

LIBRARY USE POLICY

The intention of the Georgetown Peabody Library is to serve the residents of Georgetown and, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, all Massachusetts residents who can present a library card from their home community. The Library staff welcomes all visitors to use the Library's resources and services. The Library is responsible for enforcing the Town of Georgetown's Code of Conduct and the Library Use Policy to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

The Library staff reserves the right to ask any person to leave the Library when, in the staff's judgment, that person is exhibiting unlawful, abusive, harassing, threatening or inappropriate behavior or creating a disturbance which interferes with other patrons. Library users who violate this Policy may also be subject to the suspension or revocation of their library privileges, exclusion from the Library and/or legal action. For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of Library property, disruptive behavior will not be allowed, including but not limited to the following activities:

BICYCLES/SIMILAR EQUIPMENT: Bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, scooters, or similar equipment, with the exception of equipment used by persons with disabilities, may not be used in the building, entrance way, or the parking lot. Bicycles should be left in the racks outside the building.

CELL PHONES: To avoid disturbing other library patrons, cell phone conversations shall be conducted in the first floor lobby area or outside the building.

CLOTHING: Patrons must be fully clothed. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building.

DISTURBANCES/NOISES: Sustained loud conversation, or noise, that rises above the ambient volume in the Library is not permitted. Using any electronic equipment at volume is prohibited. The Library requires the use of earphones with the exception of Library programs.

FOOD/DRINK: Patrons are welcome to bring drinks in spill-proof bottles and snack foods except at the public computers. Patrons must clean up after themselves and bring their waste to the trash bins.

INTERNET USE: Patrons, volunteers, and staff shall abide with the Library's Internet Policy.

MINORS: Supervision of minors is required at all times in the Library. Minors under 8 years of age must be attended by a responsible person. Parents or guardians are requested to supervise their minors and to curtail, running and other behavior that puts patrons or those minors at risk. The Library is not childproof and supervision of minors is necessary to insure the prevention of accidents. Please see the Library's Safe Child Policy for further information.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS: Personal possessions should not be left unattended. The Library is unable to guarantee the security of such items and is not responsible for any patron's personal possessions.

PETS: Only service animals and animals associated with library programs are allowed in the building.

SOLICITATION: No solicitation of any kind is permitted at the Library without the written permission of the Library Director.

STAFF ONLY AREAS: Entering areas that are posted "Staff Only" is not permitted without permission.

THREATENING BEHAVIOR: Verbally or physically harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including stalking, staring, or lurking or using obscene or abusive language or gestures is strictly prohibited and will result in exclusion from the Library and/or legal action.

THEFT: Removing material from the Library collection without authorization through established lending procedure is prohibited. Theft of library materials is a serious offense and will result in permanent exclusion from the Library and/or arrest.

UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR:

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms:

- Possessing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (see MGL Chapter 270)
- Smoking or other use of tobacco within the Library or on Library grounds (see MGL Chapter 270)
- Weapons shall not be permitted except as otherwise might be required by law. Any patron in possession of a weapon shall comply with all local, state, and federal legal requirements applicable to the possession, transportation, and use of firearms and other weapons. The term “firearm” includes any weapon from which a shot, projectile or other object may be discharged by force of combustion, explosive, gas and/or mechanical means, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded, and any weapon or destructive device as defined by law.
- Patrons may not display or brandish any weapons or threaten other persons in the Library or on Library property with a weapon.

Please cooperate with the Library staff who must interpret and apply these rules and regulations. Your cooperation will help promote excellence in library service for everyone.

Any patron violating any of the above rules may be denied access to the Library by the Library Director or Director’s designee. Patrons whose privileges have been revoked may apply in writing to have the decision reviewed by the Library Director or the Board of Trustees.