



Monongahela Area Library

Standards of Acceptable Behavior

The mission of the Monongahela Area Library is to provide all segments of the population of Monongahela City, Carroll Township, Union Township, Nottingham Township, New Eagle Borough, and Finleyville Borough with a comprehensive collection of recorded ideas, artistic expression and information, to assure ease of access to these materials; and to offer programs to stimulate the awareness and use of these resources.

To promote and maintain such an environment, all patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a library while in the building. Customers not engaged in reading, studying, using library materials, or participating in a library program may be required to leave the building at any time, by the determination of the Library Director or library staff.

Standards of Acceptable Behavior

The standards articulated in this policy are intended to clarify and delineate acceptable behavior. Clear standards encourage constructive solutions to problem behavior and assure Library users and Library employees unimpeded access to information free from harassment, abuse, or other undue stress. Public Library use is a privilege not a right or entitlement, therefore when patrons fail to follow to the standards of acceptable behavior the library reserves the right to strip library patrons of their library privileges. When patrons are not complying with library regulations the Library Director, staff and/or trustees may request patrons to show appropriate documents for purposes of identification. Patrons engaged in unacceptable conduct may be required to leave the building. If a patron refuses, the police will be called. Where criminal actions are committed, violators will be subject to arrest and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Unacceptable Conduct

- Engaging in any illegal activity.
- Using sound or viewing images in ways that disturb other customers or staff. Disturbing images include, but are not restricted to the display of sexually explicit material on computers, which is illegal according to PA Title 18, Part II, Article F, Chapter 59, §5903. Library staff is also authorized to determine whether a customer is disturbing others.
- Making excessive noise: use of cell phones outside of designated areas; use of portable audio players without earphones, except as part of a library event; loud talking, shouting.
- Unaccompanied children 10-years or under are not allowed in the building. Children of this age must be accompanied at all times by a person who is responsible for their care, and who remains with them in all areas of the library. The parent or guardian is responsible for cleaning up after their child. The library is not a day care facility and is not responsible for picking up after the community's children. Children over the age of 11 are to behave themselves and listen to the

instructions of the library staff and Library Director at all times. They are not to climb bookshelves, the gazebo, or enter staff only areas at any time. Failure to follow the instructions of library personnel or trustees will result in a phone call to the parent/guardian and a warning letter sent to the home. Upon the second infringement of the rules, a second letter will be sent. Upon the third infringement a letter informing the parent/guardian of a 60-day suspension library privileges. After that 60-day suspension has passed, if a fourth infringement occurs the child will be banned from the library until they have reached the age of 18.

- Public disturbances, fighting, threats, stalking, staring, or displaying weapons is not acceptable under any circumstance.
- Vagrancy.
- Harassment of others.
- Panhandling or soliciting.
- Engaging in extended conversation or behavior that engages or forces the staff for an inappropriate period of time, inappropriate personal comments, sexual advances, or physical and/or verbal harassment.
- Tobacco use and smoking (including e-cigarettes and vaping anywhere on library premises including outdoors).
- Verbal, physical or sexual abuse towards the Library Director, staff, or patrons will not be tolerated and will result in immediate suspension of all library privileges and permanent ejection from the library property.
- Using or distributing controlled substances.
- Intoxication or drunken behavior.
- Sleeping.
- Loitering on library premises – i.e., conduct not associated with the use of a library. This includes not engaging in reading, studying, appropriate computer use, etc.
- Consuming food or beverages, except for approved occasions in designated areas.
- Mutilating, damaging, or defacing of any library material.
- Theft of library materials either through failing to return items that were checked out or by removing library materials from the library before checking them out.
- Bags and other materials that are difficult to inspect because of the nature of the items are not allowed in the building. Oversized bags and all articles that could be used to conceal library property are subject to inspection by library staff or other authorized personnel. The Library is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged in or on the grounds of the Library.
- Blocking aisles, entrances, or exits in any manner impeding access to public areas is forbidden. Blocking access to book shelves or creating tripping hazards by plugging personal electrical devices into library electrical outlets is strictly forbidden.
- Hacking into library computers or Wi-Fi is strictly forbidden. Any patron found to be doing so will be immediately and permanently banned from the library and may be turned into the local police or FBI and charged with cybercrime.
- No bicycles, tricycles, scooters, skateboards, or skates. All sporting equipment should remain outside the library and should not block access to entrance or exit to the library or handicapped access to the entrance/exit.
- Shaving, bathing, or washing of clothing or hair in Library restrooms is prohibited.

- According to Education Code (24 PA.C.S.) – Public Library Code Act of Nov. 1, 2012, P.L. 0, No. 210 Cl. 24 Session of 2012, a “Local Library” is to be nonsectarian; meaning not involving or relating to a specific religious sect or political group. Therefore the library will not support or display any specific religious sect or political group, therefore remaining unbiased or, “nonsectarian”.

For most inappropriate behavior, one warning will be given. Continued violations will result in the patron being asked to leave the library for the day. Serious or repeated violations, or a violation where the police have been called, may result in longer exclusions from the library, up to permanent banning from the library.

An individual who is banned from the library may be criminally charged with trespassing if they return to library property during the term of the ban. Any individual who is banned and whose library privileges have been revoked, may request to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the Library. The request must be made in writing and submitted to the Library Director and the President of the Board of Trustees.