

Hudson Area Public Library District Code of Conduct Policy & Use of Facilities

Adopted 6/13/2017, reapproved 06/2020, reapproved 01/2023, revised and reapproved 01/2026, revised and reapproved 02/2026

The Board of the Hudson Area Public Library District seeks to provide and ensure a safe and welcoming environment, including quiet areas for study and work, which is conducive to the appropriate use of the facilities and services offered to library patrons and employees. Library facilities are intended for patrons and staff who are engaged in the use of library services and resources.

The general Rules of Conduct in the library are as follows:

1. Any behavior that is disruptive or hinders the use of the library or endangers public safety is prohibited on library property. This includes, but is not limited to, loud or boisterous behavior, verbal harassment in the form of abusive, obscene, or profane language (including racial, religious, or sexual references directed at or about other people), physical harassment, drunkenness, running, fighting, and congregating in large groups.
2. Improper acts which are subject to prosecution under any criminal or civil codes are prohibited, including, but not limited to, illicit manufacture, use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and the manufacture, use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, and its derivatives on library property. Smoking, the use of electronic cigarettes, or the use of any tobacco product is not permitted in the building and/or within 15 feet of any entrance to the building.
3. Food and drink are allowed in the library, with the following exceptions: Food should not be eaten while using a library computer. In the event that equipment or materials are being damaged because of food or drink, staff will ask the patron to take their food or drink out of the library. Patrons are expected to clean up after themselves and to immediately report spills to staff.
4. Sleeping or the appearance of sleeping is not permitted anywhere on library property.
5. Patrons must be fully clothed in the library and on library property.
6. Selling or soliciting products, services, or donations are not permitted on library property. Taking surveys, asking people to sign petitions, distributing leaflets, and other similar activities are not permitted.
7. Parents/legal guardians – not library staff – are responsible for the behavior and safety of children under their supervision while they are on library property. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver (age 14 or over).
8. The library is not responsible for personal belongings. Library users may not leave personal belongings in the library when they leave the building.
9. Polite cell phone usage is acceptable. Extensive calls should be conducted in the library lobby.
10. Weapons such as explosives, firearms, knives, look-alike weapons, or any other objects that can reasonably be considered as weapons, are not permitted on library property or at any library-related events.
11. Patrons are expected to follow the directions of library staff. This includes, but is not limited to, taking shelter in an emergency when directed by staff.
12. Because the library is dedicated to maintaining zero tolerance for abuse, it is imperative that all patrons actively participate in the protection of others. If a patron observes or learns of any suspicious or inappropriate behavior and/or Conduct Policy violations by employees, volunteers, or other patrons, it is their personal responsibility to immediately report their observations or concerns to the library director.

The Hudson Area Public Library District reserves the right to require anyone violating the Code of Conduct to leave library property and to determine appropriate levels of progressive discipline. Serious or repeated misconduct may lead to immediate or further suspension from the Library and to legal action or criminal prosecution. Illegal behavior will not be tolerated in the Library, and police will be called immediately. Those wishing to appeal suspensions may do so by writing to the Board of the Trustees at the library's address.