

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Flint Public Library is an active and inclusive center of information, cultural activities, recreation, and learning. The Library is dedicated to providing equitable access to its resources and services while cultivating an atmosphere conducive to patron use and enjoyment. To safeguard the general public, Library staff, building, materials, and grounds, members of the public are expected to conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the rules outlined in this policy. Disregard of this policy subjects patrons to removal from the building and/or restriction of Library privileges.

- Members of the public must use only the authorized entrances and exits of the Library. There is no loitering near, or blocking of, public entrances or walkways.
- Smoking and use or consumption of tobacco products, including use of electronic devices and/or vaping, is not allowed in the building or outside its entrances (Massachusetts General Laws [MGL] Ch. 270, Sec. 21-22).
- Use or consumption of cannabis, alcohol, or possession or use of any unlawful, controlled substance in any form is strictly prohibited in the building and on Library grounds.
- Animals are not allowed in the library, with the exception of certified service animals and animals present for approved library programs. Documentation showing proof of certification may be requested by staff.
- The Library will remain an inclusive, safe space for all. Patrons displaying aggressive or disorderly behavior — including but not limited to infringement of safety or rights of another person, bullying, rambunctious behavior, profane language, hate speech, threats, or acts of violence — will be removed from the premises.
- Noisy or disruptive behavior — such as use of cellphones, virtual meetings, or loud audio equipment — is prohibited per MGL, Ch. 272, Sec. 41.
- Patrons may not interfere with another person's right to use the Library or with the Library staff's performance of their duties.
- Damaging or harmful use of library materials or facilities is prohibited. Any person who damages or defaces Library materials or property will be prosecuted (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 100). Parents are liable for damage done by a child under the age of 18 (MGL, Ch. 231, Sec. 85).
- Canvassing, selling, soliciting, proselytizing, panhandling, or distribution of circulars or other articles is prohibited without the express permission of the Library Director.
- No one shall enter a non-public area without authorization from a member of the Library staff.
- Full clothing, including shirts and shoes, must be worn inside the Library building.
- Eating and/or drinking is allowed only in the lower level meeting rooms A+B and hallway.
- Parents/caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their minor children. All children 10 years old and younger must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver while on Library premises (*MGL Ch. 119, Sec. 39*), with the exception of children aged 8 to 10 attending a Library program.
- Only one person at a time is allowed in the single occupancy rest rooms, with the exception of a parent/guardian and child(ren).
- Personal calls using Library telephones may only be made with permission of a Library staff member.

- All persons are expected to comply with the reasonable requests of any member of the Library staff.
- Theft of Library materials, use of false identification to obtain a Library card, or use of another person's Library card without their permission are against state law and will be prosecuted (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 99).

Visitors to the Library will not engage in any act of conduct which is prohibited by the Massachusetts General Laws or the Charter and Bylaws of the Town of Middleton. Disregard of this Code of Conduct Policy may result in a verbal warning for general disruptive behaviors, or a request to immediately leave the Library, or police intervention, and/or a written warning mailed to the individual or their parents/caregivers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the issuance of a temporary "No Trespass" order that prohibits access to Library property for up to one (1) year or a permanent "No Trespass" order depending on the severity of the violation.

Adopted by the FPL Board of Trustees 7/12/94

Reviewed 10/7/96, 5/14/18

Amended 9/9/02, 10/06/09, 11/10/14, 12/11/23, 1/8/24