

APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Free to All



The Boston Public Library is proudly open to all; a space for everyone, shared and used by the community for many different reasons and in many ways. We believe in an inclusive community propelled by curiosity, connection, and the pursuit of knowledge

While you visit our Library spaces, we expect that you:

- Be safe
- Respect other patrons and library staff
- Respect library materials and property
- Comply with requests from library staff
- Obey the law

Please note:

All designated children's spaces are reserved for use by children under the age of 13, their caregivers, and those retrieving material from the collection.

All designated teen spaces are reserved for teens (12-18 and current high school students) and those retrieving material from the collection.

Learn More:

If you have a question or concern about this policy or our Library spaces, please speak to a Library staff member or contact ask@bpl.org.

Violations of this policy and/or law may result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including access to Library buildings and the use of Library computers and other equipment.

QR Code

Use the camera on your smartphone to visit our website and view all policies.



Vist bpl.org to learn more

APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Behaviors not allowed in the Library



To ensure our commitment to equity, inclusion, and access, the Appropriate Use Policy applies to all. It applies everywhere the Library provides service, including on Library property, in the community, through our website or social media, and by phone or email. Library staff will enforce this policy in a consistent manner.

Unsafe or Disruptive to Library Use

- Behaviors that may result in injury or harm to yourself or others.
- Excessive noise that disturbs others or impedes library service (not all spaces are quiet spaces).
- Inappropriate personal comments, sexual advances, or physical and/or verbal harassment of others
- Conducting unauthorized tours on Library property.

Inappropriate Use of Library Services or Property

- Entering nonpublic/staff areas without permission.
- Entering or remaining in the Library outside operating hours, or camping on Library grounds.
- Moving Library furniture without prior staff approval.
- Leaving items unattended.
- Consuming food or beverages outside of designated areas.

Noncompliance with Staff

- Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request to adjust behavior to comply with Library policy, including being asked to leave the library.
- Failing to exit at closing or during an evacuation.

Behavior Prohibited by Law

- Engaging in any activity in violation of applicable law.
- Verbally or physically harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including stalking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.
- Threatening other patrons, volunteers, or staff - verbally, physically, or in writing, including all forms of electronic media.