

WATERFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, INC.

General Policy/Section 4

PATRON RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the Library remains a clean, safe, and welcoming space for all, patrons are expected to respect the facility, including all materials, and to behave in a manner consistent with the Library's public purpose.

Patrons must respect the rights, belongings and personal space of all other library users, volunteers and staff.

Patrons are asked to refrain from:

- eating (except in designated areas)*
- sleeping
- having loud conversations
- obstructing aisles, stairs, doorways, or emergency exits with personal belongings

*Covered beverages are permitted, except near the public computers.

Patrons are prohibited from:

- smoking/vaping
- drug or alcohol use
- possession of weapons
- engaging in any behavior that may be disruptive, threatening or unsafe to others
- speaking disrespectfully to staff, volunteers or other library users
- entering any areas marked as "Staff Only," unless accompanied by a staff member

Patrons must wear shirts and shoes when on Library property.

Patrons must respect other people, their belongings, and their personal space.

Animals are not allowed in the building except those working as service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or as part of an authorized Library program, and animals should not be left near the entrance.

Parents and guardians are responsible for supervising their children while in the Library. Young children should not be left unattended.

Staff are not responsible for personal items that are left unattended, lost, stolen or damaged.

It is impractical to foresee and address every objectionable behavior that may occur in the Library. Therefore, staff has the authority to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Library and all its patrons whenever this Policy does not specifically address a situation.

Individuals who do not follow these guidelines may be asked to leave the premises.

Board of Trustees – March 10, 2026