



Whitingham Free Public Library

P.O. Box 500

Jacksonville, VT 05342

# Whitingham Free Public Library

## Patron Conduct and Safety Policy

The Whitingham Free Public Library supports the **American Library Association Library Bill of Rights** [Library Bill of Rights | ALA](#) and is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all patrons, staff, and volunteers.

This policy exists to:

- Promote the use and enjoyment of library resources and services
- Support the safety and dignity of the public and library staff
- Protect library facilities, materials, and equipment
- Ensure respectful shared use of the library as a community space

The Library supports intellectual freedom and diverse viewpoints. This policy addresses **behavior, not beliefs or opinions.**

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## Rules for Library Behavior

Patrons are expected to:

### Respect People and the Environment

- Treat staff and fellow patrons with courtesy and respect
- Use appropriate language and behavior
- Refrain from harassment, intimidation, or bullying
- Avoid interrupting or inserting oneself into conversations in a disruptive or confrontational manner
- Follow reasonable requests made by library staff

Behavior that is disruptive, threatening, or that disturbs others is prohibited.

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## **Respect Library Property**

- Treat Library materials, equipment, furniture, and facilities with care
  - Theft or intentional damage to Library property is against the law
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## **Personal Belongings**

- Personal items must be kept out of walkways
  - The Library Staff is not responsible for unattended belongings
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## **General Facility Expectations**

- Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, is required
  - Cell phones and electronic devices must be set to silent or vibrate
  - Phone or video conversations must be taken outside the Library
  - Food and beverages are allowed only in designated areas
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## **In accordance with town policy and state law:**

- Smoking, alcohol, and illegal drugs are prohibited
  - Animals are not permitted except service animals or with Library Director approval
  - Soliciting is not permitted
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## **Concerns and Complaints**

Concerns regarding library services or library staff conduct should be directed to the Library Director or Library Board through appropriate channels. Staff are not required to address formal complaints during public service interactions.

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## Enforcement

Library staff have the authority and responsibility to enforce these rules to maintain a safe environment.

Failure to comply may result in:

- A verbal warning
- Suspension of library privileges
- Removal from the premises
- Further action as determined by the Library Board when necessary

The judgment of Library staff shall guide determinations of unsafe or inappropriate behavior.

Patrons are encouraged to bring concerns about possible violations of this policy to the attention of Library staff.

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Approved 4-1-2026