

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ON LIBRARY PROPERTY

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District is required to adopt rules and regulations for the maintenance of order on Library property and to assign penalties for violations (Section 260 et. seq., Education Law).

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District has adopted the following rules and regulations:

1. **Behavior and Conduct:** No person, either singly or in concert with others, shall:
 - a. Fail to comply with the lawful directives of Library officials or their representatives.
 - b. Make unreasonable noise, use abusive or obscene language, make an obscene gesture, or become involved in an act of violence or breach of the peace on Library property.
 - c. Possess or use an alcoholic substance, an illicit narcotic substance, or a dangerous weapon or substance on Library property.
 - d. Willfully misuse, mar, deface, damage or destroy Library property or equipment.
 - e. Disrupt, interfere with, or attempt to prevent the orderly conduct of lectures, meetings, and other public events authorized by the Library.
 - f. Make excessive noise. Noise will be maintained at levels that ensure a quiet environment for reading and study.
 - i. Normal conversational noise levels are permitted for reference and circulation services only. Headphones and laptop computers may be used in the Library; however, noise from headphones and laptop computers must not be audible to others.
 - ii. No talking or whispering is allowed in areas of the Library designated as “silent” study spaces.
 - iii. Cellular telephones may not be used anywhere in the Library except in cases of police or fire emergency.

2. **Proper Dress, Foods and Beverages; Animals:** The Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District prohibits the following:
 - a. **Bare Feet.** Entry into the Library shall, at all times, require regularly-accepted foot covering.
 - b. **Foods and Beverages.** The eating of foods and/or drinking of beverages is not permitted in the public service areas.
 - c. **Animals.** Except for trained guide dogs, no animals shall be brought into the Library.
 - d. **Smoking.** In compliance with New York State Public Health Law Article 13-E §1399-0.
No smoking is allowed in public libraries.

3. **Loitering; Trespassing:** The Board of Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District prohibits:
 - a. **Loitering.** Section 240.35 Penal Law provides in relevant part that any person who loiters on or about the building in violation of rules and regulations is guilty of disorderly conduct.
 - b. **Trespassing.** Section 140.05 Penal Law provides in relevant part that any person who unlawfully enters into or remains unlawfully in or upon the premises is guilty of trespass.

4. **Punitive Action:** Violation of any of the Rules and Regulations, as adopted by the Trustees of the Smithtown Special Library District, may result in the following:
 - a. Ejection from the Library's property.
 - b. Prohibition of entry upon Library property.
 - c. Civil and/or criminal prosecution.
 - d. Impositions of those penalties within the jurisdiction of the Library Board of Trustees.

5. **Distribution of non-library materials, gathering of signatures for petitions, etc.:**

The following activities are permitted only when authorized by the Library's Board of Trustees or Library Director:

- Distribution of non-library related leaflets/fliers/materials.
- Solicitation of opinions through interviews or surveys on library property.
- Solicitation or the gathering of signatures for petitions on library property.
- Solicitation of donations.
- Selling products or services.

Policy 700-10

Adopted: 08/13/86

Revised: 12/21/99; 5/17/11