

Town of Tonawanda Public Library: Kenilworth & Kenmore Branches Rules of Conduct

The Town of Tonawanda Library – Kenilworth and Kenmore branches serve as centers for information, education and entertainment. Under applicable provisions of the New York State Education Law, including Article 5, Section 262 of such law, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Tonawanda Public Library has adopted the following rules to ensure an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the Town of Tonawanda Public Library – Kenilworth and Kenmore branches. 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, provoking others to violence, or using offensive language;
2. Disturbing or annoying other patrons, staff or volunteers, including by engaging in noisy or boisterous activities, or playing any audio device without earbuds;
3. Interfering with staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties or interfering with another patron's use of library materials or facilities; including persistent, unwelcome attention;
4. Carrying weapons of any kind;
5. Possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
6. Engaging in sexual conduct and/or lewd behavior (e.g., exposure, offensive or inappropriate touching), or sexual harassment of other patrons, staff or volunteers;
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 (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) or those involved in library programs;
9. Selling and/or soliciting; petitioning;
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. Engaging in discriminatory conduct in violation of B&ECPL Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy;
14. Making unreasonable use of the restrooms including bathing;
15. Sleeping;
16. Photography or recording on Library premises without Library permission;

17. Absence of shirts and/or shoes; and
18. Skateboarding, rollerblading, roller-skating, bike riding, or other potentially dangerous activities.

Under Article 65, Section 3205 of New York State Education Law, each minor from six to sixteen years of age shall attend upon full time instruction. Accordingly, access to the Library during regular school hours is denied for minors between the ages of six and sixteen except for such minors who wish to access the federal depository collection or for such minors who are accompanied by a parent or guardian or school official, homeschooled, or otherwise lawfully absent from school. 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.

Persons 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 and, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution.

Adopted by the Town of Tonawanda Public Library July 10, 2012.

Supersedes Regulations Governing Use of the Library by the Public dated March 21, 1994.

Amended June 9, 2015.

Amended March 12, 2019

Reviewed and approved with no changes December 2020

Reviewed and approved with no changes December 14, 2021

Reviewed and approved with no changes March 14, 2023

Reviewed and approved with changes October, 2024.