

Rules and Regulations

It is the goal of the Trustees of the Merrimack Public Library to allow all patrons of the library to use its facilities for the purpose for which the library was established, to the maximum extent possible during regularly scheduled hours.

All library users must be able to use the library without interference from others. All persons deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect; please treat all staff, patrons, and property with the same respect you would wish to be treated. Any person or group of persons failing to comply with regulations governing the use of the library facilities may be subject to removal from the building and/or denied the privilege of access to the Library by the Library Director.

For the safety and pleasure of all, we ask that all patrons adhere to the following rules:

1. The following is prohibited in the library:

- Any illegal act
 - Removing materials from the library without proper authorization
 - Indecent or lewd behavior
 - Soliciting
 - Playing of audio equipment so that others can hear it (including talking on cell phones)
 - Loud or unruly behavior
 - Misuse of computers (see MPL's Internet Policy)
 - Lying on the floor
 - Running
 - Fighting
 - Obstructing entrances, exits, or passageways
 - Smoking anywhere in the building, including outside the building within 50 feet of the entrance
 - Use of tobacco products and use of e-cigarettes inside the library
 - Threatening staff or patrons
 - Vandalism (graffiti, littering, etc.)
 - Disruptive behavior on exterior grounds, including but not limited to climbing structures or trees and injuring landscaping
 - Staring, leering, stalking, voyeurism, harassment, or other behavior that reasonably can be expected to disturb others
 - Use of beverage containers without a cover
 - Eating, except in the Main Level Lobby
 - Personal hygiene that interferes with others' ability to use the library
 - Placing feet on furniture
 - Moving or misuse of furniture
 - Possession or use of alcohol, with the exception of a preapproved library event for which library staff has acquired a liquor license
 - Possession of any controlled substance
 - Use of offensive language
 - Inappropriate public displays of affection
 - Interfering with reasonable activities of others
 - Trespassing into any area closed to the public (See attached for restricted areas)
 - Sleeping or lounging
 - Inappropriate use of the restrooms, including bathing and doing laundry
 - Possession of a weapon, except as expressly permitted by state law
2. Proper dress, including shirts and shoes, is required.
 3. Service animals are welcome. All other animals are prohibited (see attached definition for 'service animals').
 4. Bicycles must be stored in the bike rack in the parking lot.
 5. Personal possessions should not be left unattended.
 6. The library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
 7. Damaging, defacing, or stealing library property is against the law. Violations are subject to prosecution. Damage includes but is not limited to writing, marking, earmarking, water damage, or any sort of alteration.
 8. Any behavior resulting in a patron complaint will be reported to the person in charge.
 9. Persons needing continuous supervision or assistance must be accompanied by the appropriate supervisor or caregiver when visiting the library.
 10. Patrons must leave spaces clean and tidy.
 11. Patrons must exit the building promptly at closing.

The Merrimack Public Library Staff is committed to providing our patrons and visitors with the best possible customer service and a safe, inviting atmosphere. Violations of the Rules and Regulations Policy may result in the expulsion of individuals from Library premises and possible criminal prosecution.

The following actions are prohibited in the library:

Destruction of library property; Vandalism *RSA 202-A:24
Harassment *RSA 644:4
False Fire Alarms *RSA 644:3
Loitering/Prowling *RSA 644:6
Disorderly Conduct *RSA 644:2
Criminal Threatening *RSA 631:4
Criminal Trespassing *RSA 635:2
Detaining Library Books *RSA 202-A:25
Gambling *RSA 647:2
Indecent Exposure/Lewdness *RSA 645:1
Theft *RSA 637:3
Criminal Solicitation *RSA 629:2
Reckless Conduct *RSA 631:3
Assault: Physical *RSA 631:2-A

Definitions of General Policies Governing the Use of the Facility:

No animals are allowed in the Merrimack Public Library with the exception of service animals and service animal trainees. "Service animal" is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as any service dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. A service animal must be leashed, harnessed or otherwise under the control of the handler. If a service animal behaves in a manner incompatible with the essential purposes of the library, the library will immediately require the animal be brought into conformity or leave the library. Incompatible behavior includes: urinating, defecating, excessive barking, aggressive behavior, and damaging property belonging to the library or others.

The following areas are restricted unless designated otherwise by staff:

- Klumpp Room (when not in use)
- Original entry/DW Highway Exit door
- North hallway at emergency exit stairs
- South hallway stairs
- Behind staff desks
- Staff offices
- Staff break room
- Staff entrance
- Mechanical Room
- Periodical Storage Room