



Rules Governing Behavior for the Public Use and Enjoyment of the Bloomfield Public Library

These Rules Governing Appropriate Conduct and Behavior for the Public Use and Enjoyment of the Bloomfield Public Library, (hereinafter known as Library) are for the purpose of protecting the rights, protections and safety of the Library patrons, and for the purpose of protecting the rights and safety of those employed by the Library as well as those volunteering their services to the Library, as well as to protect and preserve the materials, resources, facilities and property of the Library.

Definitions and Scope of the Rules Governing the Conduct and Behavior of the Use of the BPL

These rules of behavior and conduct shall apply to the physical building which includes its interior and exterior as well as all grounds controlled and operated by the Bloomfield Public Library Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the premises) and to all persons entering the premises.

Rules of Conduct and Behavior:

Any persons engaged in any one or more of the following behaviors may, by the authority invested in the Bloomfield Library Board of Trustees by the Mayor and Town Council, can be requested to leave the premises and be excluded from the further use and enjoyment of the premises and its services in the future or for a designated period of time as designated in accordance with the outlined penalties.

1. Any person committing or attempting to commit an activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state or local criminal codes, statutes or ordinances.
2. Any person engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, or disturbs or harasses* Library staff or patrons, including, but not limited to, conduct that involves the use of abusive language or gestures, conduct that creates unreasonable noise or conduct that consists of, but is not limited to loud or boisterous disruptive or physical behavior including incessant talking **(Harassment is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce psychological or physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule. Harassment is characterized by requests for sexual contact, unwelcome physical advances, or conduct (verbal or physical) of a*

nature that is intimidating, demeaning, hostile, offensive, or potentially dangerous to self or others.)

3. Any person directing a specific threat or physical harm against an individual, a group, or group of individuals or physical property of the library.
4. Any person engaging in any type of sexual conduct prohibited under the NJSA 2C:14-1, including, but not limited to, the physical manipulation or touching of another person or oneself, or the person's intimate parts through a person's clothing.
5. Any person under the influence of any controlled substance or alcoholic beverage or whose behavior is consistent with a disorderly person's conduct.
6. Any person possessing, selling, distributing, or consuming any controlled substance as defined by the NJSA 24:21-2.
7. Any person using Library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner or in a manner inconsistent with its customary use or likely to cause personal injury to the actors or others.
8. Any person willfully disobeying the reasonable directions of a Library staff member or a security officer.
9. Any person placing their personal belongings or any objects in or against the Library buildings, furniture, equipment, fixtures anywhere in or on the premises in such a manner that it interferes with Library personnel and or staff or Library patrons use of the Library facility or interferes with the free passage of all.
10. Any persons bringing bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, scooters, or other similar devices inside Library buildings, including but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways except where a bicycle rack is provided.
11. Any persons operating bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, scooter or other similar devices in or on Library premises.
12. Any person violating established NJSA that prohibits smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco anywhere within the physical building
13. Any persons consuming food anywhere within the building unless prior permission obtained or if it is part of an approved program.
14. Any person possessing alcoholic beverages in open or closed containers or non-alcoholic beverages in other than closed, secured containers as indicated by posted signs.
15. Any person bringing animals (except for service animals and those associated with the Library or a designated Library Program) inside the Library building or leaving an animal tethered and unattended on Library premises.
16. Any person violating the Library's internet Policy, a copy of the Policy is posted online and at the reservation station.
17. Any person taking Library materials or resources into the restrooms.
18. Any person sleeping in or on Library premises.
19. Any person improperly using the Library restrooms, included but not limited to bathing, shaving, washing hair and or clothing and changing clothes.
20. Any person using a personal electronic device at a volume that is too loud and disturbs the enjoyment of the Library for others.

21. Any person who poses a health risk due to personal hygiene and conduct, or whose poor hygiene constitutes a nuisance.
22. Any person entering the Library building with bare feet or chest.
23. Any person conducting unapproved meetings or failing to adhere to proper Library procedures for reserving meeting rooms.

Penalties:

Any persons violating the Library Rules of Conduct and Behavior can and will be subject the following penalties.

- A. Any persons engaging in behaviors identified in number 1 through 6 will be immediately requested to vacate the Library without a verbal warning. Any person who has violated behaviors identified in 1 through 6 and is requested to vacate the Library, will lose all Library privileges for a period of up to three years, and the said violation will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- B. Any persons engaging in behaviors 7 through 17 will be provided with ONE verbal warning at the discretion of the Library personnel. If this direction is not followed, the Library patron will be requested to leave the premises for the day. Any subsequent offenses by that person will result in that person's immediate ejection and exclusion from all Library premises. Any person so excluded shall lose all Library privileges for a period of up to one year.
- C. Any persons engaging in behaviors 18 through 20 will be provided with TWO verbal warnings at the discretion of the Library staff, and if the direction is not followed, the person will be asked to leave the premises for the day. Subsequent offenses by that person will result in that person's immediate ejection and exclusion from all Bloomfield Public Library premises. Any person so excluded shall lose all Library privileges for a period of up to six months.
- D. Any person engaging in behaviors 21 through 23 will be excluded from the Library premises until the infraction is corrected.

Repeat Offenses:

Any persons repeatedly violating these rules of conduct and behavior, after having been previously excluded for Library rule violations, may face a longer exclusion than indicated in these guidelines. Repeat offenders need not violate the same rule to be subject to stricter enforcement and may not be warned that their behavior is inappropriate before being excluded. Everyone enjoying the use of the Library is required to be aware and informed of all appropriate rules of behavior and conduct.

Adopted: June 3, 2015

Updated: March 7, 2019