

## **Liberty Library Patron Behavior Policy**

All persons have free and equal access to the Liberty Library, its facilities, and services during regular business hours. The Library's Patron Behavior Policy has a threefold purpose: to protect the rights and safety of library patrons, to protect the rights and safety of volunteer and staff members, and to preserve the library's materials, facilities, property, and grounds.

### **Library patrons are expected to:**

- Respect library policies and procedures.
- Respect rights and privacy of other patrons, volunteers, and staff.
- Limit noise including loud talking, cell phone conversations, and use of audible devices.
- Dress appropriately.
- Consume food or beverages in a manner that does not cause damage to materials and equipment.
- Be responsible for the safety and behavior of children or dependents in their care.
- Be responsible for materials borrowed and fees incurred by themselves or their minor children (see Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE at <http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/17-a/title17-asec360.html>).

### **Library patrons may not:**

- Willfully destroy or damage any library property.
- Remove library property from the building without authorization through established lending procedures.
- Bring animals (other than those certified to assist the disabled) into the library without permission.
- Use tobacco products (or electronic substitutes), alcohol, and/or unauthorized drugs in any form anywhere on library property.
- Engage in illegal behavior or activity.
- Harass, intimidate, or discriminate against patrons, volunteers, or staff, including cursing, campaigning, unwanted verbal or physical contact of any type, or sexual or physical threats.

### **Enforcement**

Inappropriate behavior as outlined above or committing a crime on library property will have consequences. Patrons may be given a warning or asked to leave the library premises immediately. In addition, an individual may be barred from library premises temporarily or permanently depending on the severity of the offense. To enforce these policies, police may be contacted to take any other measures reasonably appropriate and necessary.

*Reviewed and Approved 03/25/2025*

**Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE**  
**Part 2: SUBSTANTIVE OFFENSES**  
**Chapter 15: THEFT**

**§360. Unauthorized use of property**

1. A person is guilty of theft if:

C. Having custody of property pursuant to a rental or lease agreement with the owner of the property or a borrower's agreement with a library or museum whereby the property is to be returned to the owner at a specified time and place, the person knowingly fails to comply with the agreed terms concerning return of such property without the consent of the owner, for so lengthy a period beyond the specified time for return as to render the retention or possession or other failure to return a gross deviation from the agreement. For purposes of this paragraph, proof that the person fails to return the property within 5 days of receiving a written demand from the owner, mailed by certified or registered mail or delivered by hand after the expiration of the rental period to the most current address known to the owner, gives rise to a permissible inference under the Maine Rules of Evidence, Rule 303 of a gross deviation from the agreement. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. C, §4 (AMD).]