

Pollard Memorial Library User Behavior Policy

In its mission statement, the Pollard Memorial Library (PML) acknowledges its role in providing resources and services to meet the “educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs” of the citizens of Lowell and the community at large.

To service the community effectively, the Library has developed guidelines for the protection and comfort of library users and staff. These guidelines will be courteously, but firmly, enforced by library staff.

1. Food and/or beverages are allowed in the Library only at designated times and places.
2. Those that damage or deface library materials or property may be prosecuted. Parents/Legal Guardians can be liable for damage done by a child under the age of 18.
3. Theft of library materials, using false identification to obtain a library card, or using another person’s library card without his/her permission is against the law and violators may be prosecuted. Use of library cards with PML computers is governed by the separate Computer User Policy.
4. Users who trigger library theft detection systems will be required to open any bags or pocketbooks for inspection; users may be required to show contents of pockets or remove jackets or coats if so requested.
5. Turn off or quiet your cell phone when entering the Library. Cell phone use is permitted in designated areas only.
6. Library patrons are responsible for their personal property. Items should never be left unattended.
7. Shirts and shoes must be worn in the Library.
8. Provide proper supervision for children.
9. The police will be called without any notice to a patron if the patron is engaged in any illegal activity.

The following activities are prohibited in the library:

- Smoking in the building or within 15 feet of the entrances (including stairs) to the building.
- Sleeping
- Interfering with another person’s right to use the Library or with the Library staff’s performance of their duties
- Threatening behavior, including, but not limited to, violence, threats of violence, sexual harassment, and possession of weapons.
- Creating a disturbance by using obscene or abusive language or engaging in any other disruptive conduct
- Bringing animals into the library, except those needed to assist a person.
- Playing audio equipment so others can hear it
- Misusing the restrooms
- Soliciting or canvassing of any kind
- Gambling and other disruptive activities

- Using wheeled devices in the Library or on Library grounds except in designated areas, including skateboarding, roller-skating, bicycling and scooters (exceptions, i.e., wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers)
- Entering areas posted “Staff Only” without permission.
- Leaving a child age 9 and under unattended in the library. (Please see separate PML “Unattended Children’s Policy”).

Violations

Violations of this policy shall be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Violations may, after a hearing on the matter, result in a loss of library privileges. Users whose library privileges are revoked may contest the revocation by appealing, in writing, to the PML Board of Trustees. Any illegal acts regarding user behavior are subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

PLEASE ASK LIBRARY STAFF IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.

This policy is subject to review by the PML Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, March 10, 1997.

Revised February 6, 2008.

Revised April 6, 2011.

Revised October 23, 2017.