

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Rockaway Township Free Public Library is an active center of information, cultural activities, recreation and learning for all residents of the Rockaway community. To better serve all library patrons, the Library Board of Trustees has established certain standards of acceptable behavior to maintain an atmosphere which promotes the use and enjoyment of the resources and services of the library and which protects the safety of the general public, the library staff and the equipment and materials of the library.

Any activity which interferes with the rights of other patrons to use the library, which could result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others, or could result in damage to the facilities, equipment, material or library property and grounds is considered disruptive and unacceptable.

Conduct not acceptable in the library or on library grounds includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law, or library policy.
- Behavior disruptive to the legitimate use of the library. This includes disorderly conduct, noise or activity, whether intentional or inadvertent, that interferes with the rights of others, physical abuse, abusive or threatening language and misuse of library equipment or furnishings.
- Any behavior that harasses or annoys others, such as staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person, following another person about the building with the intent to annoy that person, singing or talking to others or in monologues, or behaving in a manner which reasonably can be expected to disturb others.
- 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 manner that disturbs others. Cell phone and pager audible ringers must be set to silent or vibrate mode if turned on inside the library.
- No person may carry any instrument which could reasonably and commonly be classified as a weapon or a dangerous instrument, or could be reasonably used as means of aggression or defense against another, into the Library or onto Library grounds, unless authorized by law to do so.
- Solicitation, gambling or panhandling, including distributing printed materials, signing petitions or conducting surveys not authorized by the library.
- Sleeping, except for young children under the supervision of the parent or caregiver.
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children. Caregivers and attendants are responsible to remain available for the personal or special needs of those entrusted to their care. No person shall leave children under the age of 7 unattended on library premises. Libraries are public places. The library cannot be responsible for any consequences of caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities.

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- Children younger than 15 years old may not remain at the library without a caregiver or attendant for periods longer than three hours per day.
- Smoking, chewing and other tobacco use in library facilities.
- Animals, insects and other living organisms may not be brought into the library except: those used in library programming, working animals (as defined by ADA law) or animals used by law enforcement.
- Using wheeled devices in the library or on library grounds including, but not limited to, skateboards, roller-skates, heely-type shoes, bicycles, scooters and shopping carts. Exceptions include wheelchairs, walkers and strollers.
- Patrons are required to wear a shirt and shoes in the library. Patrons, whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons, shall be required to leave the building.
- No person may use the lavatory facilities other than for ordinary and usual use. Bathing and laundering clothes are specifically not permitted.

Library management has the discretion to discard personal items left unattended on library property in order to preserve a safe environment for library patrons, volunteers and staff.

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

Individuals violating any of these rules may be asked to leave by the staff member in charge. They may also, in appropriate circumstance, have their library privileges revoked or suspended by the Library Director and/or be subject to legal proceedings. A written appeal of such revocation or suspension can be submitted to the Director of the Rockaway Township Free Public Library. The appeal will be reviewed and decided by the Library Board of Trustees for final administrative determination.

The Rockaway Township Free Public Library Board of Trustees on November 19, 2007, approved the revised Code of Conduct, to supersede the original Code of Conduct adopted on November 21, 1994.