

Thomas Crane Public Library

Appropriate Library Use Policy

Policy Statement

The Thomas Crane Public Library is supported by the taxes of the people of Quincy who expect our facilities to be clean, comfortable and safe places for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings. To this end, the Library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of Library users, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

Rules of Conduct

For the comfort and safety of library users, volunteer and staff, and the protection of library property, the following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on library property.

Category A (Library Specific Violations)

1. Disruptive behavior, such as creating loud noises, loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards
2. Gambling and group activities which are disruptive to the Library environment
3. Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a manner that disturbs others. All cell phones, pagers and other personal technology devices must be silenced inside the library.
4. Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children (see also Thomas Crane Public Library Safe Child Policy)
5. Using photographic, sound recording, or video recording equipment, including cellular telephone cameras, within the Library or on Library grounds without prior authorization from the Library.
6. Consuming food or unlidded beverages in public areas of the Library is not allowed, with the exceptions listed below. Lidded containers include covered coffee, water, soda, and juice cups, baby bottles, glass and plastic beverage bottles, and beverage cans. The nursing of babies is allowed in the Library. Food and beverages may be consumed in specific locations where use is authorized, such as the Main Library atrium and café areas, the Main Library community meeting room, in specific areas of branch libraries as designated by the branch librarian, and as otherwise expressly authorized.
7. Smoking, chewing, spitting, rolling cigarettes, and other tobacco or marijuana use, including but not limited to tobacco substitutes and electronic cigarettes, inside Library facilities or on Library grounds.
8. Littering
9. Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which, alone or in their aggregate, impede the use of the Library by other users. All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by security and other authorized personnel. The Library reserves the right to limit the number and size of items brought into the library.

10. Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended. These unattended items are subject to inspection, confiscation and disposal by security and other authorized personnel.
11. Using or parking wheeled devices inside the Library or using such devices on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, motorized or non-motorized scooters, and commercial shopping carts. These restrictions do not apply to ADA assistive devices, wheelchairs, walkers, and baby strollers.
12. Lying down or appearing to be sleeping in the library; having feet on furniture; or blocking aisles, exits or entrances.
13. Entering the Library barefooted or without a shirt, or removing one's footwear or shirt while in the library, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment.
14. Having offensive body odor or personal hygiene so as to unreasonably interfere with other library users' ability to use the library and its facilities.
15. Using restrooms for bathing, shampooing, or doing laundry.
16. Moving Library furniture from where it is placed by Library staff.
17. Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the Library, except as authorized by the Library Director. All allowed animals must be tethered and under the control of their owner at all times.
18. Distributing literature, gathering signatures, soliciting business or contributions, or conducting surveys not authorized by the Library either inside the library or on Library grounds. No Library authorization is required to distribute literature, gather signatures, solicit contributions, or conduct surveys on the public sidewalks adjacent to Library property
19. Placing any tables, signs or other structures not authorized by the Library on Library property, including Library grounds.
20. Playing ball or any other game or sport, or camping on Library grounds.
21. Sitting, standing or lying upon, or climbing on or over any balustrade, railing, fence, bush or tree; standing or lying upon any seat; or going upon or otherwise disturbing any flower bed or cultivated area on Library grounds.
22. Parking in the Library's public parking lots during the hours the Library is open while not inside the Library or participating in programs on Library grounds; Parking in the Library's public parking lots for more than two hours per day; Parking outside of marked spaces, in fire lanes, or in restricted staff parking areas. Illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. Inappropriate use of Library property in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment (see also Thomas Crane Public Library Computer & Internet Use Policy).
23. Engaging in any activity in violation of a Library policy.
24. Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request to cease behavior that interferes with the effective functioning of the Library.

Category B (Serious Library Specific Violations)

24. Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
25. Possessing alcohol in open containers, whether or not such container is the manufacturer's original.
26. Verbally or physically harassing other Library users, volunteers or staff, including stalking, prolonged staring, or lurking

27. Entering the library or Library grounds while under a trespass order.

Category C (Violations Toward Person(s) or Property)

28. Stealing, damaging, or altering Library property valued under \$250 in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment (see also Thomas Crane Public Library Computer & Internet Use Policy).
29. Stealing or damaging the personal property of another Library user (valued under \$250).
30. Damaging or defacing Library materials (MGL Ch. 266, Sec. 100). Parents or legal guardians can be liable for damage done by a child under 18 (MGL Ch. 231, Sec. 85).
31. Using false identification to obtain a Library card, or using another person's Library card without permission (MGL Ch. 266, Sec. 99).
32. Verbally intimidating Library users, volunteers or staff.
33. Engaging in any other behavior that would constitute a misdemeanor under applicable law.

Category D (Serious Violations Toward Person(s) or Property)

34. Carrying firearm or dangerous weapons of any type (except by law enforcement officers).
35. Assault, fighting, pushing, shoving, challenging to fight, threats or threatening.
36. Verbally or physically threatening other Library users, volunteers, or staff
37. Offensive touching, obscene acts such as sex acts, and indecent exposure.
38. Selling, using, or possessing illegal drugs.
39. Interfering with another person's right to use the Library or with the Library staff's performance of their duties, including but not limited to screaming, fighting, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
40. Stealing, damaging, or altering Library property valued at \$250 or above in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment (see also Thomas Crane Public Library Computer & Internet Use Policy).
41. Stealing or damaging the personal property of another Library user (valued at \$250 or above).
42. Trespassing in nonpublic areas, being in the Library without permission of an authorized Library employee before or after Library operating hours, or remaining on Library property once trespassed.
43. Refusing to leave Library property after being issued a trespass notice.
44. Engaging in any other behavior that would constitute a felony under applicable law.

Enforcement

Enforcement of the above rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff and/or Quincy Police Officers are authorized to stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

Failure to comply with these of Rules of Conduct may result in:

- Withdrawal of a person's permission to remain on Library property; and/or
- Issuance of a Trespass Order from Library property for a period of 30 days to five years, depending on the nature and seriousness of the violation and whether it is a first or repeat offense.

A violation of law may also result in arrest and prosecution.

Violations of law and/or these Rules of Conduct may also result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including the use of Library computers and other equipment.

Authorized Library staff may issue a Trespass Order based on personal observation or upon the sort of civilian reports that would ordinarily be relied upon by police officers in the determination of probable cause.

Administrative Review

Expulsion from Library facilities may be appealed in writing to the Library Director, except when a criminal case is pending for violation of a trespass order. Patrons shall include in the appeal any written documentation they seek to have considered in the review process. A trespass order remains in effect pending administrative reviews.

If a patron requests a timely administrative review, the Library Director shall review the trespass order and provide a decision in writing if a valid mailing address has been provided.

Adopted by Vote of the Library Board of Trustees, February 12, 2007; Amended February 11, 2008; Amended October 18, 2010; Amended May 12, 2014; Amended September 21, 2015

Supersedes: Patron Behavior Policy, adopted September 1995