

Hopkinton Town Library
61 Houston Dr.
Contoocook, NH 03229

Policy on Appropriate Library Behavior

The staff and the Board of Trustees of the Hopkinton Town Library are responsible for determining the rules of behavior necessary to afford all library users access to the building and its materials as well as to ensure the safety of library users and staff, and to protect the Library's resources and facility from damage. To promote the diverse activities the Library offers, the following policy on behavior at the Hopkinton Town Library and on library property has been established. The policy will be courteously, but firmly, enforced by library staff.

Examples of appropriate library activities include: browsing for materials, reading, quiet conversation, homework, writing reports and researching. Library computers are to be used without disturbing others. Group study which may create enough noise to disrupt others should be conducted in one of our community rooms subject to the permission of library staff.

Examples of inappropriate activities include: running, throwing, loud or abusive talking, eating, putting feet on furniture, loitering, gambling, excessive socializing, proselytizing, soliciting, selling, distributing leaflets, use of tobacco products, and other activities which disrupt the Library. Except for seeing eye/service dogs, no animals or other pets shall be allowed in any part of the library, unless the animals are part of a scheduled presentation. Illegal activities, especially vandalism, will not be tolerated.

Disruptive behavior is defined as behavior not compatible with customary library uses. This behavior may represent a physical danger to people or property, or may interfere with the legitimate library business of other users or the library staff.

Anyone behaving inappropriately or disruptively will be advised that the behavior must stop. In most cases, verbal warnings will be issued to any person or group violating the above expectations. A written warning will be given if the individual in question still does not comply. Further disregard of this policy statement will result in expulsion from the library and its grounds. However, no warning is required, if, in the judgment of the library staff, the behavior in question (a) violates federal, state, county or municipal laws, or (b) poses an immediate threat to the safety or well-being of other library users or staff.

Library employees are authorized to enforce these rules. The Library reserves the right to revoke or restrict library privileges for behavior contrary to these regulations. In cases where voluntary compliance does not occur, the police may be called for assistance. Habitual abusers of this policy may be banned from the premises for a period of time.

Adopted by the Trustees of the Hopkinton Town Library on February 15, 2005
Revised by the Trustees of the Hopkinton Town Library November 2011