



LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

RULES OF CONDUCT

The Lancaster Public Library is committed to provide residents educational, recreational and informational materials and services.

The Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Public Library under Section 262 of the New York State Education Law, has adopted the following rules to ensure an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the services and facilities of the Lancaster library.

WHILE ON THE LIBRARY PROPERTY, THE FOLLOWING CONDUCT IS PROHIBITED.

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging to fight or using language likely to offend others.
2. Disturbing other patrons, staff or volunteers (including 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.
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 misconduct, such as, but not limited to, exposure, inappropriate touching or sexual harassment of other patrons, staff, or volunteers.
6. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library property or anyone's personal property; this includes intentional damage to library computers and/or system files.(Packages, briefcases, or any container may be examined before patrons leave the building.)
7. Bringing animals and /or pets in the Library, except for service animals or those involved in library programs. Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities, such as guiding the blind, alerting the deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having-or has- seizure(s), or performing special tasks. (ADA Business Brief: Service Animals.) Under the American with Disabilities Act, the Library has the right to ask if an animal is a service animal and may exclude a service animal if the animal is not effectively controlled by its owner or is not housebroken.

8. Distributing or posting printed materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library; selling and/or soliciting; soliciting petition signatures.
9. Food and/or beverages from outside the Library brought in without prior approval. Leaving refuse in areas other than designated receptacles.
10. Vaping, smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless electronic cigarettes or using tobacco products inside of the Library or within 100 feet of any entrances, exits or outdoor areas of the Library (in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 1399-O).
11. Rearranging or disarranging Library materials and Library furnishings.
12. Loitering.
13. Gambling.
14. Sleeping.
15. Unauthorized requests for money, including but not limited to panhandling or begging.
16. Personal grooming in public spaces.

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PERSONS WHOSE ACTIONS VIOLATE THESE RULES WILL BE ASKED TO STOP SUCH ACTIONS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LIBRARY'S ESTABLISHED RULES AND REGULATIONS OR VIOLATIONS OF LAW MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES AND/OR IN CRIMINAL CHARGES.

For the safety and protection of children, all children subject to the State Laws requiring school attendance are forbidden the use of the library during regular school hours without special permit or previous arrangement with school officials or the home-schooling parent. No children under eight years of age may be left unattended in the library.

For reasons of safety and hygiene, no one may use the building unless wearing shoes or equivalent foot covering and shirts.

WHILE IN THE LIBRARY, THE FOLLOWING ARE ENCOURAGED:

1. Read a book or check out a video.
2. Look up information.
3. Attend library programs or use the library's collection.
4. Ask our friendly staff for help - we're here to serve you.
5. Tell us how we can improve our services, collection and facilities.

Adopted : November 17, 1994

Amended: June 13, 2019