

Rules of Conduct

The West Tisbury Free Public 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 Massachusetts General Statutes, Chapter 272, Section 41. "Whoever willfully disturbs persons assembled in a public library, or a reading room connected therewith, by making a noise or in any other manner during the time when such Library or reading room is open to the public shall be punished as provided in the preceding section* and to exclude from the library any person who willfully violates these rules.

**Section 40. Whoever willfully interrupts or disturbs a school or other assembly of people met for a lawful purpose shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one month or by a fine of not more than fifty dollars; provided, however, that whoever, within one year after being twice convicted of a violation of this section, again violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for one month, and the sentence imposing such imprisonment shall not be suspended*

Library customers shall engage in activities associated with the use of a public library. Those who do not may be asked to leave the library.

People using the library shall respect the rights of all other people using the library. They shall not harass or annoy others through noisy or boisterous activities, by staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person; by following another person about the building with the intent to annoy that person; by playing audio equipment so that others can hear it; by singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues; by displaying print or nonprint materials of an offensive nature to others; by demonstrating an uncooperative attitude; or behaving in a manner that can be reasonably expected to disturb others.

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

Persons involved in such disruptive activities in or near the library may be asked to leave the library and grounds. The following are examples of misconduct that are disruptive to others. These may include but are not limited to:

- Any behavior that disrupts use of the library or interferes with the library's operation

- Assault

- Disorderly conduct

- Disruptive or frequent entering and exiting the building

- Disturbing noises

- Harassment, physical or verbal

- Indecent exposure

- 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 cell phones are in use, they must not be audible to others)
- Offensive language
- Possessing deadly weapons
- Pushing or shoving
- Running
- Spitting
- Staring at, lurking or following people
- Taking other people's things
- Tearing, cutting or marking library materials
- Theft of library materials
- Threatening behavior or gestures
- Verbal abuse of people

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.

Any materials removed from the library must be checked out on a valid library card or through other standard library procedures.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in or immediate to the library, including meeting rooms and staff areas.

Small, quiet snacks are permitted. 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.

Animals are not allowed in the library building, except when they are part of a library program or when they are registered service animals.

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

Adopted by vote of the Library Board of Trustees, 8/14/2008