave the children's or teen's areas and use other areas of the library.

Enforcement of this policy will be conducted in a timely, consistent, and equitable manner. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited behaviors. Failure to comply with this, or any other library policy, could result in expulsion from the library for a period ranging from one day to one year, or in arrest and prosecution. Violation could result in restriction and/or termination of library privileges, including use of computers and other equipment. Expulsion of more than one week may be appealed in writing to the Library Director.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of library property, the following is a list of examples of conduct not allowed in the library or on library property. The list is not meant to be all inclusive, nor does the absence of a specific action preclude its implication.

- Engaging in any activity which is in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law, or library policy.
- Carrying firearms or dangerous weapons of any time (with the exception of law enforcement officers).
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.

- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.
- Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the library.
- Interfering with another person's ability to use the library or with the library staff's ability to perform their duties.
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of library property, including computer hardware and software, books, magazines, newspapers, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment.
- Creating loud or disruptive noises in the library.
- Trespassing in nonpublic areas, being in the library without permission from the Library Director outside of normal operating hours, or camping on library grounds.
- Gambling
- Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
- Using restrooms for bathing, laundry, or changing clothes.
- All tobacco use.
- Littering
- Using audible devices without headphones, or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a way that disturbs others. Cell phone and pager ringers must be silenced in the library, and conversation must be kept brief and at a low volume.
- Entering the library without shoes or a shirt, or with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive of the library environment.
- Using photographic or sound recording equipment, including cell phone cameras without prior authorization from the Library Director.
- Consuming hot food, meals, or excessive snacks in the library. A light snack of finger food is permitted. Examples of what is include a snack bar, a small bag of chips, a muffin, etc. Examples of what would be prohibited include fast food "meals", soup, pizza, hot take-out, or food with a strong and/or pervasive odor. The ability to have a light snack in the library is meant as a courtesy to our patrons, please be considerate of the staff and other patrons while enjoying a snack. Beverages are allowed in the library.
- Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which impede the use of the library by other patrons.
- Leaving unattended bags or packages of any sort. Unattended items are subject to immediate confiscation and inspection.
- Lying down or sleeping.
- Failing to provide proper supervision of children.
- Use of library telephones without authorization from a library staff member.

- Using wheeled devices in the library or on library grounds, including skateboards, bicycles, roller-skating, scooters, and shopping carts. This is not meant to include wheelchairs, walkers, motorized ADA assistive devices, or strollers.
- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities.

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by library staff. The library reserves the right to reserve the size and number of items brought into the library.

Visitors to the library are responsible for maintaining the security of their own personal possessions, and the library assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft, or disappearance of such property.

Adopted by vote of the Turner Free Library Board of Trustees, **June 9, 2010.**

Supersedes:

Patron Behavior and Safety Policy, adopted: ???

Policy Regarding Patron-Owned Electronic Devices That May Be Used Within The Library, adopted: January 12, 1993

Policy Prohibiting Food & Beverages, adopted: September 14, 1993

Solicitation Policy, adopted: September 14, 1993

Library Telephone Policy, adopted: December 14, 1994

Gambling/Numbers Policy, adopted: October 13, 1992

Policy Prohibiting Cell Phone Use in the Library, adopted: March 21, 2000