



Rules of Conduct

This policy is for application to public libraries within the Town of Amherst.

Main Library at Audubon, 350 John James Audubon Parkway

Clearfield Branch Library, 770 Hopkins Road

Egbertsville-Snyder Branch Library, 4622 Main Street

Williamsville Branch Library, 5571 Main Street

Under Article 5, Section 262 of New York State Education Law, the Board of Trustees of the Amherst Public Library has adopted the following rules to ensure an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the four libraries within the Town of Amherst. Library users are required to comply with these Rules and Regulations.

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging to fight, or using offensive words likely to provoke violence or using language that offends others; aggression toward patrons or staff; obscene or threatening gestures;
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; strong odors; interfering with staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties; persistent, unwelcome attention such as staring at another person or following another person on or around the premises; blocking or impairing another's passage;
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. Engaging in discriminatory conduct in violation of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy;
7. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library property or the property of another patron, staff or volunteer;
8. Bringing animals or pets into the library except those required to assist persons with disabilities or those involved in library programs;
9. Selling without library approval; soliciting; petitioning; unauthorized requests for money or items, including but not limited to panhandling;
10. Distributing or posting materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library;
11. Vaping, smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless electronic cigarettes or using tobacco or marijuana products inside of the Library and no closer than one hundred (100) feet to the side of any point of entry to Library property, including outdoor areas (in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 1399-O).
12. Eating or drinking in designated restricted areas; Various library spaces require permission from library staff for consuming food and drink; Note: eating is not permitted at public library computers or while using other library electronic devices - covered beverages are acceptable;
13. Making unreasonable use of the restrooms or drinking fountains including bathing; Engaging in behavior resulting in unsanitary conditions or other health hazard; Leaving refuse in areas other than designated receptacles;
14. Sleeping or lying down;
15. Photography or recording on Library premises without Library permission; Photography or recording of library patrons without their permission;

16. Entering the library without appropriate clothing, including absence of shirts and/or shoes.

17. No children under nine years of age may be left unattended in any library at any time - they must be directly supervised by a parent/caregiver. Some library events may require that a parent/caregiver remain at the library. If a child is not picked due to library closure, the parent/guardian may be contacted and/or police may be notified. Staff members are prohibited from transporting patrons in their vehicles.

Library staff will not be responsible for children who have been left without adult supervision or other patrons who require supervised care. These rules are subject to the discretion of library staff who may apply them to patrons other than the ages stated if they deem it necessary.

18. Adult patrons who are not engaged in library activities that require materials from the children's area shall be asked to relocate to other areas of the library. The staff reserves the right to seek the intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by individual circumstances. At designated times, specific areas of the library may be limited to children and their families. Adults without children will be directed to other areas of the building during these times.

19. The Rules of Conduct are subject to immediate amendment and enforcement by the Library Director, The Library Board, or their designees on a case by case basis.

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 May 16, 2007. Amended July 14, 2012. Amended June, 2015. Amended November, 2016. Amended December 2017. Amended November 27, 2018. Amended December 4, 2023.