

Patron Code of Conduct

In order to provide an appropriate library environment, to ensure constructive use of Howland Public Library and to protect the safety and personal comfort of all our library patrons and staff, the following Code of Conduct is always in effect.

Anyone who violates or deliberately subverts the Code of Conduct, or who violates any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance, may be banned from the library, and risks prosecution to the full extent of the law.

The Library Board has the right to amend the Code of Conduct at any time.

No patron may disturb others using the library. Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library, such as studying, reading and writing, using library services or attending programs.

Appropriate behavior is required at all times or patrons will be required to leave the building.

Misconduct which includes, but is not limited to, the use of foul, offensive or threatening language and gestures, lewd or indecent behavior, physical or verbal harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, loudness, public drunkenness or drug usage, sale or exchange of alcohol or drugs, illegal gambling, loud talking and laughing, running, pushing, and fighting, and other disruptive behavior is not allowed on Library property. Bringing in weapons of any kind, theft or attempted theft of library or personal property, and damaging or vandalizing property is prohibited.

Patrons may not interfere with the staff's performance of duties. This includes, but is not limited to, engaging in extended conversation or behavior that engages or forces the attention of staff for an inappropriate period of time, personal comments, sexual advances, or physical and/or verbal harassment.

These offenses may result in the suspension of library privileges. Patrons who ignore or disobey reasonable requests from library staff or security personnel will be asked to leave the library. In accordance with the Library's Vulnerable Adult policy, individuals over the age of 18 who are not able to manage their behavior may be accompanied by a caregiver who will be responsible for their behavior.

The Beacon Police Department will be alerted to any behaviors that threaten the safety and security of library patrons or staff.

Revised: October 8, 2024