

Acushnet Public Library  
232 Middle Road  
Acushnet, MA 02743  
508-998-0270 [www.acupl.org](http://www.acupl.org)

## **Patron Behavior Policy**

### **Purpose**

The Acushnet Public Library is committed to serving the informational, educational, recreational and intellectual needs of the community. The establishing of rules of behavior is necessary to maintain an atmosphere which promotes the use and enjoyment of the Library and protects the safety of the general public, the Library staff, and the materials, equipment and facility.

### **Rules**

1. No smoking (or use of tobacco in any form) nor use or sale of controlled substances or alcohol shall be permitted on Library premises, nor shall any person under the influence of drugs or alcohol be permitted to remain on the premises.
2. Covered non-alcoholic beverages and small snacks are permitted. Patrons are expected to observe extreme caution with food and drink in the Library. Food/beverage use by computers is prohibited.
3. The use of cell phones is tolerated within reason. Excessive conversations, loud voices and ring tones that may be disruptive to others may prompt Library staff to request cell phone users take their phones out to the foyer or shut them off.
4. Patrons must use headphones when playing the sound on the Library's computers or any electronic device. The volume must not disturb other patrons.
5. Animals are not permitted, with the exception of service animals.
6. No soliciting or distributing of materials within the Library shall be permitted, without the express permission of the Library Director.
7. Appropriate attire, which includes shirts and shoes, must be worn at all times.
8. Loud or boisterous behavior, as determined by the Library staff on duty, is prohibited.
9. Physical or verbal harassment of staff or other patrons is prohibited.

10. Library staff is not responsible for personal belongings left unattended by patrons.

11. The materials and equipment in the Library are here for patron and staff use. Any purposeful damage done to the materials, equipment, furniture, building or property is against the law and may be reported to the police. Reimbursement may be required, at the discretion of the Library Director.

## **POLICY**

1. The staff will give a verbal warning of inappropriate behavior.

2. The staff will explain the rules to the patron and may suggest alternatives.

3. In the event of continued minor disruptions, the patron may be asked to leave the building for the rest of the day.

4. If the offending patron refuses to leave when requested, or if the staff feels there is a potential danger, the police may be called.

5. If a patron repeatedly ignores the warnings issued by the staff and/or the police, the matter will be brought to the Library Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees, 6/23/15