



3612 Kutztown Road
Reading PA 19605
610-929-0589

Patron Behavior Policy

The Muhlenberg Community Library intends to provide a quiet, safe and supportive environment for all users and staff engaged in library activities. The Library is a limited public forum where all members of the public are encouraged to read, study, and use Library materials, programs, or services. Patrons may not engage in any act which disrupts or prevents the normal or intended use of the Library by any other patrons or staff, and may lose Library privileges if they do so.

The following specific activities and behaviors seriously interfere with the provision of Library service, are prohibited, are grounds for immediate expulsion from Library facilities, and may result in loss of all Library privileges for a period of time as determined by the Director.

- 1) Cutting, tearing, defacing, breaking, or injuring Library materials or property;
- 2) Committing any criminal activities;
- 3) Using, giving away, or selling controlled substances or intoxicating liquors, or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances;
- 4) Using abusive, threatening, harassing, or offensive language;
- 5) Physically abusing or assaulting patrons or staff;
- 6) Engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, including solicitation, sexual harassment, indecent exposure and voyeurism;
- 7) Smoking;
- 8) Bringing any weapon into the Library except in the case of authorized security and law enforcement personnel;
- 9) Using Library computers in a manner prohibited by the MCL's Internet Policy.

Library patrons engaged in the following activities will be asked to cease the behavior and may be told to leave the Library for the rest of the day. Any subsequent violations may result in the loss of Library privileges for a period of time as determined by the Director.

- 10) The library may contact the authorities when children under age 11 are unattended by an adult.
- 11) Eating, drinking, or displaying open food or liquid containers, except in a specially designated area of the Library or for special programs;

- 12) Sleeping;
- 13) Inappropriately or excessively using the restroom including bathing, shaving, or clothes washing;
- 14) Monopolizing Library space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons and staff;
- 15) Obstructing aisles, walkways, or doorways with self or personal effects;
- 16) Failing to keep personal belongings to oneself. The Library is not responsible for lost or stolen property, and the Library shall not be used for storage of personal belongings;
- 17) Exhibiting poor personal hygiene, including offensive and pervasive odors which are a nuisance to others;
- 18) Making unreasonable noise including loud talking, playing of audio equipment which disturbs others, and boisterous activity;
- 19) Soliciting, begging, or selling of any items;
- 20) Distributing, posting, or placing on Library property any printed materials except through authorized Library procedures. Individuals placing on Library property any hatred-inciting materials will be reported to the appropriate authorities;
- 21) Entering without proper attire including shirt and shoes;
- 22) Using cell phones, pagers or video equipment within the Library building;
- 23) Entering with animals, except certified assistance animals or those pre-approved for Library programs.

These rules shall be applied in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner to protect the property, patrons, and staff of the Muhlenberg Community Library and to maintain the availability of Library resources for all patrons.

Any patrons whose privileges have been revoked may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees via written request to the Library Director within fourteen (14) days of the denial of library service.