

PATRON CONDUCT POLICY

The Rochester Public Library is dedicated to providing access to knowledge and information while providing patrons the right to use materials and services without being disturbed and providing patrons and employees a secure and comfortable environment. The Public Library Act provides the Board of Library Trustees with the authority to

- carry out the spirit and intent of the Act in establishing and maintaining the library,
- provide library services, and
- “exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violated the Patron Conduct Policy.”

Rochester Public Library District actively seeks to be a friendly and welcoming place. Patrons are expected to uphold that atmosphere by refraining from negative behaviors. Library staff are expected to guide the behavior of patrons when necessary, in order to maintain the desired atmosphere. Children, especially, may be unfamiliar with what constitutes appropriate library behavior, and staff provides guidance to both children and parents as needed. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied in the library by a responsible person age 13 or older.

When deemed necessary by the library staff, behavioral expectations are communicated to patrons by the library staff. If negative behaviors persist, staff may choose to request that patrons depart the premises. The library staff may seek assistance from law enforcement anytime a patron has been asked to leave the premises, refuses, and continues to be disruptive.

Patrons and library staff have the right to enjoy an environment free from harassment, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment and lewd conduct. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, persistent and unwelcome conduct or actions. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Lewd acts, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment are not acceptable conduct.

Patrons that harass other patrons or library staff will be asked to leave the library, and library staff will file a report with the Director for investigation. Repeated acts of harassment or conduct that has the potential to escalate into violent or illegal actions will be reported to the proper authorities by the Director.

Those who engage in inappropriate public displays of affection in the Library or commit other minor acts will be given one warning and then will be asked to leave.

