

PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Patrons shall engage in reading, studying, using library materials or similar activities associated with the use of a public library. Any person not so engaged may be required to leave the library premises. Patrons are prohibited from engaging in any activity which constitutes an annoyance, disruption or distraction to patrons and the orderly operation and peaceful utilization of the library and library premises such as:

interfering with other patrons' reasonable expectations of privacy

interfering with Library staff's performance of their duties

engaging in a course of conduct which alarms "or seriously annoys" another person and serves no legitimate purpose; such prohibition to include the striking, shoving, kicking, unpermitted touching, or otherwise subjecting another person to physical contact or attempting or threatening to do so

engaging in unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including viewing material of a pornographic nature

staring at another person or following another person about the premises such that the other person could reasonably be considered to be annoyed or disturbed

leaving children under the age of 10 unattended in the premises

using harassing, obscene, abusive, or insulting language or gestures

causing a disturbance by arguing, propagandizing, or preaching

engaging in loud or boisterous activities, playing audio or video equipment such that others are disturbed

eating (except for Library approved programs and designated areas), congregating, soliciting, or sleeping

smoking, including E-cigarettes, in the buildings and on all grounds controlled and managed by the Library

using or carrying skateboards on Library premises

using cell phones in other than designated areas

improperly using Library restrooms or facilities for purposes such as bathing, shaving, changing or laundering clothes

possessing, distributing, or consuming alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances

possessing or using a dangerous weapon

damaging, defacing, destroying, or stealing any material, equipment, or property belonging to the Library or to other patrons or staff

rearranging Library furniture or using it improperly, including sitting on or putting feet on tables

entering the building without footwear or both upper and lower body covering

evidencing bodily hygiene so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons

bringing any pets, with the exception of trained guide dogs or pets assisting disabled persons

Library personnel and security guards will enforce these rules. Patrons not complying will be asked to leave. Library personnel and Security guards are authorized to contact the police if necessary.

Any patron who violates Library rules and regulations may be denied the privilege of access to the Library by the Library Director. Any patron whose privileges are denied for more than 30 days may have that decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

*Adopted January 19, 1994 by the Board of Trustees of the Middle Country Public Library.
Revised February 23, 1994, February 10, 1999, March 24, 2004, March 23, 2010, September 22, 2010, June 15, 2011,
September 18, 2013, July 15, 2015, January 20, 2016, March 20, 2019, August 16, 2023.*