

Fairfield Public Library Code of Conduct

I. Purpose

The Fairfield Public Library, a department of the Town of Fairfield (“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, or violates applicable laws, is not permitted. Accordingly, this Code of Conduct applies to all individuals utilizing the Library’s facilities and services, including patrons, staff, and visitors. This Code of Conduct will be enforced without discrimination and in the best interests of all Library users, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to benefit from the Library’s facilities and services.

II. Unacceptable Behavior

The following behaviors are considered unacceptable in the Library. This list is non-exhaustive, and any conduct that disrupts the Library’s operations, causes a disturbance or harm to users of the Library, or infringes on the rights of others using the Library may result in corrective action. (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
- Any disruptive behavior, including shouting, fighting, or violent behavior
- Improper use of Library facilities, including bathing
- Smoking or vaping within 20 feet of the building entrances or other designated non-smoking areas
- Intoxication from alcohol or drugs
- Leaving personal belongings unattended
- Disruptive noise from electronic devices, including cell phones and laptops

In addition, violation of any applicable federal, state, local, or other applicable laws, including, but not limited to the following, will likely result in legal consequence, which may include prosecution and loss of Library privileges:

- 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.”

III. Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior



Fairfield

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Individuals who violate this Code of Conduct or any other Library policy may face consequences, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Being asked to leave the Library for the remainder of the day.
- 2) Loss of specific Library privileges for up to one year.
- 3) Legal prosecution, as applicable, under federal, state, or local laws.

Any person whose library privileges have been revoked under this Code of Conduct may make a written request to the Town Librarian for the reinstatement of privileges. Reinstatement of privileges may be conditioned on future compliance with the Code of Conduct and other Library policies. Reinstatement of privileges will be at the sole discretion of the Town Librarian or his/her designee.

Adopted: September 2017

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