

**Burlington Public Library**  
22 Sears Street  
Burlington, MA 01803

**Patron Behavior Policy**

The Burlington Public Library strives to provide books and other materials and services for the information, enlightenment and recreation of all members of the Burlington community.

This behavior policy is based on respect for each person, respect for the library's environment, and respect for the library's property. Behavior which disrupts, threatens, inhibits or interferes with another patron's exercise of his or her right to use the library's resources and services, or a staff member's ability to perform her or his duties, is unacceptable.

Self-supervised youth, ages 12 and up, are welcome to use the library as long as their behavior is in accordance with the patron behavior policy.

All children, up to the age of 12, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Inappropriate Use of Children's Services**

If an adult in Children's Services is not accompanied by a child or is not involved in appropriate use of children's library materials and is observed by staff to be spending an unnecessary and unusual amount of time in Children's Services, such person shall be asked to use other areas of the library.

**Disruptive Behavior**

Individuals engaging in such behavior may, at the discretion of library staff members, be asked to cease the behavior, to leave the library or be barred from using the library. All patrons making use of the library's services and resources are expected to respect the right of others to equal enjoyment of that privilege.

The following conduct shall be deemed "disruptive," and such conduct is not consistent with the use of Library services:

Including but not limited to:

- Excessive and disruptive conversations
- Bicycles must be left outside the building on bike rack. Skateboards, roller skates, scooters and in-line skates must not be worn inside the building.

- Causing sounds which are disruptive to others such as, but not limited to: loud, prolonged, abusive, indecent, profane or drunken conversation and/or behavior.
- Disruptive behavior which is harassing or threatening in nature to library patrons or staff. This includes staring at, following or stalking of patrons or staff.
- Occupying or “holding” more than one seat and/or table per individual.
- Loitering
- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals, into the building
- Unauthorized canvassing, selling, soliciting, or engaging in any other commercial activity
- Sleeping
- Eating in the building, including study rooms. Covered drinks are permissible except at computer stations and shall be disposed of when finished. Business offices and private meeting rooms are excluded.
- Use of cell phones

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by library personnel. The library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the library.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy, and to rule on situations not specifically covered herein. The Board of Trustees and the Library Director shall review this policy annually.

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(revised 4-07)