



WATERFORD

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Know and Grow, for the Journey Ahead

WATERFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY: Code of Conduct

Approved by the Board of Trustees: 7/14/26

The Board of Trustees believes that all patrons of the Waterford Public Library have the right to use the Library and its materials and services without being disturbed or impeded by others; that patrons and staff have the right to a safe and secure environment and the right to materials and facilities that are in good condition. We ask our patrons to serve as partners in our efforts to protect the public property in our charge, including any materials loaned to patrons, while fostering an environment that promotes learning, respects privacy, and champions collaboration.

Those found in violation of the following policies may be required to leave the premises.

- Smoking or vaping is not permitted on library premises.
- Possessing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs, or being on the library premises while appearing under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Verbal or physical assault, harassment, or abuse; following or stalking any individual.
- Snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages may be enjoyed in the library; however, items that leave behind debris such as crumbs, stains, or odors are prohibited. Please notify staff immediately regarding any accidental spills.
- Shirts and shoes are required; swimming attire is prohibited.
- Animals other than those in service to the disabled are not allowed in the building. Service animals on library property must be attended at all times.

Behaviors which interfere with normal library operations, compromise safety or security, or impede the use and enjoyment of the library and its services are prohibited. Examples of unacceptable behaviors include the following.

- Loud, offensive, or abusive language; disruptive cell phone use. Calls on speakerphone are explicitly prohibited in the library. For all calls, we encourage patrons to step outside when possible.
- Loitering or gambling.
- Indecent exposure or obscene behavior.
- Bodily hygiene offensive so as to constitute a nuisance.
- Loud, disorderly, or aggressive behavior.
- Damaging or stealing Library, staff, or patron property.
- Excessive comings and goings in and out of the library in immediate succession.
- Use of emergency exits without staff permission.
- Bringing shopping carts, skateboards, scooters, bicycles, or excessive personal belongings into the library.

- Petitioning, Solicitation, panhandling, distribution of literature, canvassing, or similar appeals by organizations or individuals without prior staff authorization, on library premises or grounds, other than those protected by law.
- For the purposes of 1st amendment auditing, the Library is designated as a limited public forum. Libraries must protect the privacy of its patrons and records. Filming that violates those protections will not be allowed.

Children in the Library

- All children 8 years and younger should be accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver, who remains in the building and maintains responsibility and line-of-sight at all times.
- Children over the age of 8 may use the library, with parental permission, unattended, subject to all applicable library rules.

All Federal, State and Local laws are applicable on the premises of the Waterford Public Library, especially those related to “Public Order” (NYS Penal Law, Arts 145, 240) and “Criminal Mischief” (NYS Education Law, Art 264).

Violations of this policy or refusals to cooperate with staff may result in a restriction or loss of Library privileges, including the privilege of access to the Library.

Any patron whose privileges have been restricted or denied may appeal to the Board of Trustees by submitting a written appeal to the President of the Board with a copy to the Library Director.