

CHAPTER 6
SECTION E
PUBLIC USE OF CAMERA AND/OR VIDEO IN THE LIBRARY

POLICY STATEMENT

The public may take photos and/or videos in the library so long it does not interfere with library business or the public's use of the library. Photography and video recording are not permitted when doing so violates an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy or without their permission.

PURPOSE

The Ellensburg Public Library is a public place and as such, anyone may take photographs or videos in the public areas of the library, subject to [RCW 63.60](#) and the restrictions set forth in this policy. Public libraries are legally defined as a **limited public forum*. As a *limited public forum*, the library is obligated only to permit the public to exercise rights that are consistent with the nature of the library and consistent with the government's intent in designating the library as a public forum.

APPLICATION

- Library staff reserves the right to stop any photography or video recording that appears to interfere with a patron's use of the library or the library's ability to conduct business, compromises public safety or security, results in the intimidation or harassment of library employees, or instigates any behaviors or activities defined as unacceptable by the library's Rules of Conduct.
- Photography or videos must avoid capturing identifiable likenesses of individuals without permission. The library welcomes news media photographers and reporters documenting stories or projects that directly involve the library and its programs, provided that notice is given and approved.
- Photos or videos of minors is prohibited without the explicit permission of the parent or legal guardian of the child.
- The library accepts no liability for the use of photos or video from other persons not of library staff.

**A limited public forum* is a public forum created by the government for a particular expressive activity by a part of the public or all of the public. (Neinst v. Board of Trustees, 190 F. Supp.2d 1040 (S.D. Ohio 2002), aff'd, 346 F.3d 585 (6th Cir. 2003))

Adopted by the Library Board 6-8-2021