

## **CONDUCT POLICY** *(Updated 06/2023)*

The Talcott Free Public Library is dedicated to providing access to knowledge and information through reading, writing, and quiet contemplation, providing patrons the right to use materials and services without being disturbed or impeded, and providing patrons and employees a secure and comfortable environment. The Public Library Act provides the Board of Library Trustees with the general power to carry out the spirit and intent of the Act in establishing and maintaining the library and providing library services and the specific power to “exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed.”

Examples of conduct and actions not permitted anywhere on the library's property include, but are not limited to:

- Smoking, including the use of smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes; possessing, consuming or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Use, possession, or smoking of marijuana.

The Board of Library Trustees of the Talcott Free Public Library establishes its conduct policy as follows:

### Section 1

A patron who engages in any activity which materially disrupts the use of library facilities, collections, or services by patrons or materially disrupts the ability of the staff to perform its duties shall cease such activity immediately upon request by library personnel.

### Section 2

In such instances involving minors, identification will be requested and the incident may be reported to the parent or guardian.

### Section 3

If, following a request, the patron fails or refuses to comply or responds to the request in an abusive fashion, they will be required to leave the library premises immediately for the balance of that calendar day. If they fail to leave, the police will be summoned.

### Section 4

Library personnel will record instances in which patrons are required to leave the library in a ledger maintained by the library for this purpose. Upon 2 recorded instances in which a patron is required to leave the library premises within a thirty-day period, the

Director shall bar the patron from use of library premises for a period of thirty days. Parents or guardians of minors will be notified in writing after the 1st recorded instance in which a minor is required to leave the library and advised of the consequences of any further recorded instances.

#### Section 5

Parents wishing to appeal such action may do so upon written request to the Board of Library Trustees.

#### Section 6

In the event a patron barred from the use of the library attempts entry to the Library during any such period of exclusion, the police will be summoned and informed of the prior action.

#### Section 7

In the event the patron persists in abusive conduct or disruptive behavior following such a period of exclusion, the Director shall report to the Board of Library Trustees such conduct following prior exclusion and the Board will consider a long-term exclusion of the patron.

#### Section 8

Any activity or conduct that is in violation of federal, state or local laws is prohibited on library premises.

#### Section 9

Protesters will be allowed around the building as long as they ensure that walkways to the entrance of the library and parking are not impeded. Protesters may not block the entrances to the building.