

Rules Governing the Use of the Library

(Adopted 2020)

The Falconer Public Library is to be used for library purposes only. Any behavior that interferes with such use or that is not consistent with such use is not permitted. Any person not abiding by these rules and regulations of the library may be required to leave the library premises and may forfeit their privileges. Library employees will contact the Town of Ellicott Police if deemed necessary. A patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

- Patron identification, such as, name, address and phone number may be requested.
- Large bags, backpacks, suitcases or other containers are not permitted in the library unless the patron voluntarily agrees that these items may be searched.
- Each Patron is responsible for any fines, fees or other charges due in accordance with the library's standard schedule. Failure to pay these fines may result in the suspension of library privileges.
- The library telephone is to be used for library business only. Phone calls that are deemed to be an emergency will be made by the staff.
- Polite cell phone use is allowed in the library. Turn phone to "silent" mode and speak in a manner that will not disturb others.
- Food and beverages are allowed on a limited basis. Guidelines can be picked up at the circulation desk.

The following behaviors are not permitted because they interfere with the use of the library by others, are a health hazard, or are not consistent with the mission of the library.

- Patrons cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the library building or on library grounds.
- No entering employee workspaces or office areas without authorization.
- No loitering in the library building or on library grounds. For the purposes of this policy, loitering is defined as lingering in the library or on library grounds without any obvious purpose and where the behavior is disruptive and/or inappropriate to the purpose of the library and its use by others.
- No soliciting.
- No weapons of any kind are permitted in the library.
- No displaying print or not-printed material of an offensive nature to others.
- No singing, talking loudly or playing audio equipment so that others can hear it or behaving in a manner that can reasonably be expected to disturb others.
- No presenting offensive and/or pervasive odors which are disturbing to others.
- New York State law prohibits smoking, vaping and the use of tobacco products within 100 feet of public library doorways.
- No pets or animals other than service animals are allowed in the library.
- No entering the building without a shirt and shoes.
- No use of rollerblades, roller-skates, skateboards or other sports equipment in the library or on library grounds.

The following behaviors are not allowed and will result in criminal charges, and the patron may be prohibited from library grounds:

- Engaging in any illegal activity while in the library building.
- Loud, abrasive, aggressive, threatening, violent or obscene language and/or behavior (Disorderly Conduct - NYS Penal Law Section 240.20).
- Destroying or damaging library books, library materials, furniture or other property (Criminal Mischief - NYS Penal Law Section 145.00).
- Using or distributing drugs (Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance - NYS Penal Law 220.03, 220.06).
- Theft of library materials or circumventing or attempting to circumvent the library security system (Petit Larceny - NYS Penal Law Section 155.25).
- Tampering with, altering, editing or damaging computer hardware and/or software (Computer Tampering - NYS Penal Law Section 156.20).