

Behavior Rules Governing the Use of the Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library of Fair Lawn

The Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library's (hereinafter "Library") behavior rules have a threefold purpose:

- to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons,
- to protect the rights and safety of Library staff members, and
- to preserve and protect the Library's materials, facilities and property.

Definitions and scope

These behavior rules shall apply to the building, interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by the Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library Board of Trustees (hereafter "premises") and to all persons entering in or on the premises.

Rules of Behavior

Persons engaged in any of the following behaviors may, by authority of the Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library Board of Trustees, be ejected from the premises and excluded from all Library premises and services for the period of time listed below under "Penalties."

1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state or local criminal statute or ordinance.
2. Directing a specific threat of physical harm against an individual, group of individuals or property.
3. Engaging in sexual conduct, as defined by NJSA 2C:14-1, including, but not limited to, the physical manipulation or touching of a person's intimate parts through a person's clothing.
4. Being under the influence of any controlled substance or alcoholic beverage
5. Possessing, selling, distributing or consuming any controlled substance as defined by NJSA 24:21-2.
6. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, or disturbs Library staff or patrons, including, but not limited to, conduct that involves the use of abusive language or gestures, conduct that creates unreasonable noise, or conduct that consists of loud or boisterous physical behavior or talking.
7. Leave any child who is under the age of seven or any other person who needs care unattended in the Library, without ADULT supervision.
8. Request staff to protect or monitor children, adults needing care, or personal belongings.
9. Using Library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner or in a manner inconsistent with its customary use or likely to cause personal injury to the actors or others
10. Disobeying the reasonable direction of a Library staff member or security officer.
11. Placing personal belongings or other objects in, on or against buildings, furniture, equipment, fixtures anywhere in or on the premises in such a manner that it interferes with Library staff or patron use of the Library facility, or interferes with free passage.

12. Bringing bicycles, skateboards, scooters or other similar devices inside Library buildings, including, but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways except where a bicycle rack is provided.
13. Operating bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, scooters or other similar devices in or on Library premises.
14. Smoking, vaping or other use of tobacco anywhere within the building.
15. Consuming food anywhere within the building unless it is part of an approved program.
16. Possessing alcoholic beverages in open or closed containers or non-alcoholic beverages in other than closed secure containers as indicated by posted signs.
17. Bringing animals (except for service animals and those which are part of a library approved program) inside Library building or leaving an animal tethered and unattended on Library premises.
18. Violating the Library's Internet Policy, a copy of which is posted online and at the reservation station.
19. Taking Library materials into restrooms.
20. Sleeping in or on Library premises.
21. Improperly using Library restrooms, including, but not limited to, bathing, shaving, washing hair or changing clothes.
22. Using personal electronic equipment at a volume that disturbs others, including, but not limited to, headphones, iPods and televisions. Cell phone use is only permitted in the lobby area of the library.
23. Entering library buildings with bare feet or a bare chest.
24. Disturbing others because of offensive body odor.
25. Conducting unapproved meetings.

Penalties

Persons engaging in behaviors 1 through 6 will be immediately ejected and excluded from all Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library premises and services without first being given a warning. Any person so excluded shall lose all Library privileges for a period of up to three years, and the infraction will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Persons engaging in behaviors 7 through 8 will be reported to law enforcement for possible abandonment.

Persons engaging in behaviors 9 through 19 will be given up to one warning at the discretion of Library staff and, if the direction is not followed, the person will be asked to leave the premises for the day. Subsequent offenses by that person will result in that person's immediate ejection and exclusion from all Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library premises. Any person so excluded shall lose all Library privileges for a period of up to one year.

Persons engaging in behaviors 20 through 22 will be given up to two warnings at the discretion of Library staff and, if the direction is not followed, the person will be asked to leave the premises for the day. Subsequent offenses by that person will result in that person's immediate ejection and exclusion from all Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library premises. Any person so excluded shall lose all Library privileges for a period of up to six months.

Any person engaging in behaviors 23 through 25 will be excluded from the premises until the infraction is corrected.

Repeat Offenses

Individuals who repeatedly violate these rules of behavior, after having been previously excluded for Library rule violations, may face a longer exclusion than indicated in these guidelines. Repeat offenders need not violate the same rule to be subject to stricter enforcement and may not be warned that their behavior is inappropriate before being excluded.

Appeals

Any patron whose library privileges have been denied may request, in writing, a review of the decision by the Library Director:

Adele Puccio

Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library

10-01 Fair Lawn Ave

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

If the appeal is denied by the Library Director, the patron may appeal the decision, in writing, to the:

Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library Board of Trustees

10-01 Fair Lawn Ave

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

The decision by the Board of Trustees shall be final.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on 2/24/2021