

LOWER MERION LIBRARY SYSTEM - PATRON RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lower Merion Library System welcomes and encourages the use of its libraries. Our libraries are community gathering places, however they are not alternative domiciles, childcare or personal care centers. To help us provide an inviting environment for all who wish to use the library's services, please abide by all library policies, and particularly observe the following:

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- No pets allowed in the library. Trained service animals are permitted as specified by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Do not leave personal items unattended.

FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

- Children 10 years old or younger must be accompanied by a parent or responsible care provider while in the library.
- All parents and guardians must be in visual contact with children in their care up to the age of six.
- If a child is participating in a supervised program, the parent or responsible care provider must remain in the library.
- If staff cannot locate a child's parent or caregiver in the library or by phone at closing, staff is authorized to notify the Lower Merion Police Department for assistance.

IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS

- Nuisance behaviors are prohibited; respect other patrons and staff.
- Our libraries are smoke-free buildings, including e-cigarettes.
- Dress properly. This means a shirt and shoes. Shoes must be kept on at all times.
- If your personal hygiene interferes with the ability of others to use and enjoy the library, you may be asked to leave.
- Conversations are permitted provided they are not disruptive to others.
- Solicitation is not allowed.
- Consumption of food is prohibited.
- Beverages are permitted with a lid or cap; open containers are not permitted. Beverages are prohibited while using library computers or laptops.

LIBRARY PROPERTY

- Rearranging furniture and equipment is not allowed. Unoccupied seats are available to any library patron.
- Misuse of library restrooms is prohibited.
- Destruction or defacement of library materials or property, or any other potentially criminal behavior, will be immediately referred to the police.
- Personal property will not be permitted in the library when it interferes with the use of the library by others.

Violation of the Lower Merion Library System Patron Responsibilities Policy or illegal activity may result in one or more of the following consequences, depending on the severity of the violation:

- Violators will receive a verbal warning and an opportunity to cease.
- If the violation continues, the patron will be asked to leave the building for the remainder of the day.
- The Lower Merion Police Department may be notified.
- Repeated violations may result in suspension of library privileges for up to one year. The patron will receive written notification of the suspension from the Township Director of Libraries outlining the decision and the length of suspension.
- Appeal of suspension decisions may be made in writing to the Director of Libraries within 30 days.
- Further appeals of suspension decisions made by the Director may be submitted in writing to the LMLS Board of Directors within 30 days.

Library Staff have the authority to enforce these policies, as stated in Pennsylvania law:

Act of Nov. 1, 2012, P.L. 0, No. 210 Cl. 24 - EDUCATION CODE (24 PA.C.S.) - PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE

§ 9371. Free use of libraries.

(a) Residents and taxpayers.--Each library established or maintained under this chapter shall be free for the use of the residents and taxpayers of the municipality in which it is located.

(b) Nonresidents.--The board of library directors may extend library privileges to persons not residing in the municipality upon the terms and conditions that the board prescribes.

(c) Terms of usage.--Usage of the library shall be subject to reasonable rules and regulations adopted by the board of library directors.

(d) Loss of privileges.--The board of library directors may exclude from the use of the library a person who willfully violates the rules and regulations adopted under subsection (c).

Originally approved by the LMLS Board – September 9, 2008

Revised – February 5, 2019