

Tompkins County Public Library

Use of Public Space

“Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.”

American Library Association Bill of Rights, January 1996 revised

The following policies reflect the Tompkins County Public Library’s profound commitment to promoting free public discourse and exchange of ideas in the Library’s designated public spaces, consistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Except for narrowly tailored restrictions, all speech and materials are protected and shall not be regulated on the basis of content or viewpoint.

When using public spaces, the public must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including laws governing the transmission and dissemination of information while accessing the Internet, and with all Library policies and procedures.

Authorization to use the Library's facilities does not reflect endorsement by the Library.

Library patrons may not:

- Display or print images of child pornography, or those which are sexually explicit, obscene, or harmful to minors. These images are expressly prohibited under N.Y. Penal Law § 235.00-235.24.
- Distribute unsolicited advertising.
- Engage in any activity that is harassing, is deliberately offensive, or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Invade the privacy of others.

Community Bulletin Board and Brochure Display Rack

Posters, notices, fliers, and announcements from the local community may be posted in designated areas on the public community bulletin board inside the entrance to the Library. The brochure rack is available for brochures and handouts. Permission is not required.

Petitioning In the Library

The Tompkins County Public Library does not allow petitions or petitioning in the Library or on Library property, unless it is directly related to the welfare of libraries or library services.

Revision History

Changes	Approving Staff Member	Date
1st Revision		March 2017
2nd Revision with edits from Legal review	Susan Currie	March 30, 2017
Edited by Library Services and Policy Committee	Jen Schlossberg	April 13, 2017
Edited by Library Services and Policy Committee	Susan Currie	May 25, 2017
3 rd revision for committee review	Rochelle Proujansky	May 29, 2017
Removed the sections "Study Rooms," "Meeting Rooms," "Thaler/Howell Programming Room" because they are now part of the "Meeting Spaces Policy"	Jennifer Schlossberg	October 25, 2018