



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Bayonne Public Library Patron Code of Conduct

The Bayonne Public Library strives to maintain a safe and pleasant environment conducive to reading, learning, & other activities consistent with a public library, so we have implemented the following rules of conduct which must be observed by all library patrons & visitors to the Library.

Definitions and Scope

This Code of Conduct is applicable to all patrons, visitors, and other persons entering the physical premises of the Library, both interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by the Bayonne Free Public Library Board of Trustees (hereafter "premises") and to all persons participating in Library programs or activities, or using Library services, either in person or electronically through the Library's website & social media outlets.

For purposes of this policy, "patron" shall include all patrons of, visitors to, and users of the Bayonne Public Library or its services and/or facilities.

Rules of Behavior

The Library specifically prohibits any patron from interfering with another person's enjoyment or use of the Library or with any Library staff member's ability to perform their job duties. Some examples of the types of behavior that would be unacceptable, particularly if it interferes with another person's use of the Library or a staff member's performance of job duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Loitering, littering, prolonged sleeping in or around the Library, or obstructing access to and within the Library or to any of its resources.
2. Defacing, misusing, vandalizing, or theft, or attempting any of these actions, of Library property, or property belonging to any Library staff or patron. Using or abusing furniture or equipment, in a manner for which they are not intended, including standing or lying on tables or chairs, or putting feet on any furniture.

3. Using, consuming, displaying, sharing, selling, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, cannabis or alcohol, or smoking or other use of tobacco or cannabis products, e-cigarettes, or vaping devices.
4. Engaging in running, horseplay, skating, rollerblading, skateboarding, cycling, scootering, wheeled shoes, or other action or behavior anywhere on Library premises, which may create a risk of harm or injury to patrons or property.
5. Engaging in the use of lithium-ion battery powered electric transportation devices (e.g. e-Bikes, e-Scooters, hoverboards) within the Library building, including but not limited to the charging of such devices due to potential explosion and fire hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries.
6. Engaging in any conduct or activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state or local criminal statute, regulation, or ordinance.
7. Directing a specific threat of physical harm against an individual, group of individuals, or property.
8. Engaging in sexual activity or lewd behavior.
9. Engaging in conduct directly or with the use of any electronic or other device, which creates unreasonable levels of noise or is disturbing to others. Cell phone use is only permitted in the lobby area of the Library.
10. Entering staff only or other unauthorized areas of the Library.
11. Disobeying the reasonable direction of a Library staff member or security officer.
12. Placing personal belongings or other objects in, on, or against buildings, walls, furniture, equipment, & fixtures anywhere in or on the premises in such a manner that it interferes with Library staff or patron use of the Library, creates an unreasonable risk of harm, or interferes with free passage.
13. Eating food anywhere within the building or drinking any beverage from a container without a closable cover (for example, water bottles with caps are permitted), unless it is part of an approved program.
14. Bringing animals (except for service animals and those which are part of a library approved program) inside Library building or leaving an animal tethered and unattended on Library premises. A service animal (generally a dog) is one which is specifically trained to assist an individual with a disability and accompanies that individual to the Library; emotional support animals are not service animals.
15. Improperly using Library restrooms, including, but not limited to, bathing, shaving, washing hair, or changing clothes, or taking any Library materials into restrooms.
16. Entering or occupying the Library without being fully clothed.
17. Engaging in other types of disturbance to others' quiet enjoyment of the Library, including due to offensive body odor.
18. Conducting a business operation on Library premises, including meeting with another person either in person or remotely through electronic means, or engaging in any financial transactions inside of the Library. This shall not preclude any patron from using the Library to conduct research or use other Library services for use in a business, when done occasionally, and not on an ongoing basis.
19. Violation of any other Library policy, including but not limited to the Library's policies on Unaccompanied Children in the Library, Internet Use, and Meeting Rooms.

All patrons and visitors must vacate the Library premises by no later than closing time or earlier, when requested by a member of Library staff, except with the express approval of the Library Director. Failure to vacate the premises prior to closing or promptly in response to a staff directive interferes with staff members' performance of their job duties, as is considered a serious violation of this Code of Conduct policy.

Bags and Personal Items

Personal belongings brought into the Library should not be left unattended. Unattended items may be removed from Library premises. Law enforcement agencies may be called, as appropriate.

The Library shall not be responsible for any personal items, including strollers and bicycles, left outside in the designated bike lock area, which are lost, stolen, or damaged on Library premises.

Penalties

Patrons who violate the Patron Code of Conduct either will be given a warning or asked to leave the Library for the day, depending on the specific circumstances, as determined by the Library in its sole discretion. Law enforcement may be called for assistance or to intervene in appropriate circumstances.

Repeat offenders or for more serious infractions, a patron's Library privileges may be suspended, anywhere from one week to one month, or longer, depending on the circumstances and the specific infraction. Suspensions are generally for a specified period of time, but may be indefinite or permanent in very serious situations. A suspension may be of all Library privileges, including the right to enter the Library and to access any materials or services either in person or remotely, or may be more specific to the infraction, such as suspension of computer privileges for violations of the Internet Use Policy.

Appealing a Suspension

Any patron (or their parent or guardian) whose Library privileges have been suspended, may request, in writing, a review of the decision by the Library Director at:

[DIRECTOR]

Bayonne Public Library

697 Ave C

Bayonne, NJ 07002

The Director will issue a written response within ten (10) business days. If the patron is not satisfied with Library Director's response, the patron may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Library Board of Trustees at:

Bayonne Public Library Board of Trustees

697 Ave C

Bayonne, NJ 07002

The Board of Trustees will issue a written decision. The decision of the Board of Trustees shall be final.

Adopted by the Bayonne Public Library Board of Trustees on 10/3/23.

Revised by the Bayonne Public Library Board of Trustees on 10/8/24.

Revised by the Bayonne Public Library Board of Trustees on 10/6/26.