

Hastings Public Library Patron Policies

Code of Conduct

To ensure that all patrons of the Hastings Public Library may safely and freely use the library, patrons are expected to behave in a manner that does not interfere with the mission of the library, the rights of others, damage the library or cause injury to others. Any patron who is unwilling to modify unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave the premises. The library uses video surveillance cameras to assist in monitoring behavior. The police will be called immediately when a patron's conduct is thought to be illegal or when a patron has been requested to leave the library and refuses to do so.

In accordance with the Michigan Statute (MCL 397.206), the Library Board may exclude from use of the library any or all persons who willfully violate the Code of Conduct adopted by the Library Board. Such exclusion from the Hastings Public Library shall occur on the orders of the Library Director or the Director's duly authorized representative.

The following loss of library privileges will be enforced for library patrons who have been asked to leave the library:

- 1st offense: Patron will be asked to not return until the next day the library is open.
- 2nd offense: No library privileges for 1 week.
- 3rd offense: No library privileges for 1 month.
- 4th offense: No library privileges for 1 year.

Refusal to leave when asked may cause loss of privileges at the next level of offense, i.e. a first-time offense and refusal to leave may immediately increase the loss of privileges from one day to one week. This is at the discretion of the Director or their duly authorized representative. Aggrieved patrons may have any loss of privileges decision reviewed by the Library Board.

Conduct that is considered unacceptable includes, but is not limited to:

- Endangering the health and safety of other patrons or staff by not complying with existing laws, Executive Orders and/or public health official directives during, but not limited to, times of public emergency.
- Abandoning or leaving children contrary to the unattended children policy.
- Vandalizing or deliberately damaging library property.
- Threatening or harassing patrons or staff, including sexual harassment or misconduct.
- Use of offensive or abusive language.
- Intoxication, smoking, chewing tobacco or using e-cigarettes on Library property, inside or outside, other than on public sidewalks or in private vehicles.
- Eating in unapproved areas or drinking beverages without a spill-proof container.
- Displaying or using an unholstered/unsheathed weapon in a threatening or dangerous manner. Open carry of firearms and knives is legal in Michigan so long as they remain holstered/sheathed and are safely controlled by the owner.
- Boisterous behavior, i.e. running, skateboarding, whistling, singing.
- Selling or soliciting on Library property without Library authorization.
- Sleeping.
- Leaving animals unattended outside the library or bringing animals into the library with the exception of service animals/programming activities.
- Not wearing shoes or shirts inside the Library.
- Viewing pornographic material, whether on library computers or personal devices.
- Theft.