



# A Library for Everyone

## Striving to Support Positive Experiences

**The Lemont Public Library District is committed to serving everyone**, including those in the community who need access to services and resources and for whom barriers may sometimes hinder full and equitable access. That includes those experiencing homelessness, those with health, mental health, or income challenges, and other vulnerable or marginalized members of the community.

**The Lemont Public Library District listens to its community.** Together, we value:

- Engagement through anti-racism, equity, civic responsibility, collaboration, compassion, gathering, and participation.
- Learning through knowledge, access, literacy, education, opportunity, and intellectual freedom; and
- Stewardship through accountability, preservation, sustainability, and transparency.

**The Lemont Public Library District does not tolerate illegal behavior in physical and virtual library spaces.** Patron conduct must never endanger the health and safety of other library patrons, staff, volunteers, or cause or threaten to cause damage to library property, staff, patrons, or volunteers. Further, all library users must adhere to the guidelines put forth in the *Library Code of Conduct Policy*.

## Guidelines

**The Lemont Public Library District is committed to welcoming everyone**, and the Board of Library Trustees has established the following guidelines to ensure:

- Everyone may access the library's information, services, and opportunities.
- Library patrons experience safe library spaces.
- Library resources are protected from theft and damage; and
- Library staff have a safe workplace.

**When individual values are in conflict, dilemmas occur.** The Lemont Public Library District strives to support a positive experience for everyone. Patron conduct cannot create a disturbance or otherwise interfere with the safe use of the library by others.

**Personal items must be kept with you while on the premises.** The Lemont Public Library

District is a public space; library staff and volunteers are not responsible for the loss or damage of unattended items.

**Small snacks, single-serving drinks and beverage containers with lids** are acceptable in the library with the following exceptions:

- *Adult public computers*
- *Teen public computers*

**Sleeping** is acceptable if it does not limit access to library entrances and exits, resources, and staff.

**Service animals**, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are permitted in the Lemont Public Library District.

## Accountability

**These guidelines apply to patrons of all ages.** Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the safety of those who require care while visiting the library.

Any conduct that violates these guidelines may result in cost recovery charges, exclusion from library spaces and from the use of library services, and prosecution. Restorative practices will be used to repair harm and address conflict whenever possible and appropriate.

Illinois library law authorizes the Board of Library Trustees to exclude from the use of the Lemont Public Library District any person who willfully violates the policies prescribed by the board. After the exclusion period, patrons may be welcomed back into the library.

All Lemont Public Library District staff are authorized to ask visitors whose choices violate the library's values to leave the library. The library's PIC (*Person in Charge*) may choose to exclude a patron for a 24-hour period. All staff are authorized to call 9-1-1 and are required to document the incident on the Lemont Public Library District's incident report form.

If unsupervised children and other patrons who require care are unable to tell staff their full name; parent, guardian, or caregiver's name; and parent, guardian, or caregiver's phone number upon request or if a guardian cannot be reached, the police will be notified.

The Lemont Public Library District may bring criminal charges against any persons suspected of criminal acts toward library staff or patrons, including theft or vandalism of Library property or materials or of any violations on Library property of federal, state, or local laws and ordinances.

Reviewed: Policy and Personnel Committee – Library Board of Trustees, January 26, 2023

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