

Patron Behavior Policy for the Woonsocket Harris Public Library

The Board of Trustees of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library has adopted this policy to protect the right of access to library facilities for all library users, to ensure the safety of users and staff, and to protect library resources and facilities from damage.

The following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on library property and will result in immediate banning for at least 30 days and possible police intervention:

Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local or other applicable law or library policy

Carrying firearms and/or dangerous weapons of any type (except by law enforcement officers)

Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs and/or selling using or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs

Verbally or physically abusing or harassing other patrons, staff, volunteers, including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure

Stealing, damaging, altering or inappropriate use of library property in library facilities or on library grounds

Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving or throwing things

Entering or remaining on library property after having been banned

The following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on library property and will result in:

a. 1 warning for first infraction

b. banning for 1 day for second infraction

c. banning for 30 days for third infraction:

Loud talking, screaming, loitering in building or on grounds

Trespassing in nonpublic areas, being in the library without permission of an authorized library employee before or after library operating hours

Soliciting, campaigning or conducting surveys not authorized by the library

Gambling, card playing or other group activities disruptive to the library environment

Using audio/video devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others

Using cell phones, pagers and other communication devices outside the designated areas (the front lobby where new books are shelved, tables and chairs near front windows)

Using restrooms for bathing or shampooing, doing laundry or changing clothes

Littering

Smoking or using other tobacco products except in designated area outside the building

Moving tables, chairs or other furniture without staff permission, putting feet on the furniture

Using skateboards, roller-skates, roller blades or scooters in library building or on library grounds

Sleeping

Bringing animals, other than service animals, into the library building

Entering the library building without shoes or without a shirt or otherwise dressed in a manner disruptive to the library environment

Personal hygiene neglect so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other individuals

Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children: children 7 years of age or under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, or a responsible sibling over age 12. Caregivers are responsible for the child's behavior while in the library (see: *Policy for Supervising Unattended Children in the Library*)

Eating in public areas of the library

All library staff members are responsible for enforcing this policy and as infractions are witnessed will address them immediately

Offenders who are banned for more than 1 day will be given written notification outlining cause and date when allowed to return to the library. A copy of this notification will be kept on file at the library and sent to the parent/guardian of offenders under age 18. Offenders under age 18 must also be present with a parent/guardian at a meeting with the Director or Assistant Director to be readmitted to the library at the end of their term of expulsion.

Offenders who have been banned for more than 1 day and repeat an offense will be banned for 6 months. All other terms of expulsion will apply.

Offenders who have been banned for 6 months and repeat an offense will be banned for 1 year. Such offenders under age 18 will be banned until their 18 th birthday or 1 year whichever term is longer.

Notification of Expulsion from the Woonsocket Harris Public Library

Date:

Time:

This is to notify _____ that you have been banned from the Woonsocket Harris Public Library for a period of ___ 30 days ___ 6 months ___ 1 year ___ permanently for the following reason:

If you are over 18 years old you may return to the library on _____

If you are less than 18 years old you may return to the library on _____ if you have attended a meeting accompanied by a parent/guardian with the Library Director or Assistant Director who may be contacted at 769-9044. Every attempt will be made to provide a copy of this notice to your parent/guardian.