

Library Use Policy

Falmouth Public Library - Falmouth, MA

The Falmouth Public Library is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all library users and staff. Our goal is to foster an open and accessible space where the community can engage with learning opportunities, cultural experiences, and information resources. In order to encourage a welcoming atmosphere, this Library Use Policy provides guidelines for conduct and activities that will not be permitted for Library users.

Library staff may address any behavior that they determine to be disruptive and may contact law enforcement to address disturbances when deemed necessary.

Threatening, harassing, or assaulting any library user, volunteer, or staff member, whether verbally, physically, or through written or electronic communications is prohibited. Library users may not engage in disruptive behavior, including but not limited to: excessive noise, physical altercations, inappropriate language, running, horseplay, misusing Library property or spaces, blocking exits or aisles, excessive public displays of affection, being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, destruction of library property and other actions that disturb patrons ([M.G.L. c. 272, Sec. 41](#)).

Library users may not consume tobacco, marijuana, or e-cigarettes on library property ([M.G.L. c. 270, Secs. 6A](#) and [22](#)). Library users may not consume alcohol on library property ([M.G.L. c. 272, Sec. 59](#)).

Engaging in any activity that violates federal, state, local, or other applicable law or library policy is prohibited.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees: September 2010, July 2016, November 2025

The Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter, amend, or terminate this policy.

Library Use Policy Exhibit A: Additional Library User Conduct Expectations

Individuals entering the building must wear appropriate attire for a public place including shoes, tops, and bottoms.

Library users must be responsible for their personal belongings; library staff are not liable for unattended items.

Library users may not enter "Staff Only" areas without permission.

Cell phones and devices should not disrupt other patrons. Users of cell phones and other devices may be asked by staff to move to a more appropriate location.

Canvassing, soliciting, or distributing materials requires prior approval from the Library Director.

The Library extends the courtesy to our patrons to have drinks or a light snack in the Library; please be considerate of others in terms of sounds, smells, and allergies while enjoying a snack and please use covered cups or water bottles.

Breastfeeding is allowed in any public space ([M.G.L. c. 111, Sec. 221](#)).

Library users must remain alert at all times so that staff can identify medical issues or emergencies; sleeping is not permitted.

Pets or animals, except for service animals, are not allowed unless authorized by the Library Director.

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