

Rules of Behavior Policy

The Trustees of the Cary Memorial Library have established these Rules of Behavior to ensure the rights and safety of library users and staff, and to preserve and protect the library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds. These rules, along with other library policies, will be applied in a fair and reasonable manner.

Respect for other library users and library staff members shall be maintained at all times. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior that infringes on others' use or right to use the library shall not be permitted. The library staff reserves the right to determine if other actions not listed below constitute "disruptive or inappropriate behavior."

Individuals who disregard these rules of behavior may be asked to leave the library, have library privileges suspended, or be subject to legal action.

Examples of disruptive or inappropriate behavior include (but are not limited to):

- Smoking, vaping, using electronic cigarettes, using alcohol, or any other controlled substance while on library property.
- Loud talking, loud audio equipment, use of profanity, running, throwing things, fighting, pushing or shoving.
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of the library facilities, collection, or technology.
- Engaging in illegal activities while in the library.
- Distributing written leaflets and/or soliciting patrons within the library facility, in the parking lot, or on walkways immediately adjacent to the library entrances are not permitted. (Such activities may be conducted on public sidewalks a reasonable distance from the library entrances in order not to impede entrance into and egress from the library.)
- Using personal electronic equipment in a manner that disturbs other library users. Devices may be used with headphones so long as the volume does not disturb others.
- Inappropriate use of public restrooms. Single person restrooms are intended for use by one person unless a parent or other caregiver is required.
- Excessive public displays of affection.

To Ensure That the Library is a Clean, Welcoming Environment for All:

- Beverages in covered containers are permitted in most areas of the library. They are not, however, allowed in the Genealogy Room or at the public computers.
- Food is limited to the Main Level Commons, the Lower Level Corridor, and the Teen Space or in other designated spaces during library sponsored events.

- Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, should be worn by patrons of all ages.
- Walkways throughout the building and access to library materials should not be obstructed. Power cords should not cross pathways or be used in ways that create a trip hazard.
- Animals, except for service animals, are not permitted.
- Personal belongings should not be left unattended. Police may be called to remove items that appear to have been abandoned.
- The library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, briefcases, backpacks, etc.
- Patrons should not bring personal property into the library that the library staff considers to be hazardous. The library staff may refuse to permit a patron to have access to the library in such circumstances.
- The telephones at all service desks are business phones. They may only be used briefly by patrons, with staff permission, in cases of emergency.
- Bikes and scooters (or other similar wheeled items) may not be left inside the library or on the handicap ramp leading into the library.
- Guns and other weapons are not allowed in the building at any time (except by law enforcement officers).

Policy approved by the Library Board of Trustees – 03/03/2014, Last updated – 11/6/2019, 6/20/23