



Huntingdon Valley Library

Patron Code of Conduct

Adopted by the Board of Trustees: October 13, 2016. Updated July 23, 2020, Updated June 2020, Updated January 2025.

Welcome to Huntingdon Valley Library. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for all community members. To ensure a positive experience for everyone, we ask that all patrons adhere to the following guidelines.

By using the library, you agree to adhere to this Patron Code of Conduct. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all!

General Respect

- Library patrons must respect the rights and dignity of others. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any form of disruptive behavior is strictly prohibited.
- All library patrons are welcome regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status.

Prohibited Behaviors

The following behaviors are not allowed in the library:

1. Illegal Behavior

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law, or Library policy, including but not limited to the Unattended Children Policy, Internet Use Policy, Wireless Policy, and Use of Library Meeting Rooms Policy.
- Displaying obscene or sexually explicit materials or Internet sites in violation of federal, state or local laws, and/or library policies (see Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Code, Section 5903 and the Library Internet Use policy).
- Engaging in violent, harassing, unsafe or threatening behavior including but not limited to staring at, stalking, blocking or following staff or other library users, throwing objects, or any obscene acts.
- Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, or selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.
- Damaging or stealing property of the Library, a Library user, or staff member will result in police action.
- Trespassing in nonpublic areas or being in the Library without permission of an authorized Library employee before or after Library operating hours.

2. Disruptive Behavior

- Interfering with library operations or the enjoyment of the library by others through loud talking, loud audio, use of profanity, or any form of running, screaming, or fighting.
- Soliciting or conducting unauthorized surveys or activities within the library.
- Neglecting personal hygiene to the extent that it affects others' enjoyment of the library.

3. Safety and Supervision

- Leaving children under the age of 10 unattended or failing to supervise adults who may require assistance.
- Bringing pets or animals into the library, except for authorized service animals.
- Blocking entrances, hallways, or other common areas.

4. Use of Facilities

- Using library restrooms for sleeping, bathing, or changing clothes.
- Sleeping, standing or jumping on furniture.
- Eating or drinking while using library computers.
- Entering or remaining in the library without appropriate attire.
- Tampering with emergency equipment.

5. Technology and Materials

- Misuse of library materials, technology, and furniture. Report any damage or problems to staff.
- Loud use of electronic devices. Use with headphones, to avoid disturbing others.
- Do not leave personal items unattended. The library is not liable for lost or stolen items.

6. Programming

- The Library provides programming for a variety of target audiences and reserves the right to restrict participation in library programming to members of that target audience.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct

- Library staff will enforce these rules fairly and reasonably. In most cases, a verbal warning will be issued for inappropriate behavior.
- If disruptive behavior continues, the individual will be directed to leave the library.
- In cases of illegal, threatening or dangerous conduct, law enforcement will be contacted.
- Violators may face temporary or permanent bans from the library and potential legal action for repeated offenses.

Appeals Process

- Individuals banned from the Library for more than one week will receive written notification from the Library Director and may appeal the decision by requesting a hearing with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, within twenty (20) business days of notification.