

## **17 a. Behavior in the Library**

The mission of the Silas Bronson Library, since its inception in 1868, has been to promote education, to dispense general information and to make a positive contribution to the moral and cultural heritage of the people of Waterbury. Citizens can expect and deserve their tax-supported facility and are entitled by CT law to a clean, quiet, pleasant and safe environment.

Unfortunately, the behavior of a few library visitors may destroy this environment. Behavior becomes unacceptable when it interferes with other person's use of the library, when it could result in injury to oneself or others, or when it could result in loss or damage to library property.

***Such behavior may subject the individual(s) involved to exclusion from the library premises and, in some cases, to legal prosecution.***

Examples of unacceptable library behavior include:

### **Banned for one year (minimum):**

- Abuse/vandalism of library facilities, materials, equipment or software
- Loading or installing software on computers with malicious intent
- Exhibitionism/flashing
- Harassment or physical, sexual or verbal abuse of library users or staff
- Leaving young children unsupervised. CT state law requires that parents/caregivers supervise the behavior of their children and that children under the age of 12 be supervised by someone who is at least 18 years old.
- Noisy behavior, including whistling, loud talking, fighting, pushing, running, and skating
- Possession of dangerous weapons – peace officers excepted
- Theft, including removal of materials from the library without checking them out. Only checked out materials can be taken into the restrooms

### **Banned for one month (minimum):**

- Body odor/perfume/cologne (excessive) which elicits general complaint or causes discomfort
- Smoking or chewing tobacco
- Disciplining children in a manner which disrupts use of the library by others
- Display of profane, obscene or injurious language, texts or graphics
- Possession of an animal (except service animals) in the library.
- Inappropriate use of restroom
- Misusing the restrooms (i.e. bathing, doing laundry, cleaning dishes, cooking)
- Voyeurism/peeping/staring/stalking

### **Banned for one week (minimum):**

- Excessive public displays of affection
- Littering
- Eating or drinking
- Listening to media without headphones
- Lack of shoes or shirt

**Banned for one week (minimum):**

- Loitering, blocking of entrances, sleeping and refusal to leave promptly at closing
- Use of cell phones in other than designated area – elevator alcove
- Occupation of more than one seat or study space
- Overcrowding at study tables or carrels (limit of 4 per study table)
- Refusal to show identification
- Visible intoxication from alcohol or drugs

**Additional notes on behavior:**

- Posting notices, distributing circulars or petitions, soliciting, campaigning or engaging in any commercial activity on library property is not permitted.
- The Children's Room is reserved for use by children, their parents or guardians and adults interested in children's literature/media.
- All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by security and other authorized personnel to discourage theft. The library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the building.
- Violation of the *Rules of Conduct* may result in cost-recovery charges, suspension of library privileges, exclusion from the library and prosecution.
- Library staff may make exceptions to some of these rules on a case by case basis
- Library staff is responsible for allocating and assigning space and other resources (i.e. computers) and reserves the right to reassign space and resources as special needs or programs arise.
- Incident reports (filed in the administrative office) are kept only for incidents resulting in banning for a year or more.
- Unlawful behavior will be reported to the police.