

Patron Conduct Policy

The Library strives to provide a quiet, safe, and supportive environment for all patrons and staff engaged in library activities. The Library is a limited public forum where the public is invited to read, study, and use materials, programs, and services.

These guidelines shall apply to all building, interior and exterior, including any outside locations used by the Library. It pertains to all persons entering the premises or other locations hosted by the Library. The below enumerated rules are not intended to be a complete list of violations, but are intended for guidance only. Library personnel reserve the right to take appropriate action against any other behavior which can reasonably be deemed to be offensive to Library patrons or staff. **Any patron not abiding by these guidelines may be required to leave the library premises and/or have their library privileges denied.** Library employees may contact local police if deemed advisable.

The following are NOT allowed at the Whitehall Township Public Library:

- Engaging in any activity prohibited by law.
- Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with normal operation of the Library or Library employees in the performance of their duties.
- Harassing or threatening behavior.
- Using obscene or abusive language or gestures.
- Using any weapons or device which may cause harm to an individual, animal, and/or property.
- Possession of any weapon on library grounds or in the library building. The library is on Whitehall Coplay School District property (Pa. C.S.A. 912).
- Unnecessary noise that disturbs other patrons or staff.
- Sexual misconduct such as exposure or threatening touching.
- Activities or behavior that may result in injury or harm to any Library patron or staff member, including challenging another person to fight or engaging in a fight.
- Using Library computers or internet access for illegal activities, or to access material that is obscene, contains or makes reference to explicit sexual materials as defined in Pennsylvania law (18 PA. C.S. 5903), contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors. In addition, customers shall not access sites that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting.
- Patrons with hygiene conditions, including, but not limited to, clothing odor, body odor and lice, that interfere with the use and enjoyment of the Library by other Library patrons or with the functioning of Library staff.
- Making unreasonable use of the restrooms, including laundering clothes and bathing.
- Stealing, defacing, damaging, or breaking library materials, equipment, or property.
- Obstructing aisles, walkways, or doors; or monopolize library space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons or staff.

- Soliciting, petitioning, or canvassing.
- Dumping or littering.
- Disobeying reasonable directions of a library staff member.

Please be aware that:

- The Library is not responsible for children who are left unattended on Library premises. Individuals 11 and younger must be supervised by a caregiver. The behavior of children is the responsibility of the caregiver.
- The Library is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged on Library premises.
- You must wear clothing and shoes in the Library.
- Certain Library spaces may have additional restrictions.

This policy is subject to change at any time without notice. Updates to the policy may be obtained from the Library.

Updated by Board of Trustees: November 14, 2023