

Child Safety/Parental Responsibility

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library or on library grounds. Children under 12 may not be left unattended unless they attend a library program.

All children may use the library in an appropriate and responsible manner. If a child's behavior becomes inappropriate, the child will be asked to leave the building and parents or caregivers will be contacted.

All children must have a way of contacting a parent or caregiver in the event they are at the library at normal closing times or in the event of an emergency closing. Staff are not responsible for unattended children. If parents or caregivers cannot be reached within 15 minutes of the library closing (for whatever reason), the New Milford Police Department will be called, and the child placed in their custody.

In accordance with CGS 11-32; 53-21(a).

Approved by New Milford Library Board of Trustees on 3/15/2023

Patron Policy

The mission of the New Milford Public Library is to provide materials, services, and programs to meet the community's diverse informational and recreational needs. To pursue its goals, the library administration reserves the right to protect the safety of all library patrons, staff, and property and to maintain order in the library. The staff is authorized to deal with individuals who violate the rights of others and who created disorder on Library premises.

Emergency Situations:

An emergency is any situation in which:

1. A patron's actions present an imminent danger to the life or safety of him/herself or others.
2. life or property is endangered due to natural disaster or another catastrophic occurrence.

In case of emergency situations, the library reserves the right to expel patrons from the premises and is authorized to call on other agencies (e.g., police, fire department) in order to protect people and property.

Inappropriate Use of the Library: The appropriate use of the library is defined by the library administration. When a patron is using the library primarily for inappropriate uses, the patron shall be warned. If the patron continues to act inappropriately; he/she shall be asked to leave the library premises. If the patron refuses to leave, the police may be called for assistance.

Inappropriate use of the library includes activities listed in the Library Use Policy. If there is not enough room for those who need seating space to study, patrons seated at tables who are not using study or library materials may be asked to give up their seat.

Disruptive Behavior:

When a patron willfully and purposefully disturbs other patrons, interferes with a staff member's ability, or performs his/her job, the patron shall be warned. If the behavior continues, the patron shall be asked to leave the library premises. If the patron refuses to leave, the police may be called for assistance. In extreme circumstances a patron may be barred from the library for an amount of time to be determined by the Director upon the recommendation of a Department Supervisor. Disruptive behavior includes harassment (of any kind), fighting, boisterous behavior, use of foul language, running, pushing, climbing, obstruction of persons or vehicles.

Parental Responsibility:

Parents are responsible for their child's behavior while in the library and may not leave their children under twelve (12) unattended.

Child Safety:

Any public place can be dangerous for a child left alone or stranded after closing hours. The library staff does not accept responsibility for the safety, care, or supervision of an unattended child of any age while in the library or on Library grounds.

Theft and Vandalism:

When a patron attempts to steal or to maliciously destroy Library property, the police may be called, and the library may prosecute.

Other Illegal Activities:

Any patrons committing an illegal act shall be reported to the police.

Animals:

Only animals assisting the handicapped are permitted in the building.

Approved by the New Milford Library Board of Trustees on 12/20/2023