

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ON LIBRARY PROPERTY

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library hereby adopts rules and regulations for the maintenance of order on Library property and to promulgate penalties for violations under the authority of NY Education Law §.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

COVID-19 Safety. All Library patrons and visitors on Library property must adhere to all the rules and regulations outlined in the Library's *COVID-19 Re-Opening Safety Plan*. The rules and regulations in the *COVID-19 Re-Opening Safety Plan* are to supersede the rules and regulations set forth in this policy and will be enforced as long as the Smithtown Library Board of Trustees deems necessary.

All Library patrons and visitors will be required to wear a face covering and maintain 6 ft. of spacing from others at all times while on Library property. Failure to comply will constitute grounds for immediate ejection and other action deemed appropriate by the Director.

The Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library 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 supervisors or staff.
 - b. Sleep for prolonged periods of time.
 - c. Make unreasonable noise, use abusive or obscene language, make obscene gestures, or undertake an act of violence or breach of the peace on Library property.
 - d. Possess or use an alcoholic substance, an illicit narcotic substance, or a dangerous weapon or instrumentality on Library property.
 - e. Willfully misuse, mar, deface, damage or destroy Library property or equipment.
 - f. Disrupt, interfere with, or attempt to prevent the orderly conduct of lectures, patrons, meetings, or public events conducted at the Library.
 - g. Make excessive noise or undertake acts that are distracting or disruptive to an environment conducive to 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.

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- 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.
- iv. No running, dancing or physical exercise is permitted within the Library unless undertaken in conjunction with a Library sponsored program.
- v. Snoring is not permitted.

2. **Proper Dress, Foods and Beverages; Animals:** The Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library prohibits the following:

- a. **Dress/Hygiene.** Entry into the Library shall, at all times, require regularly-accepted foot and bodily coverings; hygiene that is not disturbing to patrons or staff is to be observed.
- 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 service animals, no animals shall be brought into the Library.
- d. **Smoking:** No smoking of any nature is permitted in Library buildings or on Library grounds. This includes but is not limited to, e-cigarettes, i.e., vaping.

3. **Loitering; Trespassing:** The Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library prohibits:

- a. **Loitering.** Section 240.35 Penal Law provides in relevant part that any person who loiters in or about a building in violation of rules and regulations is guilty of disorderly conduct. It is expected that all patrons will engage in activity that are related to Library functions.
- 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 Library, may result in the following:

- a. Immediate ejection from the Library’s property.
- b. Prohibition of entry upon Library property for a stated term.
- c. Civil and/or criminal prosecution.
- d. Impositions of those penalties deemed appropriate by the Library Board of Trustees.

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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 of or the gathering of signatures for petitions on Library property.
 - Solicitation of donations.
 - Selling products or services.
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Adopted: 08/13/86

Revised: 12/21/99; 5/17/11; 4/17/18; 9/4/2019; 7/21/2020