**Sunderland Public Library — Sunderland, MA**

**Appropriate Patron Behavior Policy**

To ensure that the Sunderland Public Library provides a healthy and safe environment for all library users and staff, and to protect library materials, equipment and facilities, the following guidelines for acceptable behavior when on library property must be observed. These guidelines are established in the interest of promoting equal access to, and enjoyment of, library services. Failure to comply with these guidelines could result in removal from the premises, and in restriction and/or termination of library privileges if such restriction is deemed necessary to protect library users, staff, or library property. Police may be called, if necessary, to facilitate compliance with guidelines.

* Cell phone conversations should take place in the library entry hall.
* Food and drink are restricted to the café area.
* Bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, scooters or similar types of equipment are not allowed in the building.
* Library patrons will utilize personal electronic equipment (laptops, personal music players, etc.) in a way that does not interfere with other patrons’ use of the library.
* Patrons whose bodily hygiene interferes with the ability of others to use and/or enjoy the facility may be asked to leave.
* To maintain a sanitary environment, caregivers should change diapers on the changing stations in the public restrooms.
* Using restroom facilities in any way that prohibits others from accessing them is not allowed.
* Canvassing, selling, soliciting or distributing materials is prohibited except where permission has been granted in relation to a scheduled library event (also see Bulletin Board Policy and Fundraisers Policy).
* The Children’s Room is reserved for use by children, their parents or caregivers, and adults interested in children’s literature (also see Child Safety Policy).
* In recognition of the special developmental needs and interests of young adults, the Young Adult Room is reserved for patrons ages 12 - 18 and adults who wish to browse the materials in that room. This will be strictly enforced weekdays from 2:30 until closing, all school holidays, all day Saturday, and during summer vacation, generally judged to be from June 21 through Labor Day.
* Damaging or altering library property is not allowed (also see Replacement Fee Schedule). All materials must be checked out before leaving the building. The library staff reserves the right to inspect the bags of any patron.
* Weapons are not allowed in the library. Any object that is not generally considered to be a weapon may be deemed a weapon by the library staff due to the patron’s use of that item.
* Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, or local law is prohibited.
* Fighting, running, pushing, shoving and throwing things are not allowed. Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers or staff, including stalking, staring and lurking are behaviors that are not allowed. Shouting, profane, threatening or obscene language and other loud or disruptive behaviors are prohibited.
* Patrons must leave the library by closing time. To facilitate closing procedures, the Young Adult room will be closed five minutes before closing. Public computers are turned off 10 minutes before closing. Patrons will be given a five minute warning before this time and should cooperatively vacate computers when asked.
* Patrons shall cooperate with library staff who have sole authority to interpret and apply these guidelines.