Lincoln Public Library

Patron Behavior Policy

The Lincoln Public Library strives to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all visitors. To ensure an enjoyable and productive library experience, patrons must observe the following guidelines:

1. Patrons must not interfere with another person's right to use the library or obstruct library staff from performing their duties. Any behavior that disrupts services or endangers patrons, staff, library materials, or facilities is prohibited. (MGL Ch. 272, Sec. 41)
2. Theft, defacement, or damage to library materials or property is illegal. (MGL Ch. 266, Sec. 99 & 100)
3. Legal guardians may be liable for damage caused by minors under 18. (MGL Ch. 231, Sec. 85G)
4. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the supervision of their children. Please see the Unattended Children and Behavior policy for additional information.
5. Using false identification to obtain a library card or borrowing materials under another patron's account without authorization is prohibited. (MGL Ch. 266, Sec. 99)
6. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and drug use are prohibited in the library and on the grounds. (MGL Ch. 270, Sec. 22)
7. Alcohol consumption is prohibited in the library and on library grounds during regular library hours. See the Alcoholic Beverages Policy for details.
8. Food may be consumed in the seating area at the bottom of the lower-level stairs and in the Tarbell Room and Robert Bottino Study Room. Covered beverages are permitted in most areas of the library, except in the Historical Room or near library technology.
9. Appropriate attire, including footwear, is required in the library.
10. Patrons are responsible for their personal property. Items should not be left unattended. The library is not responsible for any lost or stolen material.
11. Cell phone conversations should be brief and quiet to avoid disruption. Library staff may request patrons to lower their volume or step outside if necessary. (MGL Ch. 272, Sec. 41) See Noise Level Policy for more details.
12. Dogs must be leashed and under their owner's control. They are only permitted in the Main Floor Circulation Desk area. Only service, therapy, or assistance dogs may access other parts of the library. No other pets are allowed. See the Dog/Pet policy.

Library staff are authorized to enforce this policy, and to call for police assistance or contact a parent or guardian when necessary. The library reserves the right to revoke or restrict Library privileges in cases of violation of the code of conduct. This includes being prohibited from entering the library.