

Lucy Robbins Welles Library Behavior Policy

The Lucy Robbins Welles Library encourages people of all ages to visit the library. Those using the Library and its resources have the right to expect a safe, comfortable environment that supports appropriate library services. With that in mind, the Library Board has established the following rules.

The Library Board is empowered to make these rules under section 11-32 of the Connecticut General Statutes and to exclude from the library any person who willfully violates these rules.

To ensure the security and comfort of people entering and exiting the building, people are not allowed to congregate on or near the entrance. Blocking the entrance is not permitted. For the safety of all, roller skating, roller blading and skate boarding are not permitted on the grounds or in the building.

Proper attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn by anyone entering the Library.

People shall not interfere with the ability of others to use the Library or interfere with Library employees' performance of their duties. Behavior which demands constant attention of the staff and/or disrupts service to others will not be permitted.

Library patrons will treat the Library staff, patrons, program presenters and volunteers with respect at all times. Staring at, lurking or following people, interference with, threats to, or the harassment or intimidation of other patrons, the library staff, program presenters or library volunteers is unacceptable behavior. This includes all threatening, unwanted or abusive attention by word, act, look or gesture as determined by the library staff.

Any materials removed from the Library must be checked out on a valid Library card or through other standard Library procedures. The Library staff may ask to examine patrons' backpacks, briefcases, handbags and other packages or belongings to help assure compliance with the Library's check-out procedures.

People shall not deface, mar or in any way destroy or damage library materials, furnishing, walls, machines or any other library property inside or outside the library.

Animals are not allowed in the Library, except when they are part of a library program or when they are service animals. Library staff may ask that animals be removed from the library if their behavior poses a threat to the health and safety of others.

Small, quiet snacks are permitted. Messy or odorous foods are prohibited. Drinks must have lids. People are required to clean up after themselves and to properly dispose of all containers. Food and drink are not permitted near the computers.

Photographing, filming and audio recording of library patrons, and library programs are prohibited. Taking surveys, asking people to sign petitions, distributing leaflets and other similar activities are permitted on Library property only when authorized by the Library Director.

The following are examples of misconduct which are disruptive to others. Persons involved in such disruptive activities in or near the Library may be asked to leave the library and grounds.

Any behavior which disrupts use of the Library or interferes with the library's operation

Bringing dangerous weapons on the premises
Disorderly conduct
Displaying print or non-print materials of an offensive nature to others
Inappropriate displays of affection
Intoxication
Leaving children unattended
Littering
Loitering on the premises or in the parking lot
Loud noises or loud talking disturbing to other people (if headsets or cellphones are in use, they must not be audible to others)
Offensive body odor, including excessive scent, which unreasonably interferes with other patrons' ability to use the library and its service.
Offensive language
Panhandling or soliciting
Running, pushing or shoving
Sleeping that impedes others from using library spaces or resources.
Smoking, chewing tobacco, vaping and the use of narcotics or hallucinogens.

Patrons may be asked to show staff members their Library cards or other appropriate identification.

Individuals who do not conform to these rules may be asked to leave the Library. If necessary, police will be contacted to assist library staff in enforcing these rules.

Repeated misbehavior, or refusal to leave the Library when asked, can result in limited or revoked Library privileges, removal of offenders from the building or reporting violations to the appropriate authority.

The Library Director or a designee may deny access to the library to any person who violates these rules and regulations. The level of action shall be determined on a case-by case basis and shall be within the sole discretion of the Library Director or his/her designee.

Revised June 2025
Adopted April, 2020
Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Trustees

Connecticut State Statutes. Sec. 11-32.

The legislative body of any municipality may establish or operate a public library. Such library and reading room shall be free to the use of the inhabitants of the city, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the board of trustees may adopt in order to render the use of the library and reading room of the greatest benefit. Such board may exclude from the use of such library and reading room any person who willfully violates such rules, and may extend its privileges to persons residing in this state outside the city upon such terms and conditions as it may prescribe.