

EDISON TOWNSHIP FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES OF CONDUCT FOR LIBRARY VISITORS

I. Purpose:

The Edison Township Free Public Library is dedicated to providing quiet access to knowledge and information through reading, writing, studying and the proper use of the Library's computers and other materials. We have established this Behavior Policy/Code of Conduct to ensure that our patrons can use the library's facilities, materials, programs and services without being disturbed or impeded and to provide our patrons and staff with a safe, 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. Patrons not engaged in reading, writing, studying, properly using Library computers, materials or services, attending Library programs or engaging in other conduct normally associated with a public library will be asked to leave the property. **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 activity which disrupts the use of Library facilities, collections, services or programs by patrons 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 by Library personnel.

Conduct may be deemed to be inappropriate regardless of whether it rises to the level of criminal activity, and the Library reserves the right to seek both civil and criminal prosecution where warranted. References to criminal below statutes is illustrative only, and prosecution may not be limited to those statutes.

Inappropriate conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following conduct or behavior:

- Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or offense under Federal, State or municipal law, rule, regulation and/or ordinance;
- Possessing, 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.);
- 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.);

- 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.);
- 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;
- Refusing to follow the reasonable directions of Library staff, including failing to take shelter in an emergency as directed by staff;
- Engaging in any behavior that a reasonable person would find to be disruptive, harassing or threatening to Library users or staff including stalking, prolonged staring at or following another with the intent to annoy them, or intentionally behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to annoy or disturb other patrons (N.J.S.A. 2C: 33-4 et. seq.);
- Ringing of and talking on cell phones inside the building (silent mode and texting are permitted) or using other personal electronic equipment at a volume which is disturbing to other patrons;
- Engaging in excessive or disruptive conversations, talking loudly, making ongoing noise, running in the Library or throwing objects;
- Blocking the entrance to the Library or using skateboards, rollerblades, skate shoes, scooters or hoverboards on or around Library property;
- Using loud, offensive, obscene or abusive language (N.J.S.A. 2C: 20-12 et. seq.);
- Engaging in any lewd or sexual contact, activity or conduct; (N.J.S.A. 2C: 33-4 et. seq.);
- Smoking or using other tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or vaping;
- Drinking or eating in the proximity of the computers;
- Bringing food into the Library;
- Sleeping on Library premises;
- Improper or inappropriate attire (shirts and shoes are required);
- Monopolizing Library resources or staff time;
- Theft of Library materials, furniture, equipment or services; (N.J.S.A. 2C: 20-12 et. seq.);
- Damaging or vandalizing Library property, including, but not limited to, restrooms, computers, furniture and walls; defacing or removing pages from books; or, destroying landscaping or other fixtures; (N.J.S.A. 2C: 17-3 et. seq.);
- 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;
- Bringing any animal into the Library except service animals and animals brought into the Library in connection with Library programs;
- Entering non-public areas of the Library without permission;
- Taking Library materials into restrooms (N.J.S.A. 2C: 20-12 et. seq.);
- Vandalizing cars or other property/items in the Library parking lot or anywhere else on Library property, including the building and/or grounds (N.J.S.A. 2C: 17-3 et. seq.);

- Violating the Library's rules for acceptable use of the internet and the Library's public computers. 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;
- Hanging around outside the Library building or inside the Library building with little to no purpose of using the Library's facilities; and
- Engaging in any other activities that are inconsistent with those activities normally associated with the use of public library facilities, including reading, writing, studying and properly using computers and other library materials.

This list is illustrative only in nature and shall not be deemed as the exclusive list of inappropriate conduct in the Library.

Approved: 4/8/08

Amended: 5/10/11

Amended: 4/19/17