

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The Cherry Hill Public Library welcomes the community to the library. This code of conduct strives to provide an atmosphere conducive to the safe and orderly use of the facility.

We request the cooperation of patrons in refraining from behavior that disrupts library services.

Parents or guardians, not the library staff, are responsible for the safety, care, and supervision of their children at the library. For the purposes of this policy, any authorized person performing a task on the behalf of the library is considered a staff member.

All persons must leave the Library premises by closing time, when evacuation of the building is necessary or at any time when requested to do so by Library personnel.

For the safety of our patrons and our staff, the following activities are not allowed in the library:

- Smoking on library property, including parking lot and Friendship Grove by township ordinance that bans smoking in any Township-owned area.
- Carrying a weapon into the library unless by law enforcement officers or other lawfully permitted individuals.
- Bringing animals into the library except those certified to assist a patron with a disability (service or guide dog) or for a special library event.
- Leaving a child under the age of ten in the library without supervision. See our Safe Children Policy.
- Talking loudly, making noise, or engaging in other disruptive behavior, such as argumentative behavior with other patrons or staff, especially the use of loud, obscene or abusive language; or using a personal computer, tablet, cell phone, or other device that disturbs staff or the public.
- Any behavior perceived by staff or another patron as sexual harassment, invasion of privacy, voyeurism, petting; or staring at another person with the effect of harassment to that person, by following another person about the building with the effect of harassment to that person, by behaving in a manner which reasonably can be expected to disturb other patrons, or other unwanted attention.
- Interfering with another person's use of the library or with the library staff's performance of their duties.

- Improper attire, including but not limited to being without shoes and/or shirts
- Damaging or misuse of library property or stealing library materials.
- Selling or soliciting of donations, contributions or signatures. .
- Photography or filming on the library premises without the permission of the Library administration and any individuals or groups being photographed.
- Obstructing the entrance area of the library, either inside or outside the building
- Running, rollerblading, skateboarding or similar activities in the library or library grounds
- Engaging in any illegal or unsafe activity not otherwise listed.
- Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building.
- Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with a public library while in the building.

Persistent or severe violations of the Library's rules may result in the suspension of library privileges, including the right to enter or use the facilities and/or borrow materials. The Library Director is authorized to promulgate procedures for enforcing this policy.

The Library reserves the right to:

- Inspect all pocketbooks, backpacks, bookbags, satchels, briefcases, and other similar personal bags.
- Impose time limits on the continuous use of library resources, including reference materials, computer equipment, public telephones, study rooms, and staff assistance time.

Individuals who violate this policy may be asked to leave the library immediately. Patrons will be asked to leave immediately for reasons included but not limited to:

- Fighting or attempting to engage in a physical altercation.
- Unsafe behavior including horseplay, use of hazardous substances,
- Loud, abusive, inflammatory or derogatory language against any one person or persons.
- Damage or abuse of library materials or furnishings, including misuse of the bathroom
- Intoxication and use of alcohol or illegal substances

- Promotion of an unsanitary condition upon one self, other patron(s) or library property.

Suspension of library privileges for a determinate or indeterminate period of time may also occur. Notice of suspension will be given to the patron. Violators may be subject to penalties under local ordinances and applicable laws.

Library privileges will be automatically revoked for patrons who have disciplinary interventions with police at the library. This includes the right to enter the building, use its facilities, and/or borrow materials.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: September 2015
Amended and Board Approved: October 2021