

Rules of Conduct for the Elizabeth Public Library

The Elizabeth Public Library has the *Rules of Conduct for the Elizabeth Public Library* to protect the right of individuals to access Library materials and services, to protect the right of Library staff to conduct Library business without interference, and to protect Library materials and facilities from harm.

The *Rules of Conduct for the Elizabeth Public Library* apply to all Library premises, including buildings, interior and exterior, and all grounds controlled and operated by the Elizabeth Public Library. The *Rules of Conduct for the Elizabeth Public Library* apply to all individuals entering in or on the Library premises. The violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance will also be regarded as a violation of the Library's rules.

An individual will be immediately ejected from the Library premises without warning and prohibited from the future use of all Library facilities for a period of between one day and one year, depending on the severity of the activity as determined by the Library Director, or his or her representative, who upon any Elizabeth Public Library premises does:

1. Engage in any sexual conduct as defined under New Jersey State statutes.
2. Carry or use weapons, firearms, slingshots, electric weapons or devices, remote stun guns, destructive devices, or explosives of any kind as defined under New Jersey State statutes. Exceptions will be made for law enforcement personnel.
3. Commit assault or battery as defined under New Jersey State statutes.
4. Are under the influence of, consume, possess, sell or distribute any alcoholic beverage as defined under New Jersey State statutes.
5. Are under the influence of, consume, possess, sell, or distribute any controlled substance as defined under New Jersey State statutes.
6. Commit theft.
7. Intentionally destroy, damage, or deface any Library or other individual's property.
8. Trespass on Library premises after regularly scheduled closing hours or during a period of suspension.
9. Commit or attempt to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance.

Violations of Rules 1-9 will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Individuals who do not cease violation of any of the following rules upon warning will be ejected from the Library premises and prohibited from the future use of all Library facilities for a period from one day to one year depending on the severity of the activity to be determined by the Library Director or his or her representative. Individuals will be provided with an oral warning from Library staff who upon the premises of any Elizabeth Public Library premises:

10. Fail to comply with or ignore a directive of a Library staff member or security officer.
11. Engage in any conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library or that disturbs Library staff or individuals. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to: abusive or threatening language or gestures or unreasonably loud or boisterous physical behavior, talking or noise.
12. Verbally, physically, or sexually harass any Library staff member or individual. Such conduct includes threatening any Library staff member or individual.
13. Fail to maintain control of personal items by either leaving items unattended, allowing items to block access to library materials or equipment, or by allowing items to interfere with a Library staff member or individual's use of the Library. Oversize bags, bags with wheels and shopping carts are not allowed in Library buildings.
14. Eating or drinking except during scheduled library programs at which refreshments are served. Capped water bottles will be permitted, but must not be consumed at computer terminals.
15. Leaving a child under the age of ten unattended in the library without the supervision of a parent or guardian eighteen years of age or older.
16. Conducting surveys without the permission of the Library Director.
17. Gambling.
18. Students in the Library while school in session.
19. Loiter in posted areas.
20. Smoke or use tobacco products in or on Library premises.
21. Attempt to remove Library materials or equipment from the premises except through established lending procedures or prior authorization. The Library reserves the right to inspect an individual's personal belongings to prevent the removal of Library materials or equipment.
22. Attempt to enter any area designated as a "Staff" area.

23. Improperly use of Library restrooms, including but not limited to, washing or drying clothes, bathing or shaving.
24. Do not wear shoes and shirts at all times on Library premises. Exceptions will be made for children under the age of 3 years old in strollers, carriers, infant seats, or other carrying device.
25. Sleep, or give the appearance of sleeping, in or on Library premises.
26. Solicit money, donations, or signatures in or on Library premises without prior permission from the Library.
28. Sell merchandise or services in or on Library premises without prior permission from the Library.
29. Distribute or post written materials in or on Library premises without prior permission from the Library.
30. Use photography, film, or television equipment in or on Library premises without prior permission from the Library.
31. Bring animals in or on the Library premises, other than those approved as working companions or for the purposes of Library approved events or programs.
32. Use personal electronic equipment, including but not limited to cellular telephones, pagers, stereos, and televisions, at a volume that disturbs other individuals. Library patrons are requested to place cellular phones and pagers on vibrate mode while in the Library, and to conduct cell phone conversations in the stairwell.
33. Use, store or park bicycles, skates, roller blades, skateboards, or scooters in or on Library premises. (Bicycles must be parked in designated areas.)

Persons wishing to appeal their ejection from the library for an infraction or infractions of the rules as outlined above may do so in writing only by mailing a written letter outlining their case to the:

Library Director,
Elizabeth Public Library,
11 South Broad St.,
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202