



## Central Library Access Ramp Rules

*This policy is for application to the Central Library.*

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) is committed to providing educational, recreational and informational materials and services to the community.

The Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, under Article 5, Section 262 of the New York State Education Law, adopts rules to ensure an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the Central Library and its branches.

The Central Library Access Ramp (Ramp) provides the only direct access to the main entrance at Washington Street between Clinton Street and Broadway of the Central Library. The primary purpose of the Ramp is to provide unimpaired, accessible passage to and from the main entrance doorways. The periphery of the Ramp is also designed with reading benches and gardens to accommodate reading in an exterior area. The Ramp is also used for outdoor library programs and presentations.

Conduct on the Ramp disruptive to these B&ECPL purposes is prohibited. Conduct shall be evaluated by B&ECPL staff according to the following criteria and B&ECPL staff may request that activities cease or relocate to another area.

Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging to fight, or using offensive words likely to provoke violence and/or using language that offends others;
2. Disturbing other patrons, staff or volunteers including but not limited to disruptive behavior such as any loud, unreasonable and/or bothersome noises created by persons or devices; interfering with staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties and persistent, unwelcome attention; obscene or threatening gestures such as staring at another person; or following another person on or around the premises;
3. Carrying weapons of any kind;
4. Possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
5. Engaging in sexual conduct and/or lewd behavior (e.g. exposure, offensive or inappropriate touching, or sexual harassment of other patrons, staff or volunteers);

6. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library property or the property of another patron, staff or volunteer;
7. Any activity which may block or impair passage to and from the Library;
8. Selling and/or soliciting, petitioning and/or canvassing. Petitioning and canvassing or related activity is restricted to a designated area at the north end of the ramp upon application to the Office of Development and Communications;
9. Skateboarding, rollerblading, roller-skating, bike riding or other potentially dangerous or destructive activities;
10. Vaping, smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless electronic cigarettes or using tobacco products on the Ramp or within one hundred (100) feet of the entrances, exits or outdoor areas of the Central Library (in accordance with the New York State Public Health Law Section 1399-O and the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's declaration of the Central Library Access Ramp as a "Smoke Free" area);
11. Sitting on ramp walls; and
12. Sleeping or lying down.

People who violate these rules will be advised of their infraction(s). Failure to comply with the Library's established policies, rules and regulations or violations of local, state or federal law may result in immediate suspension of library privileges and, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution.

Adopted March 2, 1999.

Amended May 21, 2009, per Res. 2009-23.

Amended June 14, 2012, per Res. 2012-24.

Amended November 19, 2015.

Amended October 20, 2016.

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Reviewed by Policy Committee June 29, 2020 – no changes.

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