

Policy---Petitions & Solicitation

The Dover Public Library as a “limited public forum” has the authority to make reasonable rules that are universally applicable regarding the allowed use of the library buildings and property, including content-neutral restriction of conduct involving passing out literature. The public sidewalks around the library property are a traditional public forum subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on those wishing to use them for purposes protected by the First Amendment. As such, the Library allows people to circulate petitions outside our facilities.

1. Persons circulating petitions for signatures or leafleting may stand on Library property, however, they may not engage in collecting signatures or distributing leaflets inside the Library building.
2. Only one person at a time is permitted to solicit signatures for a single petition or leaflet.
3. This person shall not block, hinder, interfere or otherwise impede patrons and staff wishing to exit or enter the building, nor seek to intimidate patrons or staff into signing a petition or accepting a leaflet.
4. Persons circulating petitions or leafleting are not allowed to place or erect tables, chairs or signs on Library property.
5. No leafleting or distribution of literature, or solicitation is permitted for the purposes of selling items, merchandise, tickets, or other for-profit activities.
6. No work or petitioning on behalf of candidates for elected office is allowed in the Library building or on the Library property.
7. Not-for-profit fundraising activities are not permitted in the Library building or on the Library property by any person or organization when the purpose is to benefit a group or organization other than the Library or the Friends of the Library.
8. Anyone wishing to solicit signatures for a petition or leaflet shall inform the Library Director during normal business hours of their desire and intent to solicit signatures for a petition.
9. The Library staff, Friends of the Library and members of the Library Board of Trustees are exempt from the above constraints in promoting Library activities and issues.

** Any person or group who does not abide by the conditions stated above or creates a nuisance such that the regular business of the Library is disrupted shall be required to immediately cease all activities.*

Adopted 3/8/2012