

## Eden Library Rules of Conduct

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) serves as a center for information, education and entertainment. As a member of the B&ECPL Library system, the Eden Library adopts the following Rules of Conduct under Article 5, Section 262 of New York State Education Law to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons.

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging another person to fight, or using offensive words likely to provoke violence or using language that offends others;
2. Disturbing other patrons, staff members 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 members 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 another patron, staff member or volunteer);
6. Engaging in 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, soliciting, canvassing or petitioning without approval by the Library;
10. Distributing or posting materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library;
11. Vaping, smoking or otherwise using tobacco or marijuana products inside of the Library or within 100 feet of any entrances, exits or outdoor areas (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;
14. Sleeping or lying down in the Library;
15. Photography, videotaping or audio recording on Library premises without Library permission; and,
16. Entering the Library without appropriate clothing, including a shirt and shoes.

No children under six years of age may be left unattended in any 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 the intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by individual circumstances.

People whose actions 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 including removal from Library property, and/or, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution.

Adopted May 16, 2002.<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>

Amended February 20, 2003, September 28, 2006 and June 14, 2012.<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>

Supersedes Rules of Conduct dated May 15, 1997 and<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Policy Governing Unattended Children dated April 21, 1988.<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>

Amended May 21, 2015.

Adopted by Eden Library, October 14, 2002 and reviewed with revisions from Central Library on May 9, 2016.

Amended July 12, 2023.