

## **EAST MEADOW PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY FOR PATRON USE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES**

The following actions, conduct and behavior shall not be permitted in the Library or on any of its site or surrounding premises because it interferes with the use of the Library by others or is a health or safety hazard or because it is not consistent with the best interests of the Library, its personnel and other Library patrons. Failure to comply with the following restrictions shall result in all or a combination of arrest and the filing of criminal charges being brought against the individual, removal from the Library and suspension or revocation of Library borrowing privileges and/or Library entry privileges or other penalties or punishments which the Library Director, Assistant Director or other authorized Library personnel deems appropriate:

- Causing, threatening to cause or attempting to cause physical injury to the person or property of another, physical damage to equipment or other Library materials, or damaging, altering, marring or defacing Library books.
- Refusing to comply with reasonable directives of the Library Director, Assistant Director, authorized Library representatives or a designee of any such person, or willfully disrupting Library functions or programs authorized by Library personnel.
- Offensive or abusive language or gestures, lewd or indecent behavior, fighting, provoking a fight or demonstrating threatening or intimidating behavior, noisy or boisterous activities that disturb others, staring at another person or following another person with the intent to annoy that person.
- Possession of firearms, other weapons or explosives or any other item that Library personnel reasonably believes can be used as a weapon, smoking or exhibiting an open flame, i.e., lighters and matches.
- Singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues, or by behaving in a manner which can be reasonably expected to disturb others, playing audio equipment so that others can hear it, gambling or playing of games, except games that are approved by Library personnel.
- Sleeping or loitering, using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, hallucinogenic or other illegal drugs, consuming food, spitting, panhandling, running, riding or using bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, skateboards or other sports equipment in the Library or on Library property. (Non-alcoholic beverages with a cap or lid are permitted except in prohibited areas as designated by staff.)
- Blocking aisles so that access to Library materials and services is prevented or impaired, entering unauthorized work spaces or office areas, circumventing or attempting to circumvent any Library security system, tampering with, altering, editing or damaging computer hardware and/or software. Rearranging or disarranging Library furnishings.
- Bathing in the public restrooms, for reasons of safety and hygiene, entering the building unless wearing a shirt, pants and shoes or equivalent body or foot covering, patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to others.
- Possessing animals, except those specifically trained as therapy or service animals. (The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.)
- Soliciting of funds, distribution of literature or promotional material, or sale or marketing of goods or services by any person or agency other than the

Library, unless prior approval is received by an authorized representative of the Library.

- The Library reserves the right to examine all packages, briefcases and any other container before patrons and/or staff enter or exit the Library building, in order to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for Library staff and patrons. Adult patrons who are not engaged in library activities which require materials from the Children's area may be asked to relocate to other parts of the Library. The Library reserves the right to request proper identification for the use of selected materials on the premises. Patrons using materials in some areas may be required to adhere to additional rules and regulations established specifically for these areas.
- Electronic equipment and services shall be used in accordance with their intended purposes, as defined by the Library, the Library accepts no liability for damage to or loss of any patron's personal property, the Library is a limited public forum. Most areas are intended primarily for reading, study or the use of Library resources. As such, organizational meetings or social gatherings are prohibited, except in those areas designated for such purposes and only those events which are authorized by the Library may occur. All Library users shall obey the reasonable requests of Library staff, children under 10 years of age must be supervised by a person 14 years of age or older.
- Cell phone use: when entering the library, the cell phone must be set to vibrate or off. Conversations must be short and quiet. Extended conversations are to be taken outside.