



Grand Rapids Public Library Board of Library Commissioners Policy Manual

Policy 60-1 Patron Responsibilities

The Grand Rapids Public Library welcomes everyone to use the library and its resources. In order to maintain a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for all of our patrons and staff, everyone accessing library buildings or grounds has the responsibility to:

1. Follow all local, state and federal laws.

This includes, and is not limited to:

- a) Children should not be left unattended.
- b) No trespassing, including non-public areas within library buildings.
- c) Smoking, vaping, or the use of related products is not allowed.
- d) No public intoxication.
- e) Clothing covering the upper and lower body is required in addition to shoes or other footwear.
- f) Do not display obscene materials or images.

2. Follow library policies and procedures about the use of library materials, services and property.

This includes, and is not limited to:

- a) Do not damage, vandalize, tamper with or improperly remove library property, including furniture and computers.
- b) Patrons may consume covered beverages and food in designated library spaces to help maintain the cleanliness of shared public spaces. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is not allowed, except with prior approval of the library director.

3. Preserve the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of themselves and others.

This includes, and is not limited to:

- a) Refrain from disruptive or aggressive behavior, including verbal or physical fights or altercations.
- b) Do not use profane, obscene, violent, or harassing language. Hate speech is not tolerated.
- c) Do not damage, tamper with, or improperly remove property that does not belong to you.
- d) No sleeping is allowed on library property. Patrons who are sleeping or appear to be sleeping will be woken up to ensure their safety.
- e) Parents, caregivers, and other responsible adults are solely responsible for minors' usage of library materials, services, and spaces.
- f) Library access may be restricted in the event of disruptive personal hygiene.

4. Maintain a welcoming space for all patrons and staff.

This includes, and is not limited to:

- a) Do not ask other patrons for money or items nor attempt to sell goods or services to others.
- b) Do not bother or willfully annoy others.
- c) Do not make comments about other peoples' bodies or attractiveness.
- d) Do not use shared library space for personal grooming, including restrooms.

5. Maintain physical access for all patrons by keeping pathways clear.

This includes, and is not limited to:

- a) No sitting or laying on the floor except in kids/teen sections or while browsing lower shelves.
- b) All personal items and belongings should not be left unattended in public areas.
- c) All belongings should be stored out of the way and fit within designated GRPL guidelines.

Any person who does not adhere to these responsibilities may be asked to leave library property, be denied library privileges, or be banned from the library. Violation of local, state or federal laws may result in criminal prosecution. For further details and clarifying language included in this policy, please see the "Patron Responsibilities Explained" document written and maintained by library staff that supports this policy.

Cross Reference: Rescinded Policy 12.7

Adopted: November 20, 2012

Amended: November 26, 2019, January 30, 2024