

Cary Library Rules of Behavior Policy

The Trustees of the Cary Memorial Library have established these Rules of Behavior in order to foster a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for all library users and staff and to preserve the library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds. These rules, along with other library policies, will be applied in a fair and reasonable manner.

Disruptive or inappropriate behavior that infringes on others' use or right to use the library or on the library staff's ability to do their jobs shall not be permitted.

Examples of disruptive or inappropriate behavior include (but are not limited to):

- Threatening, harassing, unwanted touching or fighting or running in the building
- Smoking, vaping, using electronic cigarettes, using alcohol, or any other controlled substance while on library property
- Overly loud talking, shouting, or use of profanity. Using personal electronic equipment in a manner that disturbs other library users
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of the library facilities, collection, or technology
- Engaging in illegal activities while in the library
- Borrowing or attempting to borrow any library material or property through the use of a library card issued to another person without that person's consent
- Distributing written leaflets, campaigning, signature-gathering, protesting, and/or soliciting patrons within the library facility, in the parking lot, or on walkways within 10 feet of library entrances are not permitted. Such activities may be conducted on public sidewalks at least 10 feet from library entrances provided they do not impede entrance into and egress from the library
- Inappropriate use of public restrooms. Single person restrooms are intended for use by one person unless a parent or other caregiver is required
- Entering non-public or locked areas or remaining in the building after closing or evacuation

The library staff reserves the right to determine if other actions not listed above constitute "disruptive or inappropriate behavior."

Individuals who disregard these rules of behavior may be asked to leave the library, have library privileges suspended, or be subject to legal action.

To ensure that the library is a clean, welcoming environment for all:

- Beverages in covered containers are permitted in most areas of the library. They are not, however, allowed at the public computers or when using the library's historical collections
- Food is limited to the Main Level Commons, the Lower Level Corridor, and the Teen Space or in other designated spaces during library sponsored events
- Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn by all patrons
- Walkways throughout the building and access to library materials should not be obstructed. Power cords should not cross pathways or be used in ways that create a trip hazard
- Animals, except for service animals, are not permitted
- Personal belongings should not be left unattended. Police may be called to remove items that appear to have been abandoned
- The library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, briefcases, backpacks, etc.
- Patrons should not bring personal property into the library that the library staff considers to be hazardous. The library staff may refuse to permit a patron to have access to the library in such circumstances
- The telephones at all service desks are business phones. In case of emergency, with staff permission, they may be used briefly by patrons
- Bikes and scooters (or other similar wheeled items) may not be left inside the library or on the handicap ramp leading into the library
- Guns and other weapons are not allowed in the building at any time (except by law enforcement officers)

Policy approved by the Library Board of Trustees – 03/03/2014

Last updated – 06/10/2026