

CODE OF CONDUCT

Welcome to the Cheshire Public Library. The Library's Code of Conduct seeks to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff. It also intends to protect the library's collections and grounds and ensure that library users have access to library services in a safe environment. Library users must refrain from any behavior that would interfere with others' use and enjoyment of the library.

The following is not permitted, and violations may result in suspension of Library privileges:

1. Soliciting or petitioning.
2. Entering or remaining in the library without a shirt or shoes or otherwise dressed in a manner disruptive to the library environment.
3. Using personal or library electronic devices in a manner that disrupts others. Cell phones should be switched to silent or vibrate and earphones must be used when listening to or watching content with audio tracks.
4. Disorderly or disruptive behavior, including unreasonable noise levels.
5. Selling, using, or possessing alcohol or drugs.
6. Entering the library intoxicated or under the influence of any alcohol or drugs.
7. Smoking or vaping including the use of cannabis.
8. Bringing in pets, except service animals.
9. Using skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, bicycles, or other recreational transportation inside the library. Bicycles must be locked to the bike racks located at the front of the library.
10. Consuming food or uncovered drinks at our public computers.
11. Harassing patrons or Library staff in any physical or verbal manner by using abusive, obscene, threatening, or confrontational language.
12. Fighting.
13. Damaging or defacing library grounds, including damaging computer equipment.
14. Inappropriate use of library restrooms or other areas of the library.
15. Leaving children under age 12 unattended. Please see our policy on Library Use by Minors.
16. Any conduct or behavior that violates federal, state, or local laws, regulations, ordinances or statutes.

Disciplinary Procedure:

1. Patrons will first be notified that their behavior violates the Library's Code of Conduct as well as the disciplinary consequences of such behavior.
2. Upon repeat violation, patrons will be asked to leave the library and library grounds for the remainder of library business hours or, for more serious violations, for a longer period of time.
3. Library staff are instructed to call the police if disruptive patrons refuse to leave the library building and grounds.
4. Unattended minors (12-17) who are not using the library appropriately or are acting in a disruptive manner may be asked to leave the library and library grounds. The parents or guardians of these minors may be notified. If disruptive behavior persists, patrons may lose library privileges. The judgment of library staff prevails when requesting the removal of a minor from the building in the event of behavioral difficulties. The library assumes no responsibility for the whereabouts of an unattended minor who has been asked to leave the library grounds.

Any individual whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Town Manager.