



## **Patron Code of Conduct**

### **I. Statement of Policy:**

The Preston Public Library is committed to ensuring that its patrons' Library experience is positive and free from safety concerns. To achieve that end, the Library requires the patrons to be engaged in activities associated with the use of the facility and its services. Disruptive behaviors can have an adverse effect and will not be tolerated. Library patrons who violate this policy may be subject to suspension of their Library privileges, be barred from the Library and/or face legal action.

### **II. Regulation:**

In situations where the Library feels the health, safety or security of its users or employees is threatened, staff may take any and all appropriate measures including, but not limited to, calling the police for assistance to resolve the situation. The Library Board of Trustees and the Library Director may ask a patron to leave the premises with or without warning, depending upon the severity of the offense. The Director may also exclude a user from the Preston Public Library. If the seriousness of the offense requires a suspension, the user will be officially notified. Any patron whose Library privileges are suspended under these rules has a right to appeal such action. In such instances the Library Director will review the appeal and will render a decision within a reasonable time frame.

### **III. Guidelines:**

Library patrons must adhere to these rules of conduct and not engage in the following prohibited behaviors:

#### **A. Illegal Activities, including but not limited to the following:**

1. Committing or attempts to commit any action that constitutes a violation of any federal, state or local statute/ordinance.
2. Carrying and/or using weapons on Library property (guns, knives, bomb-making materials).
3. Engaging in lewd behavior, sexual conduct or sexual harassment on Library premises, as defined under the law (CT Gen Statute 53a-186).
4. Violating the Library's Computer and Internet Use Policy.
5. Using or selling controlled substances on Library property.
6. Smoking, vaping or using other tobacco or cannabis products on Library property.
7. Drinking alcoholic beverages on Library property.

## **B. Harmful, Disruptive or Destructive Behavior, including but not limited to:**

1. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, disturbs staff and Library patrons, or prevents access to material for patrons contradicting the American Library Association's guidelines for public access through the following statements:

[Library Bill of Rights](#)

[Freedom to Read](#)

[Freedom to View](#)

Such conduct includes:

- The use of abusive or threatening language and gestures in person, via electronic communication or telephone. This harassing action can also include inappropriate staring, following and stalking.
- The creation of unreasonable noise which interferes with a patron's use of the Library
- Photography, filming or recording other patrons without their consent.
- Loud or boisterous behavior/talking or the use of a cell phone at the Library (Cell phone conversations should be made quietly and be kept short).
- Interference with Staff – Includes engaging in conversation/behaviors that monopolize staff attention or making inappropriate personal comments/sexual advances.
- Covering, hiding, or obscuring material from the public.

2. Using Library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or the building in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner, in a manner likely to cause personal injury to any person or in any other manner inconsistent with the customary use.

3. Disobeying the reasonable direction of the Library Director or staff.

4. Interfering with the free passage of staff or patrons onto Library property including, but not limited to, placing objects such as bicycles, strollers, shopping carts or bags in such a manner as to impede the free passage onto the premises.

5. Use of scooters, roller-skates or similar wheeled devices.

6. Use of an open flame or any burning/heating device.

## **C. Other Inappropriate Behavior:**

1. Bringing animals other than service animals or animals used for Library programming into the building.

2. Consuming food in the Library except for designated areas or at a special event(s). sanctioned by the Library. Drinking from a non-lidded beverage is also not allowed.

3. Entering unauthorized non-public workspaces.

4. Violating the Library's Technology Use Policy.
5. Sleeping on Library property.
6. Using emergency exits other than in an emergency situation.
7. Committing theft or vandalism (destruction of library equipment, furniture, supplies, or technology).
8. Entering and/or using the Library with bare feet or chest, or without shoes.
9. Disturbing others because of offensive body odor/overpowering perfume/cologne.
10. Using Preston Public Library restrooms for bathing, shaving, washing hair, or laundry.
11. Exhibiting unhygienic behavior such as spitting, clipping nails, or changing diapers in public areas.
12. Leaving personal belongings unattended.

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