

Sturgis Library strives to maintain a safe, welcoming environment so that the Library may operate efficiently and all patrons may freely use and enjoy the public space. Thus, **we ask that patrons and visitors refrain from the following activities:**

- **Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law or Library Policy.**
- **Abusive or Obscene Language or Behavior.** Confrontational and quarrelsome behavior, obscene language and inappropriate gestures or touching, referring both to patron-patron interactions and to patron-staff interactions.
- **Noncompliance.** Disobeying the reasonable directive of a library staff member.
- **Harassment.** Including, but not limited to, threatening or disturbing another person by verbal or physical contact, intimidating behavior, or by following a person in or about a public place.
- **Boisterous Behavior.** Including, but not limited to, running, horseplay, misusing the restrooms or the elevator, or behaving in any other way that is disrespectful or disturbing to library patrons or library staff.
- **Noise.** Including, but not limited to, talking or laughing loudly (volume of person or group is heard well above the general noise level in the library), using audible devices without headphones or with headphone sets at a volume that disturbs others, persistent cell phone ringing, etc. (MGL, Ch. 272, Sec. 41).
- **Cell Phones.** Patrons are asked to turn their cell phones to vibrate, especially if sitting at computers or library tables. Cell phone use in the library is allowed as long as the noise level of the conversation adheres to the noise guidelines. Patrons are also asked to refrain from cell phone use while making circulation transactions—we will be happy to serve you when you have finished your conversation.
- **Eating and Drinking.** Eating is not permitted except in designated rooms at designated times. Drinks in covered containers are allowed, except at the computer stations and in the research rooms.
- **Excessive Displays of Affection.** Including, but not limited to, any sexual conduct or physical contact deemed inappropriate for a public place.
- **Monopolizing.** Patrons may not monopolize library staff time or resources.
- **Soliciting or Canvassing.** All canvassing, soliciting, petitioning, and leafleting is banned inside the library facility and on library premises consisting of the entrance and exit driveways, the parking lot, the grassed areas in front of the library, and the entrance sidewalk leading directly into the library, regardless of content or purpose.
- **Photographing or videotaping.** Photographing or videotaping patrons without the express permission of Library staff is prohibited.

- **Loitering.** Congregating in or around entrances or stairways, inside or out, in a manner that may cause a safety hazard.
- **Wheeled Devices (Skateboards, etc.).** Including but not limited to, skateboards, roller-skates, scooters, and wheeled-shoes on library property or grounds. All bicycles must be left outside on the bicycle racks.
- **Improper Attire.** Shoes and shirts must be worn in library; attire should not be disruptive to the library environment (e.g., wet bathing suits).
- **Poor Hygiene.** A person may be asked to leave the library if his/her personal hygiene interferes with the orderly operation of the library or the ability of patrons to use and enjoy the facility.
- **Dogs.** Leashed dogs may accompany a patron into the library for the duration of a circulation transaction. Service dogs may have unrestricted access when accompanying patrons.
- **Supervision of Children and Groups.** It is not the responsibility of Library staff to supervise children or groups who visit independent of a specific program hosted by the Library
  - Unattended children: Children nine and under may not be left unattended in the building.
  - Noisy/boisterous behavior: Parents/guardians are asked to respect the Library's policies on noise and boisterous behavior in regard to their children.
  - Groups: Supervisors of groups visiting the Library are required to maintain an active supervisory presence for the duration of the visit.

Any patron violating the above rules may be asked to leave the library property and be denied access to the library by the Library Director or Director's designee for a period of time. Repeated violations or violations of an egregious nature may result in termination of library privileges.

Patrons whose privileges have been revoked may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Library Trustees.