

# **The Stratford Public Library**

## **Library Code of Conduct Policy**

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on April 10, 2019

The Stratford Public Library strives to make the library facility a warm, welcoming and safe place for all library users and requests the cooperation of library patrons in refraining from behavior that annoys others and disrupts library services. This Code of Conduct seeks to protect the safety of all library patrons and staff members and to protect library property.

Library patrons who fail to observe this Code of Conduct will be asked to leave the library after two warnings to discontinue inappropriate behavior. Police will be called if a library patron refuses to leave the building or if a parent refuses to pick up unruly juveniles after they have been given two warnings.

### **The following rules will be enforced during hours of operation:**

1. Children ten years or younger must be accompanied by a responsible person eighteen years or older. The only exception will be at pre-arranged library programming.
2. Talking on a cell phone in the library is not allowed unless it's to obtain information in order to complete a valid task on a computer. Texting is permissible as well as checking e-mails, but we ask patrons to put their phones on vibrate mode so as not to disturb others.
3. Eating and drinking are not permissible (except at library-sponsored events).
4. Headphones must be worn in order to listen to sound coming from any electronic device, and the volume level must be low enough not to disturb other patrons (the library is not responsible for providing headphones to patrons).
5. Proper attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn in the library at all times.
6. Actions prohibited on library property include, but are not limited to, the following: smoking, loitering, soliciting, drinking alcoholic beverages, using drugs.
7. Weapons are not permitted in the library except in the case of law enforcement or other authorized personnel.
8. Library patrons are not allowed to interfere with or disrupt other patrons' use of the library or the library staff's performance of its duties.
9. Talking too loudly, screaming, crying, making other disruptive noises, or engaging in disturbing actions is not permitted.
10. Using offensive or abusive language, threatening, or physically attacking another patron or staff member is forbidden in the library or on library property.
11. Misusing or damaging library property--or stealing library property or materials--is prohibited.
12. Only animals assisting a library patron with a disability, animals in training for special needs assistance, or animals participating in a library program are permitted inside the building.

**\*Engaging in any illegal activity not otherwise listed is strictly prohibited.**