

Library Use Policy

Northwest Regional Library supports the right of all individuals to free and equal access to information and use of the Library. The library seeks to ensure that every patron has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the library, and to create a clean, comfortable, and safe environment for all library patrons, volunteers, and staff.

To this purpose, the following rules of conduct are meant to ensure the library is a safe and enjoyable environment. Staff has the right ask patrons to leave the premises if they refuse to abide by library policy and to contact the proper authorities if they continue to violate it. Violation of the rules or any unlawful behavior may result in the loss of library privileges.

Exceptions to these rules may be granted at the discretion of the Director, or the Director's designee, including for adherence with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. ch. 126 § 12101 et seq.) and all regulations issued pursuant to such law.

The following are prohibited in and on library facilities, property, and grounds:

- Damage, destruction, or theft of library or patron property.
- Abusive, threatening, or intimidating language.
 - Conduct or language that disturbs or endangers patrons, staff, or volunteers.
 - Conduct or language that hinders other patrons from using the library.
 - Conduct or language that prevents staff from performing their duties. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, intimidation, or harassment on account of race, religion, ethnic background, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Selling or solicitation, except for designated events sponsored by the library.
- Smoking, including e-cigarettes, or use of tobacco in any form.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Consuming food or drink that creates a nuisance or disrupts other customers because of odor, garbage, or spills.
- Leaving bags or personal items unattended.
- Any use of computers or Internet access that interferes with the activities of the Library or its network, or is in violation of federal, state, or local laws, including MN ST §617.246 (child pornography), MN ST §617.241 (obscene materials), MN ST §609.352 (solicitation of minors), or MN §617.291 (materials deemed harmful to minors).

The following must always be observed:

- Appropriate attire, including, but not limited to, shoes and a shirt.
- Bicycles must be left outside.
- With the exception of strollers or vehicles required for mobility, the use of wheeled devices, including skateboards, is not allowed inside the Library.

In addition, please be aware:

- The library is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged on library premises.
- With the exception of service animals, or animals brought for a scheduled library program, animals are not permitted inside library facilities.

- Children under the age of 8 are required to be supervised. Staff has the right to ask that vulnerable patrons of any age be directly supervised.

The Library Use Policy will be enforced by library staff in a fair and reasonable manner. Staff may ask any patron to leave if they are in violation of the Library Use Policy and may contact the appropriate authorities if a patron refuses to leave when asked.

Approved 21 July 2022