

Approved: 1/2020

Revised and approved: 11/2022

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Patron Rules of Conduct

Public libraries are places of information, knowledge and learning. Public libraries are one of the few public spaces in communities and in the country where anyone may come and be welcomed and served, where they can find a space and find their voice.

Long Beach Public Library is committed to serving everyone, especially those in the community who most need access to services and resources and for whom barriers may sometimes hinder full and equitable access.

Because the library is for everyone, the Long Beach Public Library Board of Trustees has established **Rules of Conduct** to ensure that:

- All library patrons may use and enjoy services, materials, and facilities without unreasonable interference and disturbance from others
- All library patrons enjoy safe, clean, and secure library facilities
- All library employees have a safe and secure workplace
- Library materials and facilities are protected from damage and theft

The following behaviors are prohibited within library facilities or at library events:

- Inflicting physical harm or unwanted physical contact
- Harassment or threatening behavior (i.e. physical, sexual, verbal, stalking)
- Using obscene or abusive language or gestures
- Making unreasonable noise, including loud talking on a cell phone or otherwise.
- Engaging in sexual conduct or lewd behavior
- Having a knife, gun, or any other weapon, look-alike weapon, or any other objects that can be reasonably considered as weapons
- Possession, consumption, or selling of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances
- Smoking, rolling, or using any tobacco product, marijuana, synthetic tobacco, synthetic marijuana or electronic or other e-cigarettes (smokeless or the equivalent)
- Eating or drinking except as approved by Library administration
- Sleeping in the Library or at the Library's entrance
- Making unreasonable use of the rest rooms, including laundering clothes and bathing
- Soliciting, petitioning, or canvassing
- Selling any goods or services
- Using a bicycle, skates, skateboard, scooter, or any like item
- Theft including deliberately removing library materials without checking them out
- Bringing in an animal, unless it is assisting a person with a disability or part of a library program

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- Damaging, defacing, or misusing any Library materials or property. This includes disabling Library equipment, changing hardware or software or settings on a Library computer, or using a Library computer for a purpose other than that designated by the Library
- Creating, viewing, sharing or distributing pornography
- Engaging in conduct that may reasonably be expected to endanger the health and safety of patrons or employees or cause or threaten damage
- Coming up to the 3rd floor (staff floor) without an appointment
- Engaging in online activities that violate the law or community standards
- Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local, or other applicable law or Library policies

Additionally, the following rules must be observed:

- You must wear clothing and shoes in the Library
- You must not emit offensive body odors
- Patrons are not permitted to bring any type of shopping cart into the Library
- Personal belongings cannot be left unattended and must be removed from the Library when leaving the building
- You must present your library card or other ID if asked by library employees or security officers
- Large groups that want to visit the Library must get permission before they visit
- Private and commercial filming and photography must be in compliance with the Library's "Filming and Photography" policy.
- Children age 9 and under must be accompanied by a caregiver or other responsible person at least 14 years of age or older. Please see the library's "Safety of Minors" policy for further information

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

The Library reserves the right to inspect the contents of personal belongings. The Library also reserves the right to impose time limits upon use of Library resources to ensure all patrons have access.

Patrons violating any rule of behavior risk being asked to leave or be banned from the Library and its properties. Library administration, security officers and designated library staff are authorized to ask disruptive patrons to leave the library, call police as appropriate and/or impose a 24-hour ban. Library staff will document violations of the Rules of Conduct via the Incident Report form and/or documentation log. All behavior violations will be investigated by library administration and longer bans may be instituted based on the nature of the violation. Depending on the severity of the violation, longer bans range from 30 days to over a year. Depending on the nature of the violation, patrons can also be arrested or be subject to other legal action.



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Individuals whose Library privileges are suspended/revoked for longer than thirty (30) days may appeal that suspension/revocation to the Library Board of Trustees. Individuals requesting an appeal must do in writing within thirty (30) days of suspension, indicating their desire for an appeal, and the basis therefor. If the next Board meeting is more than 15 days from receipt of the appeal request, such hearing will be held at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. If less than 15 days, the hearing will be held at the following regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days of the appeal hearing.