

Farnsworth Public Library: Code of Conduct

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees that patrons of the Farnsworth Public Library have the right to use library materials and services without being unduly disturbed or impeded by other library users, and patrons and staff have the right to a secure and congenial environment.

1. The library reserves the right to refuse or limit service to anyone displaying symptoms of illness.
2. The library reserves the right to require patrons to comply with any city, county, state, or federal health or safety guidelines, including but not limited to wearing or using protective gear; washing or using sanitizer on their hands or library equipment (i.e. computer equipment) they use during their library visit; and complying with social distancing.
3. The library reserves the right to institute their own health or safety guidelines above and beyond any city, county, state, or federal health or safety guidelines, and to require patrons to comply with them.
4. The library reserves the right to limit library access, whether spatially (as in the entire building or certain areas of the library may be closed, only available on a limited basis, or only available to a limited number of patrons at one time) or temporally (as in patron visits or use of certain equipment may have a time limit or require an appointment). Limitations of library access or services may be based on any city, county, state, or federal health or safety guidelines; as a result of a visit by a person known to be diagnosed with contagious diseases or viruses; the availability of staff or supplies to clean the library and ensure a safe environment; or by decree of the Board of Trustees. The library will make every effort to ensure access is fair and available to every patron within whatever limits are set.
5. Any behavior that disrupts or hinders public use of the library is prohibited on Library property. This includes, but is not limited to, loud or boisterous behavior, running, fighting, verbal or physical harassment, and drunkenness.
6. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of minor children in the Library.
7. Violation of federal or state laws or city ordinances will not be permitted on the Library property.
8. Possession or use of firearms is not permitted on Library property.
9. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances is not permitted on Library property.
10. No Smoking of tobacco products or e-cigarettes is permitted within ten feet of the Library.
11. Chewing tobacco is not permitted in the Library.
12. No loitering is allowed, as per the City Ordinances.
13. Selling products or services, or soliciting donations, is not permitted in the Library, except as part of a Library-sponsored program.
14. Circulating petitions, distributing leaflets, taking surveys, and other similar activities are permitted in the Library only when authorized by the Library administration.
15. Animals, except those used to aid persons with disabilities, are not permitted in the Library, except as part of a Library-sponsored program. Animals may not be left unattended on the library property.
16. The Library is not responsible for personal belongings left unattended.
17. All Library property is Municipal property and any theft, vandalism, and mutilation of Library property are criminal offenses and offenders may be prosecuted.
18. Unreturned Library items are considered theft and offenders may be prosecuted.

19. The Library reserves the right to inspect all bags, briefcases, backpacks, and other such items.

20. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the loss of Library use privileges. Anyone violating this policy will be given one verbal warning. A second violation will result in the individual being banned from the Library for one month. In the case of a third violation, a six month ban from the Library will be in effect. When an individual is banned a written notification will be issued which will also be shared with the City of Oconto Police Department and the parent/guardian, if a minor. Should a banned individual return to the library in violation of the ban, the Police Department will be notified.

Reviewed and amended by Farnsworth Public Library Board of Trustees on May 26, 2020