



Meriden Public Library Code of Conduct

The Library exists as a center for research, study, educational programs, leisure reading, and community events. To provide an atmosphere conducive to this purpose, the Library has established the following code of conduct:

- Quietness - Intermittent conversation, at a very low level, is permitted for those completing a study project together or those asking for information from the Library staff. Loud or continuous conversations or those disruptive to others are considered inappropriate behavior.
- Proper attire including shoes and shirts is required. No face coverings except for medical or religious reasons.
- Small children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult to insure their safety and to minimize disturbances to other patrons.
- Four persons per study table, one person per chair, two persons per computer.
- Radios and other sound-producing devices may not be used in the library unless they are used with headphones and the sounds are not audible to others.
- Cell phones are permitted only in designated areas. Conversations must be quiet enough so that other patrons are not disturbed. Those carrying out loud or disruptive cell phone conversations will be asked to leave.
- Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. Pets and comfort animals are not permitted.

The following behavior is strictly prohibited in the Library and on its grounds:

- Smoking, vaping, use of e-cigarettes or tobacco products, alcohol, or illegal drugs anywhere on the premises is prohibited.
- Consumption of food or alcohol except at special functions.
- Littering.
- Loitering or gathering in groups that impede or discourage others from passing.
- Lying down or sleeping.
- Pets in the building.
- Defacing or theft of property.
- Verbal or physical abuse towards any individual.
- Bodily hygiene that is so offensive that it interferes with another person's use of the library or with the library staff's performance of its duties.
- Drunkenness or disorderly behavior.
- Weapons of any kind.
- Soliciting.
- Bringing large bags, bags on wheels or shopping carts into the library building (See Bag and Personal Items Policy)
- Leaving bags of any type unattended.
- No using of restrooms for bathing, shampooing, doing laundry or changing clothes.
- Interference with, harassment or intimidation of any individual by word or act.
- Improper acts which are subject to prosecution under criminal or civil codes of the law.
- Any behavior which is unrelated to the use of library services, disrupts use of the Library or interferes with the Library's operation.

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in loss of Library privileges, being reported to the police and/or legal prosecution.

Approved by the Meriden Board of Trustees, March 28, 2023