



Policy Name: Rules of Behavior

Effective Date: May 16, 2023

It is a patron's responsibility to maintain necessary and proper standards of behavior and not disrupt other patrons in the Salem Free Public Library (SFPL). Patrons who are not using SFPL appropriately, creating a public nuisance or defacing public property may be restricted from the library and its grounds. The library maintains zero tolerance for drug abuse, alcohol abuse, possession of weapons, harassment, including sexual harassment, discrimination, or violence of any kind. If necessary, the police will be contacted to provide assistance.

If a child under the age of 12 is visiting the library or is a participant in a SFPL program, the parent/guardian is required to remain in the SFPL building. If a child is disruptive, he/she and his/her guardian may be asked to leave.

If a minor, age 12-17, is left in SFPL at closing time without transportation, a staff member will contact a parent/guardian and stay with them until the parent/guardian arrives. After 30 minutes a town official or police will be contacted and asked to assist the minor.

No smoking or vaping is allowed in the building.

No animals are allowed in the building except those working as a service animal or part of an authorized SFPL program.

When an incident occurs which may require follow-up or when police are called to respond to an incident, an incident report should be completed and given to the Library Director who will file the report with the First Selectman and the Library Board

For further information, please refer to Connecticut General Statute Sec. 53-21a: Leaving child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or motor vehicle.

[Connecticut General Statute Sec. 53-21a](#)

Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

This policy is intended to be construed consistent with Town Charter, Town Ordinances and state and federal law. Town Charter, Ordinances and state and federal law shall govern to the extent conflict exists.