

DUNHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES OF BEHAVIOR

The Board of Trustees has resolved that the patrons of Dunham Public Library have the right to use library materials and services without being disturbed or impeded by others; that patrons and staff have the right to a safe environment and to materials and facilities in good condition. All patrons are expected to observe and respect the rights of other library users and staff by maintaining an environment conducive to study.

On the premises of Dunham Library, federal, state, and local laws, and ordinances are applicable, including those related to "**Public Order**" and "**Criminal Mischief**" (NYS Penal Law, Arts. 145 & 240), "**Obscenity & Public Sensibilities**" (NYS Penal Law, Arts. 235 & 245), "**Offenses Against the Welfare of Children**" (NYS Penal Law, Arts. 260 & 263), "**Sexual Harassment**" (NYS Executive Law: Human Rights Law, Art. 15), and "**Injuries to Property**" (NYS Education Law, Art. 264).

Forms of inappropriate behaviors prohibited on library property, including, but not limited to the following:

- Running in the building;
- Engaging in loud talk, beyond a conversational tone;
- Using obscene or abusive language and/or acts;
- Distributing or posting printed materials/literature that the library has not approved;
- Asking people to take surveys or sign petitions
- Selling products, services, or soliciting business or donations that the library has not approved;
- Possessing, consuming alcohol, or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- Smoking or other uses of tobacco on library grounds;
- Sleeping;
- Putting feet or legs on the furniture, sitting on desks, or otherwise misusing library furniture;
- Bringing animals or pets into the library (except service animals);
- Any loud, unreasonable, and/or disturbing noises created by person or electronic devices (e.g. cell phone);
- Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any library property, or a patron's or employee's property;
- Misusing the rest rooms, including taking in library materials, changing of clothes, or bathing;
- Gambling and wagering in the library or on library grounds;
- Leaving a child of ~~six~~¹² years of age and under unsupervised;
- Leaving any child or young adult (up to age 17) in the library after closing time;
- Carrying weapons of any type;
- Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting or challenging to fight, or using offensive words likely to provoke violence;
- Engaging in intimidation, obstructing pedestrian traffic, loitering, or creating a hazardous or offensive condition;
- Any sexual activity, or indecent exposure;
- Exhibiting offensive personal hygiene;
- Wearing of shoes and shirt in the library is required;
- Engaging in any behavior that makes a person feel uncomfortable (e.g. following a person, staring at a person, or making inappropriate comments);
- Entering non-public areas including but not limited to, staff work rooms, break room, offices, storage areas, and areas behind staff work desks;
- Engaging library staff in prolonged conversation that does not concern library business;
- Removing library material from the premises without authorization. ***Theft of library material is a serious offense and may result in permanent exclusion from the library and/or arrest.***

Failure to comply with the Library's established rules and regulations may result in a warning, exclusion from the library for the day, a specified period of time, permanently, or possibly in arrest, at the discretion of the Director or library staff.