

SOMERS PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Adopted, Board of Directors, 11/18/91

Amended: 10/6/97; 11/05/01; 9/10/18

POLICY STATEMENTS:

Any person under the age of twelve shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver who will be responsible for the child's behavior in the library, as per the Library's Unattended Children policy.*

Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn inside the library.

Animals are not allowed, with the exception of service animals, and those contracted by staff for specific library programs.

Those using the Somers Public Library and its resources have the right to expect a safe, comfortable environment that supports the appropriate use of library services. Disruptive patrons will be asked to leave the library and its grounds after receiving one warning.

A. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Disruptive behavior shall be considered any behavior which adversely affects the patrons, building, and/or staff of the library.

Within the library building such behavior will include, but not be limited to loud talking, swearing, eating or drinking from open containers, running, rough housing, harassment of others, the use of alcohol or controlled substances on library premises, or damage to the building. Cell phone conversations will not be permitted except in the lobby. No loitering or congregating either inside the library or outside the main entrance.

On library grounds such behavior will include, but not be limited to, running, rough housing, congregating, use of sports equipment, the use of alcohol or controlled substances on library premises, or damage to the library's gardens and grounds. Smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices are prohibited not only on library grounds, but within the entire Education Complex.

B. DISRUPTIVE PATRONS: Library users are expected to be considerate of their fellow patrons and keep all necessary conversation to a minimum and in a low tone. In the event of disruptive behavior, it will be the responsibility of library staff members to enforce library policy.

Patrons who cause a disturbance:

- a. Will be told to cease the activity. In any one day, ONE warning will be given and if the disruptive behavior continues during that same day, they will be required to leave the library property.
- b. If the library user refuses to leave, the staff member in charge will call the police department. In the event the patron is a minor (under the age of eighteen), their parent or guardian will also be called.
- c. All warnings and offenses will be documented.
- d. Upon the occurrence of disruptive behavior outlined in item (a) above on a second occasion within thirty days, the Library Director will deny the offender use of the library and its services for a minimum thirty days.
- e. Those who have been barred from library use as outlined in item (d) above must meet with the Library Director before being readmitted. Minors (under the age of eighteen) will be required to bring a parent or guardian to such a conference.

*Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
53-21a Leaving child unsupervised in place of public
accommodation