

Appropriate Library Use

The Thayer Memorial Library is a public institution established by the provisions of Chapter 78, of the General Laws of Massachusetts (MGL), and by the By-Laws of the Town of Lancaster.

The Library is an active center of information, cultural activities, recreation and learning. The Rules of Conduct/ Appropriate Use Policy exists to support an environment 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 collection materials of the Library.

The Library reserves the right to limit or suspend the privileges of anyone who violates these rules of conduct. Suspensions will be for a definite period of time. The length of suspension will be determined by the Library Director. Notification of a suspension will be provided in writing, either by mail or by providing the patron with a copy of the "Suspension of Library Privileges" form. Unlawful activities will be reported to the Police.

If in the normal course of business, the Library staff observes what can be reasonably construed to be a threat of imminent danger to life and limb, they will contact law enforcement immediately. Staff should then notify the Library Director and document the incident.

Please note:

Bags and other articles are subject to inspection by authorized staff. The Library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the Library.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for the protection of Library property, the following list of inappropriate actions and behavior, while not complete, are examples of conduct expressly prohibited in the Library and on Library property.

Prohibited Conduct Includes:

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State and Local or other applicable law or Library policy.
- Threatening the safety or rights of another person, including but not limited to, violent or disorderly behavior, threats of violence or abusive language and possession of weapons. (M.G.L. Chapter 265 & 272).
- Creating a disturbance by noisy or disruptive behavior. (M.G.L. Chapter 272 & 41).
- Theft of Library materials, use of false identification to obtain a Library card, or use of another person's Library card without his/her permission. (M.G.L. Chapter 266 & 99a).
- Destruction or defacement of Library building, property or materials. (M.G.L. Chapter 61, Acts of 1990; M.G.L. 266 & 99 & 100).
- Blocking of public entrances or interfering with people entering the building.
- Smoking (M.G.L. Chapter 270 & 21-22), chewing, and other tobacco use in Library facilities.
- Bringing animals into the Library without the permission of the Library Director, except those needed to guide or assist a disabled person.
- Soliciting without the express permission of the Board of Library Trustees.
- Entering a non-public area of the Library without the permission of a staff member.
- Refusing to comply with the reasonable requests of any member of the Library staff.
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children.

- Littering.
- Entering the Library barefooted, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment.
- Consuming food or beverages in public areas of the Library, including restrooms except for water in closed containers as permitted by Library staff.
- Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which, alone or in their aggregate, impede the use of the Library by other users.
- Using wheeled devices in Library or on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including skateboarding, roller-skating, bicycling, scooters, and shopping carts (exceptions i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers).
- Lying down or sleeping in the restrooms or on any floor, couch, table, or seat in the Library. Blocking aisles, exits, or entrances by sitting or lying down in them.
- Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices within the Library. Cell phone and pager audible ringers must be turned off.