

Trumbull Library Patron Conduct Policy

The Trumbull Library System Patron Conduct Policy is intended to: ensure everyone's Library experience is pleasant and safe, protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, protect the rights and safety of Library staff members, and preserve and protect the Library's materials, facilities and property. This policy shall apply to all buildings, interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by the Trumbull Library System (such buildings and grounds are hereafter referred to as the "premises") and to all persons entering in or on the premises. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in expulsion from a library program or facility, suspension of library privileges and/or arrest and prosecution to the full extent of the law and is covered under the regulation section of this policy.

Patrons are expected to:

1. Comply with federal, state, and local laws and Trumbull Library System policies.
2. Be participants in a shared, public use environment and must conduct themselves accordingly. They will be courteous, considerate and understanding of library patrons and staff.
3. Be responsible to supervise the activities and choices of those in their care and adherence to this policy.
4. Be stewards of the library and its resources. They will value and respect library resources and conduct themselves in a safe and orderly way.

Examples:

The following examples are provided in this administrative policy as a way to illustrate ways in which a patron's conduct would violate the responsibilities defined in the Library Board policy. The examples are intended to guide staff decision making. It does not presume to be a complete list.

- 1. Patrons will comply with federal, state, and local laws and policies.**
 - a. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state or local criminal statute or ordinance.
 - b. Engaging in sexual conduct.
 - c. Being under the influence of any controlled substance or intoxicating liquor.
 - d. Possessing, selling, distributing or consuming any alcoholic beverage, except as allowed at a Library-approved event. No illegal substances are allowed on premises under any circumstances.

- 2. Patrons are participants in a shared, public use environment and must conduct themselves accordingly. They will be courteous, considerate and understanding of library patrons and staff.**
 - a. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, or disturbs Library staff or patrons, including, but not limited to conduct that involves the use of abusive or threatening language or gestures, conduct that creates unreasonable noise, or conduct that consists of loud or boisterous physical behavior or talking.
 - b. Improperly using Library restrooms.
 - c. Sleeping in or on Library premises.
 - d. Entering Library buildings with bare feet or bare chest.
 - e. Talking on cell phones outside of designated areas.
 - f. Smoking, vaping, or use of nicotine products, including e-cigarettes in the Library building and/or within 25 feet of the Library building.
 - g. Bringing animals inside Library buildings (with the exception of service animals), except as allowed at a Library-approved event.
- 3. Parents and caregivers are responsible to supervise the activities and choices of those in their care and adherence to this policy.**
 - a. Leaving children under 10 years of age alone in the Library for any reason.
 - b. Violating the “Unattended Children and Adult use of Children’s Section Policy.”
- 4. The Library is committed to providing a clean and safe environment for all patrons and staff in which library users can enjoy drinks and light snacks without infringing on the rights of others or risk damage to library facilities and collections.**
 - a. Leaving trash and food waste behind in library spaces.
 - b. Violating the “Food and Drink Policy.”
- 5. Patrons are stewards of the library and its resources. They will value and respect library resources and conduct themselves in a safe and orderly way.**
 - a. Using Library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings in a manner inconsistent with the customary use thereof; or in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner, or in a manner likely to cause personal injury to the individual and/or to others.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff play an important role to ensure that Trumbull Library is a welcoming public library environment for all.

Staff are expected to:

- Weigh the degree of disruptive conduct with the onsite conditions at the time.
- Exercise their best judgment in determining conduct that is in violation of the Patron Use of Library Spaces Policy and in determining the correct course of action.
- Request that patrons conduct themselves in a way that is necessary to maintain a welcoming public library environment.

- Seek assistance from library supervisors to resolve ongoing or escalating patron conduct issues.

Regulation

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in expulsion from a library program or facility, suspension of library privileges and/or arrest and prosecution to the full extent of the law. The library will seek financial restitution for any damages and other expenses as a result of failure to comply with these codes of conduct. Exceptions to the items above may be made at the discretion of the Library Director.

This “Patron Conduct Policy” is subject to change at the discretion of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees. In accordance with the General State Statutes of Connecticut, Section 11-33. The Library Board of Trustees...“shall make and adopt (1) bylaws, rules and regulations for the government of the library and reading room, and (2) policies and rules regarding Internet usage and content accessible by patrons of the library and reading room on computers and other electronic devices provided by the library and reading room.”

Revised and Updated by the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees on March 12, 2025.