

# Portsmouth Public Library - Rules of Behavior

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**Basic Rule:** All persons who want to use the Library are welcome, but no one may interfere with any other person's ability to use the Library, or staff's ability to provide services.

Safety, order, and efficiency require specific rules which must be followed by all library users.

1. Behavior that is prohibited in the library includes—but is not limited to—the following:

- Any illegal act
- Possession of alcohol or any controlled substance
- Drunkenness
- Indecency
- Engaging in harassing or threatening behavior toward staff or patrons
- Vandalism
- Defacing any portion of the premises with signs, leaflets or notices, except on assigned bulletin boards or as otherwise authorized
- Smoking or use of tobacco products on library property
- Misusing computers or other equipment. Tampering with or changing configurations or software on Library computers or displacing, disabling or unplugging Library equipment
- Soliciting, canvassing, interviewing, campaigning
- Mutilating, damaging or defacing Library materials
- Disrupting the orderly conduct of business
- Running
- Loud or unruly behavior, such as yelling, swearing, hitting, etc.
- Riding the elevator up and down for no purpose but to ride; stopping the elevator without cause
- Walking to & fro, in & out to the distraction of other library users
- Limiting access or movement in parking areas, to outside boxes for library returns or on the outside brick plazas. Obstructing any entrance, exit, or passageway
- Sleeping or appearing to sleep
- Lying down on the furniture, more than one person sitting on single seat furniture
- Lying on the floor
- Placing feet on furniture, walls, woodwork, etc.
- Causing excessive wear or damage to furniture.
- Rearranging furniture without permission
- Drinking (except water from capped containers) or eating outside designated areas
- Taking beverages or condiments from vending machines without paying
- Possessing, displaying or using weapons of any kind

2. Material may not be removed from the library without proper authorization. (Books, etc, must be checked out. Passes must be signed for.) The Library reserves the right to inspect personal belongings for concealed Library material. Theft of Library material—or damaging or defacing material—may lead to prosecution under NH RSA 202-A.
3. Persons in the Library are responsible for their personal property. Personal property should not be left unattended. The library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
4. Proper dress, including tops, bottoms, and shoes, is required at all times.
5. Roller blades, roller skates, skateboards, scooters, or other such devices may not be used inside the library, on walkways, steps, benches, or walls.
6. Children under ten (10) years of age must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times.
7. Persons needing continuous supervision or assistance must be accompanied by the appropriate supervisor or caregiver when visiting the library.
8. Poor personal hygiene that interferes with others' ability to use the Library may be cause for eviction.
9. Assistance animals are welcome. All other animals are prohibited.
10. Cell phones may be used with ringer turned off and a quiet voice. Their use is prohibited in posted cell phone free zones
11. Any act that creates a condition which is hazardous to him/herself or another which serves no legitimate purpose.

**Failure to comply with these rules may lead to revocation of library privileges.**