

Ontario Public Library

Policy 4002

Library Code of Conduct

OPL is committed to making the Library a place for learning and recreation for all citizens of the Ontario area. It is the responsibility of the staff to provide a pleasant, orderly facility conducive to effective use of Library services and materials.

The administration has the responsibility of ensuring a pleasant experience for all Library users. To meet this responsibility, Library staff will identify behavior that infringes on the rights of other patrons or staff, or that threatens the safety of Library property. The premises, programs, and services offered by the Library are equally and freely accessible to all. Patrons may not restrict another patron's access to the Library and its services.

The following types of disruptive behavior interfere with an atmosphere conducive to effective use of Library materials and services. Continued violations may result in a temporary or permanent expulsion from the Library and/or loss of Library privileges. The Library Director and other Library staff are authorized to determine what constitutes disruptive behavior.

Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to:

- Using profane, obscene or abusive language.
- Making racial, ethnic, religious, gender or sexual orientation epithets.
- Harassing patrons or staff, including without limitation deliberate or repeated behavior that is intimidating, hostile and/or offensive, or that adversely impacts staff work performance or patron use of the Library.
- Physical abuse, assault, fighting or challenging someone to fight.
- Running in the building.
- Food in the Library is restricted to small snacks. Beverages in closed containers are permitted in all areas of the Library.
- Noise (including radios and ringing/musical tones played by cell phones) or loud talking which interferes with the rights of others.
- Attire appropriate for a public building, including footwear, must be worn on Library property.
- Emitting an odor, including cologne or perfume, which impairs the ability of other patrons to use the Library.
- Misuse of Library furnishings, restroom facilities, materials or equipment.
- Loitering, congregating on or around entrances/exits, stairways or any other Library property in a manner that blocks easy access to the Library's facilities for other patrons or the staff.
- Entering unauthorized workspaces or work areas or other non-public areas.
- Possessing weapons of any kind, either concealed or in plain view, in the Library, unless the person in possession of the weapon is a law enforcement officer.
- Failure to adhere to Library Internet Access guidelines and procedures (Policy 4000.2 Public Use of Library Computers, Network, Wi-Fi Including Internet).
- Violating other Library policies and/or guidelines.
- Violating federal, state and/or local laws.

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- Animals other than service animals require prior permission of Library staff*.
- Engaging in other acts disruptive to patrons and staff.
- Library staff may limit the number of people seated in a given area or at any one table.
- Children ages 12 and under should be accompanied by a caregiver who will maintain responsibility for children under their care while in the Library. Library staff cannot be responsible for unattended children of any age. *** *Goes with our Safe Child Policy*

See Enforcement of Public Safety & Library Suspension (4002.2)

* Service Animal Documentation is not required for public accommodation.

If the necessity of the service dog is not readily apparent, then Library staff may ask:

- 1) Whether the animal is required for a disability
- 2) What work the animal is trained to perform

Disabilities may be physical, sensory, or mental.