

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Flint Memorial Library aims to provide all with a safe and pleasant experience by maintaining a positive atmosphere for connecting, studying, participating, and learning. To ensure such an environment exists, the Library has established guidelines for behavior while visiting.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of library property, disruptive behavior will not be allowed. Library staff reserve the right to address any behaviors, including those not listed, that disrupt or prevent others' ability to use the library for its intended purposes.

The following activities are not allowed in the library:

- Creating a disturbance by making noise, talking loudly or engaging in other disruptive conduct per Massachusetts General Laws [MGL], Ch. 272, § 41
- Threatening behavior, including, but not limited to, hate speech, violence, threats of violence, and possession of weapons
- Smoking per [MGL], Ch. 270, § 21-22, including use of electronic devices and vaping
- Cannabis usage in any form
- Soliciting, canvassing, or proselytizing of any kind
- Entering areas posted "Staff Only" without permission
- Leaving a child under 10 unattended in the library per [MGL], Ch. 119, § 39 Parents are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children
- Damaging or defacing library materials or property [MGL], Ch. 266, §100
- Engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, including solicitation, sexual harassment, or indecent exposure
- Distributing, or posting on library property any printed materials, unless authorized by the Library
- Use of, or carrying in bicycles, roller blades, or similar types of equipment into the building, except those used by persons with disabilities
- Ignoring or not complying with government mandated health and safety regulations

An individual's access to the library may be limited or suspended after participation in prohibited activities as outlined above, and/or participating in the above behaviors.

### **Behavior Guidelines/Expectations**

- Patrons should always be aware they are in a shared, public space
- Cell phone use is permitted on the first and fourth floors, and in the Activity Room
- Conversations (in person or via device) should be at a volume that doesn't disturb or interfere with other patrons
- Proper attire, including shirts and shoes must be worn
- Taking photos and video is allowed in public areas only
- Use of the Teen Space during non-school hours is limited to students currently enrolled in either middle or high school, home school students of a similar age, and teenagers through age 18
- Use only authorized entrances and exits to the library building
- Assume responsibility for all materials checked out on their library cards
- Covered food and beverages are allowed and should be disposed of properly
- Patrons are solely responsible for their personal possessions and should be kept with them at all times
- Only service animals [MGL], Ch. 272, § 98A, and animals associated with library programs are allowed in the building

For the safety of all, the library is protected by closed circuit videotape recording

### **Enforcement**

In order to ensure that staff members have a clear understanding of their responsibilities in this regard, the following protocol will to be observed:

Staff will handle occasional misbehavior informally

Patrons engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to refrain from continuing their behavior. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the patron(s) may be asked to leave the library by the Director or authorized Library staff. In more extreme cases, the police may be called. Staff reserve the right to ask patrons for their name and/or ID at any time.

The Library reserves the right to inspect all bags, backpacks, and packages.

These rules shall be applied in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner to protect the property, patrons, and staff of the Flint Memorial Library, and to maintain the availability of Library resources for all.

Any patron whose privileges have been revoked may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees via a written request to the Library Director within seven (7) days of the denial of library service.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees 9/93, Amended 1/98, 3/06, 4/24,5/25*