

Using the Edison Public Library

Library Rules

Welcome to the Edison Public Library. In order to ensure fairness, efficient operation and the best possible service certain rules must be administered. Below you will find a list of library policies established to ensure the most pleasant experience and efficient service.

1. Rules of Conduct for Library Visitors:

I. Purpose:

The Edison Township Free Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all Library patrons and staff. We have established this Behavior Policy/Code of Conduct to ensure that our patrons can use the library's facilities, resources, materials, programs and services without being disturbed or impeded and our staff can conduct business efficiently, in a secure and comfortable environment.

These Rules of Conduct apply to all Library property, including outside areas and parking lots.

II. Overview:

No individual may engage in inappropriate conduct on the premises of the Edison Township Free Public Library. Patrons shall be engaged in the normal activities associated with the use of a public library while on the premises at all times. Depending upon the circumstances / nature of the inappropriate conduct, individuals may suffer a loss or suspension of Library privileges and/or face civil/criminal prosecution.

III. Definition of Inappropriate Conduct:

Inappropriate conduct includes any individual or group actions in the library or on library premises that interfere with the use of Library facilities, collections, services or programs by others or disrupts the ability of Library staff to perform their duties. Inappropriate conduct is not permitted at any time and any patron engaging in same shall cease such activity immediately upon request of Library staff.

Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to the following:

- a) Engaging in any activity that constitutes a violation of Federal, State or municipal criminal statutes or ordinances;

- b) Displaying or using any dangerous weapon on Library property or using or threatening the use of any object in such a manner that it may be considered a weapon (N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4 et. Seq.);
- c) Engaging in or threatening to engage in any fighting, striking, kicking, shoving or other physically intimidating or assaultive behavior (N.J.S.A. 2C: 33-4 et.seq).
- d) Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal drug or controlled substance (N.J.S.A. 2C: 35-24 et.seq.);
- e) Trespassing by entering or remaining on Library property after having been notified by an authorized individual not to do so, including entering or remaining on Library property after having been suspended;
- f) Refusing to follow the directions of Library staff regarding rules and regulations;
- g) Leaving children or adults who are in need of supervision unattended;
- h) Engaging in any behavior that is disruptive, harassing or threatening to Library users or staff (N.J.S.A. 2C: 33-4 et. seq);
- i) Creating disruptive noise levels including loud talking, shouting, loud or repeated cell phone ringing or cell phone conversations (silent mode and texting are permitted) or using other personal electronic equipment at a volume that is disturbing to other patrons;
- j) Blocking the entrance to the Library or using skateboards, rollerblades, skate shoes, scooters, bicycles, or hover boards within the Library or Library property in a manner that is disruptive to others;
- k) Using loud, offensive, obscene or abusive language (N.J.S.A. 2C: 20-12 et. seq.);
- l) Engaging in any lewd or sexual contact, activity or conduct; (N.J.S.A. 2c: 33-4 et.seq.);
- m) Smoking or using tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or vaping;
- n) No outside food or drink is allowed in the Library. Food purchased from the vending machines is allowed to be eaten in specific areas only;
- o) Prolonged sleeping that interferes with the use and enjoyment of the Library by others;
- p) Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn at all times;
- q) Monopolizing Library resources or staff time;
- r) Theft of Library materials, furniture, equipment or services; (N.J.S.A. 2C 17-3 et. Seq.);
- s) Damaging or vandalizing Library property, including, but not limited to, restrooms, computers, electronic equipment, hardware or software, furniture and walls; defacing or removing pages from books; or, destroying landscaping or other fixtures; (N.J.S.A. 2C: 17-3 et. Seq.);
- t) Moving furniture without the express consent of Library staff or using furniture in any manner that may damage the furniture, including placing feet on same.
- u) Bringing any animal into the Library except service animals and animals brought into the Library in connection with Library programs;
- v) Entering non-public areas of the Library without permission;
- w) Taking Library materials into restrooms (N.J.S.A. 2C: 17-3 et. Seq.);

- x) Vandalizing cars or other property/items in the Library parking lot or anywhere else on Library property, (N.J.S.A. 2C: 17-3 et. Seq.);
- y) Violating the Library's rules for acceptable use of computers and the internet. A user accepts these rules before accessing the Internet through a Library computer. Copies of these rules will be made available by staff upon request;

The Library staff has the authority to maintain order to ensure the safety of patrons and staff. All patrons must follow the directions of the staff regarding policies. Conduct may be deemed to be inappropriate regardless of whether it rises to the level of criminal activity. Violation of these rules may result in a temporary or permanent loss of the use of Library facilities. Continued inappropriate behavior will lead to expulsion from the Library, parental notification if a minor, possible police notification or prosecution as warranted.