

## Code of Conduct

The Fairfield Public Library strives to make its physical facilities welcoming and safe for all people. Conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, causes disturbance or harm to patrons, staff or property, is not permitted. Accordingly, the Code of Conduct should be observed by all patrons and staff of the Library. The policy will be applied without discrimination and in the best interests of all Library users so that everyone may fully enjoy the Library's facilities and services.

The Code of Conduct defines unacceptable behavior (although not exhaustive) for all users of the Library. Violations of this or any other library policy may result in increasing levels of action ranging from being asked to leave the Library for the remainder of the day, loss of specific library privileges, and possible legal prosecution. (See Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior)

### **Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

- Loitering or sleeping
- Poor hygiene resulting in body odor that affects the ability of others to enjoy and work in the library
- Soliciting
- Lack of proper attire including shirts and shoes
- Abusive or obscene language or gestures intentionally directed at someone
- Disruptive behavior including shouting and fighting
- Improper use of Library facilities, including bathing
- Smoking or vaping within 20 feet of the building entrances
- Intoxication from alcohol or drugs
- Leaving unattended belongings
- Audible and disruptive noise from an electronic device, including cell phones and laptops

**Violation of any federal, state, local or other applicable laws will likely result in legal prosecution and loss of library privileges, including**

**CT General State Statute 53a – 116** “Criminal Mischief”: “A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the second degree when: (1) With intent to cause damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,.... with intent to cause damage to tangible property owned by the state or a municipality that is located on public land.”

**CT General State Statute 53a-181** “Breach of Peace”: “(a) A person is guilty of breach of the peace in the second degree when, with intent to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, such person: (1) Engages in fighting or in violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior in a public place; or (2) assaults or strikes another; or (3) threatens to commit any crime against another person or such other person's property; or (4) publicly exhibits,

distributes, posts up or advertises any offensive, indecent or abusive matter concerning any person; or (5) in a public place, uses abusive or obscene language or makes an obscene gesture; or (6) creates a public and hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which such person is not licensed or privileged to do.”

### **Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior**

Authorized library staff may enforce this code of conduct. Library patrons who fail to comply with the Code will receive one warning unless a law is violated. Patrons who fail to adhere to the rules the second time will have their library privileges suspended for the day. A third offense will result in privileges suspended for one week. A repeat offense may result in permanent suspension until an appeal of the suspension is made in writing to the Town Librarian.

**Adopted:** September 2017

**Revised by the Board of Trustees:** January 2023

**Next Review:** January 2024