

## **MILLBURY LIBRARY PATRON CONDUCT POLICY**

The public library service provided at the Millbury Public Library is based on the First Amendment right of free expression guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America. The public library is recognized as a limited public forum for access to information. The library has a responsibility to ensure that all patrons are able to use its services without being impeded by the actions of other library patrons. The library upholds the American Library Association *Library Bill of Rights* (Appendix A), Freedom to *Read* statement (Appendix B), and *Freedom to View* statement (Appendix C). In order to protect all library user's right of access to library facilities, and to ensure the safety of users and staff, and to protect library resources and facilities from damage, the Library Board of Trustees imposes the following reasonable restrictions on the manner of library access.

1. The theft, vandalism, or mutilation of library property is a violation of Chapter 266, Sections 99A and 100 of the Massachusetts General Laws Annotated and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.
2. Library facilities are smoke-free environments. This includes all library grounds.
3. Patron use of library facilities is limited to public areas only.
4. Eating is allowed in library facilities only for sponsored functions and within prescribed space constraints. Eating and drinking is not allowed when using the new technologies or near other computers in the library.
5. To ensure everyone's comfort, safety, and access to library resources and facilities, the following behaviors are not considered acceptable in the library.
  - a. Noise or talking which disturbs others
  - b. Running and noisy play
  - c. Dropping things from the second floor to the first floor in the library
  - d. Repetitive breaking of library rules for use of library spaces, material, resources, services, facilities, or equipment.
  - e. Harassing or threatening the safety or rights of another person by violent, riotous or disorderly behavior or by abusive, obscene or profane language.
  - f. Intoxication resulting from the use of alcohol or drugs
  - g. Use of wrong restrooms
  - h. Use of restrooms for bathing.
  - i. Blocking public entrances.
  - j. Soliciting, peddling or vending, whether in the library or on library grounds and parking areas.
  - k. Use of any personal audio equipment without headphones.
  - l. Possession on library grounds of a weapon, an electric weapon or device, a firearm, a destructive device or explosive as defined in Massachusetts Law. Exceptions are made for law enforcement officers and library security personnel.
  - m. These activities represent some prohibited activities but are not limited only to the above actions.
  - n. Any other behavior deemed unacceptable by the library Director and/or library staff members.

Patrons who exhibit any of the above unacceptable behaviors will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave the library. Failure to leave the library when asked will subject the person to possible arrest, (Massachusetts General Laws Annotated, Chapter 266, section 120). Library