

Ellsworth Public Library
Policy Statement Regarding Appropriate Library Behavior

The mission of the Ellsworth Public Library is to provide library users of all ages with a welcoming, safe, and stimulating atmosphere and with a wide range of available materials that will encourage lifelong learning and enjoyment, inspire creativity, and promote a sense of community and civic awareness. It upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know by providing people of all ages access to information which reflects all points of view. Ellsworth Public Library provides its facility and service to satisfy the varied needs of its community and encourages the use of these resources by keeping the public aware and informed.

To ensure the ability of the Ellsworth Public Library to fulfill its mission, no user shall engage in behaviors prohibited by the rules established by the Ellsworth Public Library Board of Trustees.

Library policy does not prohibit quiet conversation between users and/or staff or conversations required to carry on library programs or business. It is desirable to preserve a reasonably quiet atmosphere where library users may read, study, and otherwise use the library without disturbance.

All members of the Ellsworth Public Library staff have been charged by the Board of Trustees with the responsibility to enforce these rules to ensure that the rights of all individuals to use the library are upheld.

Adopted as amended by the Board of Trustees: April 16, 2025
Adopted as amended by the Board of Trustees: September 27, 2023
Adopted by the Board of Trustees - March 16, 2009
Adopted as amended by the Board of Trustees - March 17, 2014

Ellsworth Public Library Rules of Library Behavior

The right to the use of the Ellsworth Public Library is extended to every person. To guarantee this right, no library user may engage in behaviors prohibited by the following rules:

1. Fail to obey posted library instructions or fail to obey the directions of a member of the Library staff.
2. Smoke, consume alcoholic beverages except for an approved library event, or engage in the use of illegal drugs or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on Library property.
3. All individuals must set their phone/device to vibrate or silent mode when in the library. If devices need to be used while inside the library, voices must be kept to a reasonable level so as not to disturb other library users. Speaker mode is not allowed inside the building.
4. Damage, deface, or misuse Library property.
5. Improperly remove Library materials or equipment.
6. Engage in loud or boisterous conduct, profanity, physical displays of affection, fighting, other violent behavior, or bring any weapon onto Library property.
7. Engage in abusive language or abusive behavior toward other users or Library staff or threaten or harass other users or Library staff.
8. Enter or remain in the Library without suitable clothing, including shoes and shirts.
9. Interfere with other Library users and staff through poor personal hygiene.
10. Bring animals into the library building, except those required for personal assistance or which are part of a Library program.
11. Leave children under the age of ten (10) or dependent persons unattended. (See policy on Unattended Children.) Parents or guardians are responsible for the conduct of their children on Library property. Adults without children may not use the children's space except to browse for materials.
12. Use roller blades, roller skates, skateboards, or other sports equipment in the Library building or on Library Property. Bicycles must be walked on Library property.
13. Block aisles or entrances in a manner that limits access to Library materials or services or that creates a safety hazard.
14. Monopolize Library space, equipment, or outlets to the exclusion of others.

15. Sleeping on EPL premises is prohibited.
16. Make solicitations for any reason. City Ordinance prohibits such solicitation.
17. As a City department, the Ellsworth Public Library is and must remain politically neutral at all levels of political activity. No person, candidate or adherent of a candidate, shall engage in political activity on Ellsworth Public Library property.
18. Violate any Federal or State law or City Ordinance while in the Library or on Library property.
19. Engage in conduct that interferes with the use or enjoyment of the Library by others.

Library staff members are responsible for maintaining a safe and pleasant atmosphere for all users. Each violation of Library rules will be dealt with as the circumstances require.

If a person violates one of the specific rules set forth above, then the Director of the Library, or a designee of the Director, may communicate a lawful order to that person prohibiting that person from entering the Library property in accordance with Title 17-A Maine Revised Statutes, §402. If such an order is given, then entry into the Library property in defiance of that order will result in a charge of criminal trespass as set forth in Title 17-A M.R.S.A., §402 (1) (E). The Library property includes the building, lawns, and parking lot.

Legal Citation:

Maine Revised Statutes Annotated

Chapter 17: BURGLARY AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS

§402. Criminal trespass

1. A person is guilty of criminal trespass if, knowing that that person is not licensed or privileged to do so, that person:

E. Enters any place in defiance of a lawful order not to enter that was personally communicated to that person by the owner or another authorized person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or [2001, c. 383, §56 (AMD); 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

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