



SER 30

POLICY GOVERNING FIRST AMENDMENT AUDITS

1. The Antioch Public Library District recognizes and respects the rights of individuals engaged in a First Amendment audit to be in our facilities and/or on library property. We are very proud of our facilities, and we encourage everyone to help us show them to others.
2. While we recognize that the library is a public place and we recognize a First Amendment auditor's right to take photos or record audio/video of public employees engaged in their jobs, the library buildings are considered a "limited public forum" under federal law. As such, Library Districts may reasonably restrict the exercise of free speech rights in their buildings, particularly when the conduct would be disruptive to, or interfere with, the other patrons or staff or be inconsistent with the library's mission.
3. Subject to the preceding paragraph and other paragraphs set forth in this Ordinance, visitors are permitted to take photos and audio/video recordings within the public spaces of library facilities provided it does not create a safety hazard and does not block library aisles, walkways, stairwells, doors, or exits and does not violate library rules, regulations, and ordinances. Library access by First Amendment auditors may be limited either by time constraints or to specific areas depending upon such impact or effect such sessions could have upon other library users.
4. The right to take photos and video and audio recordings does not extend to taking photos or recording audio/video in non-public spaces within the library. For example, the taking of photographs or audio/videos is strictly prohibited in the following non-public spaces: restrooms, rooms reserved for nursing, areas reserved for staff use only, employee offices and other areas of library facilities not open to the public.
5. In addition, the rights of First Amendment auditors do not supersede any other rights, rules, regulations, and ordinances at our library. For example, the actions involved in the audit must not interfere with ordinary library operations or other patrons' right to privacy. Persons taking photographs and audio/videos shall not compromise an individual patron's right to receive information free from harassment, intimidation, or threats to their safety, well-being, and privacy rights.



6. The Antioch Public Library District has a series of Board approved rules, regulations, and ordinances that govern the public's actions and behaviors while in the library. Persons taking photographs and/or audio/videos shall not violate these or any other rules, regulations, or ordinances of the Antioch Public Library District in their activities and shall not trespass into non-public spaces, become physically violent, or be unreasonably disruptive to an employee's ability to serve other citizens.
7. Pursuant to Section 30-55.55 of the Illinois Library District Act ("Act") the Board of Trustees may exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed by the Board. Also under the Act, the Board of Trustees has exclusive control of the supervision, care and custody of the grounds, rooms and buildings of its libraries and facilities.
8. The Board may, under Section 30-55.5 of the Act, enact ordinances and may make and adopt regulations and resolutions for the government of the library. The Board's policies are the "regulations" referred to in the Illinois Library District Act, and thus enforceable under State Law.
9. The library Director and library staff shall act as the Board's designees while enforcing all of the Board's ordinances, resolutions, regulations, and policies.

Adopted 2/28/2023