

## Behavior Policy

**Purpose:** The Avon Free Public Library (the "Library") welcomes everyone to use its collections, services and facilities. As a department of the Town of Avon, the library is a public building open to people of all ages and abilities. The library offers opportunities for reading, study, cultural activities and access to information. Use of the facility and services of the Library is subject to its policies and procedures. This policy provides the standards of behavior which ensure a welcoming, safe and secure environment and positive experience for all patrons.

**Scope:** This policy applies to the Library staff, patrons and members of the public using the Library. The Library courtyard, parking lot and grounds are considered an extension of the library, and these rules apply to those areas as well.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Respect for Library patrons and staff shall prevail at all times. Visitors are asked to respect the rights of other users of the Library and to cooperate with staff in maintaining a safe, comfortable and reasonably quiet environment. Interfering with another person's ability to use the Library or with the Library staff's performance of their duties is not allowed.

Parents or caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children. This is in accordance with the Library's Unattended Children Policy, a copy of which shall be provided on request.

### Procedures:

- 1. Identification:** The Library staff may require a patron to show his/her library card or other suitable identification.
- 2. Compliance with local ordinances and state laws:** The library staff will apply all local ordinances and state laws which govern behavior in public places as well as those regarding defacement, damage or theft of library property, use of false identification to obtain a library card, or use of another person's library card without permission.
- 3. Attire:** Library patrons are required to wear appropriate clothing including shoes and shirts.
- 4. Adult Access to Children's Space:** Adults in the Children's and Teen sections of the building who are unaccompanied by a child or teen and do not require immediate access to materials from the children or teen collections may be asked to relocate to another area of the library.

## **5. Activities not allowed in the Library:**

- a. Smoking or vaping.
- b. Possessing, or being under the influence of, alcohol or illegal substances.
- c. Eating or drinking, except at designated times or in designated areas. Food or beverages are not permitted near any computers. Beverages must be in a covered container such as a travel mug or water bottle.
- d. Disruptive behavior such as running, shouting, pushing, spitting or biting.
- e. Sleeping.
- f. Inappropriate computer use or damaging of computer equipment. Please see the full "[Internet Use Policy](#)" for more information.
- g. Verbally harassing or physically threatening behavior.
- h. Use of skateboards, roller blades, scooters, bicycles, footballs and other wheeled or non-wheeled sports equipment is not allowed, inside or outside the library. Bikes must be parked at the bike rack and should be locked.
- i. Bringing animals into the library, except for service animals or animals used as part of a library sponsored program.
- j. Canvassing, petitioning, soliciting, selling or distributing materials without prior approval of the library.

**Enforcement and Appeal:** Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Once warned, anyone who fails to comply with any of these rules may, at the discretion of the Library Director or her/his designee, be asked to leave the library premises, suffer the loss of library privileges or be referred for prosecution of criminal offenses. Specifics regarding the suspension or revocation of library privileges and the appeal process can be found in the Library's [Circulation Policy](#).

In the event of violation of local ordinance or state laws governing behavior in public places, staff may call the Police Department to enforce these laws and regulations when necessary.

**Applicable State and Federal Laws:** The Library Board is empowered to make these rules under Connecticut State Statute Title 11, Sec. 11-32 and to exclude from the library any person who willfully violates these rules.

According to Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 53-21a, no child under age 12 may be left unaccompanied in the library or on library property at any time. Please see the full "Unattended Children Policy" for more information.

### **Location:**

This policy is housed on the Avon Free Public Library Website:  
<https://www.avonctlibrary.info/policies/>

A copy is maintained in the Library's Administration office.

Revised and approved by Avon Library Board of Directors October 20, 2020.