



Library Code of Conduct

***Aligned with the “A Library for Everyone” Policy*

The Lemont Public Library District is committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive environment where all members of the community can learn, explore, and connect. To maintain equitable access, a safe, respectful space for all patrons and staff, and to protect library property and resources, the following Code of Conduct is guided by the values outlined in the “A Library for Everyone” policy.

General Conduct

- Respectful behavior is expected. Disruptive conduct including but not limited to loud, repetitive, abusive, obscene, or threatening, language, telephone conversations, singing, running, shoving, throwing things, fighting, physical, or verbal harassment of staff or other patrons.
- Illegal activity or conduct in violation of federal, state, or local law, ordinance or regulations is prohibited in any library facility
- Use of personal devices is allowed with headphones and at volumes that do not disturb others.
- Light snacks and beverages in covered containers are allowed, except near public computer stations.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted in the library.
- Personal items must remain with the owner. Library staff are not responsible for unattended belongings.
- All library materials must be properly checked out before leaving the building; unauthorized removal is prohibited.
- Proper attire, including shirts and shoes, is required.
- Sporting equipment may not be used inside the Library.
- Patrons not engaged in considerate use of Library resources may be asked to refocus or leave.
- Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming, or entering and remaining on Library property under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or THC-infused products, illegal drugs, or other controlled substances without a prescription.
- Possession weapons, look alike weapons, or any other objects that can reasonably be considered to be a weapon.
- As a courtesy library users are asked to refrain from recording (audio, video, or photos) in the library without permission.

Animals in the Library

The Americans with Disabilities Act defines “service animals” as miniature horses and dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task that the dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability to qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

The Library welcomes service animals, and service animals are permitted in any area of the Library where members of the public are permitted to go. All service animals must be under the control of their handler at all times. Patrons should not pet or interact with service animals.

Children in the Library

The Library welcomes children and supports families, but staff cannot serve as caregivers.

- Children are expected to refrain from behavior that interferes with the library operations or disturbs library users or staff.
- Children under age 10 must be supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver age 14 or older, unless they attend a designated program.
- Children age 10 and older may use the Library independently if their behavior is respectful and safe.
- Repeated unsupervised visits may result in written notice to a parent or guardian.
- If unsupervised children or individuals 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.
- Suspected neglect or abuse will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Accountability

These guidelines apply to all patrons. Parents and caregivers are responsible for those in their care. Whenever possible, the Library uses restorative practices to address harm, resolve conflict, and welcome patrons back.

- Any conduct that violates these guidelines may result in cost recovery charges, exclusion from library spaces, exclusion from the use of library services, and prosecution.
- Staff may ask patrons to leave for the day if behavior disrupts others. Serious or repeated violations may result in suspension or termination of library use privileges.
- The Library may pursue legal action for criminal activity.
- Illinois law authorizes the Board of Trustees to “exclude from the use of the Library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed by the board.” (Illinois Compiled Statutes, 75 ILCS 16/30-55.55). Failure to abide by the Library Code of Conduct may result in loss of Library privileges. Any patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees upon prior written request.

Solicitation

No individual, group, or organization may sell or solicit merchandise, services, donations, or signatures for petitions inside or outside the library without prior approval. The Library reserves the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of approved activities.

Approved by the Lemont Public Library District Board of Trustees - December 11, 2008;
November 9, 2011; March 2021; September 13, 2022; May 12, 2026.

Reviewed and Amended: August 31, 2022, June 24, 2025, November 10, 2025, April 29, 2026.