

# CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BEHAVIOR POLICY FOR LIBRARY USERS

The Cambridge Public Library encourages persons of all ages to use its facilities and resources for research, reference, study, reading, and browsing. Good public service requires that the library environment be conducive to study, reading, and research. This necessitates the willingness of all library users to be considerate of the rights of others to work safely and undisturbed. To ensure that such an environment exists, the Library has established guidelines for behavior in library facilities.

1. Failure to promptly comply with staff directives (whether documented policy or not), will result in suspension of library privileges.
2. Food and/or beverages are not allowed in the library, except at designated times or in designated rooms.
3. The following activities are inappropriate to the library setting and are prohibited in all Cambridge Public Library buildings:
  - Smoking (Mass. General Laws Ch.270, Sec. 22) or vaping
  - Creating a disturbance by making noise, talking loudly, or engaging in other disruptive conduct such as hate speech (MGL, CH.272, Sec. 41)
  - Interfering with another person's right to use the Library or with the library staff's performance of their duties
  - Threatening behavior including, but not limited to violence, threats of violence, and possession of weapons or items that can be employed as weapons (MGL, CH.269, Sec. 10)
  - Bringing animals into the Library except those needed to assist persons with disabilities (MGL, CH.272, Sec. 98A) Emotional support or therapy animals are not covered under the American with Disabilities Act and hence, are not allowed.
  - Playing audio equipment so that others may hear it
  - Misusing the rest rooms (e.g. using as a laundry or bathing facility)
  - Soliciting or canvassing of any kind
  - Taking photographs or video of staff or library users without their permission
  - Entering areas of the Library that are not public or temporarily closed without staff permission
  - Leaving a child under age 7 unattended (without someone 14 years or older) in the Library
  - Running
  - Sleeping
  - Spitting (MGL, CH 270, Sec. 14)
  - Using or storing wheeled devices in the Library (or on Library property except in designated areas) including bicycles, skateboards/ hoverboards, roller skates, rollerblades or shoes with wheels, and shopping carts. All bicycles must be left outside of the building. Wheeled luggage that would fit airline guidelines for overhead storage, collapsible wheeled carts for shopping, wheelchairs, walkers and strollers are welcome.
4. In order to maintain a welcoming, equitable, shared public space the following is prohibited: Bringing more than a total of 3 of the following into the Library:
  - One piece of luggage that would fit airline guidelines for overhead
  - Storage or a collapsible wheeled carts for shopping
  - One medium size carried bag or backpack
  - One personal item (purse/laptop/briefcase)
  - Accumulating or leaving trash or food refuse in shared public spaces
  - Impeding passageways with personal property
5. Those who damage or deface library materials or property will be prosecuted. (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 100) Parents can be held liable for damage done by a child under 18. (14GL, Ch. 231, Sec. 85G)
6. Theft of library materials, use of false identification to obtain a library card, or use of another person's library—card without permission are against state law and will be prosecuted. (MGL CH. 266, Sec. 99)
7. Persons who trigger library theft detection systems may be required to open any bags or pocketbooks for inspection; failure to do so may result in suspension of library privileges.
8. Unattended items (such as bags, backpacks or laptops) may be regarded as suspicious and removed.
9. The Library does not accept responsibility for any lost or stolen item.
10. Parents are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their young children.
11. All persons are required to wear shoes and shirts (except for babies).
12. All patrons must leave promptly at closing time.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE LIBRARY'S ESTABLISHED POLICIES MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.**

***A gender neutral restroom is available in Administration on the second floor.***

