

Syracuse-Turkey Creek Township Public Library Photography and Videography Policy

Objective

While appreciating the photogenic qualities inherent in their design, libraries remain working institutions whose primary mission remains to serve the needs of its patrons. As such, this policy is intended to protect library users who may be endangered or inconvenienced by having their photo or video image taken in the library, while encouraging media and others to use cameras in a way which would help communicate the library's mission and promote the beauty and uniqueness of the Syracuse-Turkey Creek Township Public Library building.

Policy

Photography or recording by members of the public or the media

While the library is a public place, it is considered a "limited public forum" under federal law. Public libraries 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 library patrons or staff or be inconsistent with the library's mission.

Subject to the preceding paragraph: photography and video or audio recording by visitors to the library are generally permitted if it is strictly for personal use. Photography and video or audio recording for commercial purposes are permitted only if the activity has been expressly approved by the library Director. In order to ensure that such activity would not be disruptive to, or interfere with, the library staff or patrons, or be inconsistent with the library's mission, all individuals proposing to engage in such activities must request approval in writing and in advance.

To protect the privacy of staff and library patrons, photography or videography may be done only in the public areas of the library. All staff offices and work areas are considered private and may not be accessed, including the areas behind circulation desks.

Those photographing or videotaping children must have both the verbal permission of the Children's Librarian and a written release signed in advance by each child's legal guardian. Those photographing or videotaping adults must have verbal permission from the subject as well as from the Director or Assistant Director.

Those not following this policy may be asked to put away their equipment or leave the facility.

Syracuse-Turkey Creek Township Public Library staff has the right to photograph, film and record library events and patrons for promotional use only in print, online and video. Visitors to the library, or anyone participating in any library event being captured on film or by photograph, will be advised verbally or through signage that their participation acts as consent to being photographed, filmed or recorded, unless they indicate otherwise to library staff.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on February 20, 2023