

GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patron Responsibilities Policy

The Library seeks to create an environment that is welcoming, safe, healthy, accessible, equitable, and barrier-free.

In order to protect the rights and safety of both patrons and staff, and to safeguard Library materials and property, the Trustees authorize the Library Director to develop and establish a Code of Conduct, including the consequences of failure to adhere to the Code.

The Library Director, or an individual designated by the Director, has the authority to determine whether a patron has violated the Code. The Director has the authority to determine the consequences of such violation.

Illegal behavior is not tolerated in physical and virtual Library spaces. Visitor conduct that endangers the health or safety of other Library users or employees or causes, or threatens to cause, damage to Library property is prohibited.

Service to Youth and Caregivers

The Library encourages visits by youth and children and it is our desire to make these important experiences both memorable and enjoyable.

The Library is a public building. Parents or legal guardians are always responsible for the well-being and safety of their children. The Library staff assumes no responsibility for the care of unsupervised children in the Library. Parents or legal guardians assume all liability for damage done by their children to the Library facility, as well as fines incurred and the cost of lost or damaged items.

Children under the age of nine (9) must be accompanied by a parent or designated responsible person over the age of 16 while in the Library or while participating in a Library program.

Children nine and older may use the Library unattended, subject to the Library's Code of Conduct. If a child fails to follow those rules, they may be asked to leave the premises; the Library Staff has the prerogative to extend the restriction if the child's behavior is extreme or repeated, or if the child is consistently uncooperative. If a child is asked to leave the Library, the Library will attempt to contact their parent(s) to alert them of the situation. The Library may require a parent(s) to attend a meeting with staff before the child is allowed to return. If a child is expecting to be picked up by a parent/guardian and that adult does not show up, and if the child informs Library staff of this situation, they will try to contact the parent/guardian. If it is closing time and a parent/guardian has not been reached and the child says he/she was supposed to wait, the Library will call 911.

Children are welcome to use the Library computers to access the internet. Parents and guardians are responsible for what their children read or view on the internet. The Library is not responsible for enforcing the restrictions a parent deems appropriate in terms of the materials the child may access.

Library staff reserves the right to ask adults unaccompanied by children to leave any Library-sponsored program or activity specifically designed for children or teens.

Date Adopted by Board	Summary of Action
October 3, 2024	Policy name updated from Appendix A Patron Responsibilities and Code of Conduct to Patron Responsibilities Policy. Code of Conduct Separated from the Policy. The language around creating a barrier-free environment was updated. The Service to Youth and Caregivers was expanded on to include internet safety information.
November 2023	Updated "Appendix A" to clarify the role of Director in establishing a Code of Conduct.