



Rules of Conduct

This policy is for application to the Town of Collins Public Library

The Town of Collins Public Library (ToCPL) serves as a center for information, education and entertainment. Under Article 5, Section 262 of New York State Education Law, the Board of Trustees of the ToCPL has adopted the following rules to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons, an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the Town of Collins Public Library. Library users are required to comply with these Rules and Regulations.

Commented [c1]: From CEN's version 9/15/22

Patrons must follow all reasonable signage and direction from staff.

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting, or challenging another person to fight, or provoking others to violence. ~~using offensive words likely to provoke violence or using language that offends others, or using abusive language towards staff or patrons;~~
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; blocking or impairing another's passage; and persistent, unwelcome attention, such as staring at or following another person; or making 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 illegal drugs;
5. Engaging in sexual conduct, and/or lewd behavior (e.g., exposure, offensive or inappropriate touching), or sexual harassment of another other patrons, staff member or volunteers;
6. Engaging in discriminatory conduct in violation of the B&ECPL Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy;
7. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library property or the property of another patron, staff member 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, and/or soliciting, canvassing, or petitioning without approval by the Library;
10. Distributing or posting materials or literature that have not been approved by the Library;

11. Vaping, smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes, ~~smokeless electronic cigarettes, or otherwise~~ using tobacco ~~or marijuana~~ products inside of the library, or within ~~one hundred~~ (100) feet of any entrances, exits or outdoor areas of the ToCPL (in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 1399-O).
12. Eating or drinking in designated restricted areas;
13. Making unreasonable use of the restrooms including bathing and laundering;
14. Sleeping or lying down ~~in the library~~;
15. Use of "hover boards";
16. Photography or recording ~~on Library premises without Library~~ ~~of library patrons without their permission~~; and,
17. Entering the library without appropriate clothing including ~~Absence of a shirt and/or shoes~~ ~~or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment~~.

Commented [c2]: Do we want to keep this line?

The library retains the ability to put in place additional rules in emergency situations.

No children under six years of age may be left unattended in the library at any time. Library staff will not be responsible for children who have been left without adult supervision. 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 intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by individual circumstances.

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 by the Board of Trustees 12/15/2016.
Amended 12/7/2017. Reviewed 12/6/2018. Amended 12/12/2019.
Amended 12/3/2020. Reviewed 12/2021. For amendment 12/8/2022.*