

Soliciting in Library Buildings and on Library Property

(EVPL Board of Trustees 02/09/12)

1. GENERAL STATEMENT

It is the established policy of the Board of Trustees of the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library that solicitors and peddlers will not be permitted to solicit library customers or staff members on duty. Furthermore, staff members should invite salesmen to leave the building by informing them that Library staff is not permitted to discuss business matters on Library time. If a salesman persists, the department head or individual in charge should be called to escort the solicitor out of the building.

Religious proselytizing is also forbidden.

2. SOLICITATIONS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Any staff member who desires to sell home grown products, home crafted products, or items for sale by charitable organizations may not openly sell these items in library buildings. They may, however, post a notice or sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the staff room, indicating what they are selling, the price, etc. These items must be delivered to the buyers during break time, lunchtime, or after working hours.

3. DISTRIBUTING MATERIAL, CANVASSING, PERFORMING OR SPEAKING ON LIBRARY PROPERTY

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL) recognizes and supports the public's rights to free speech that includes presenting speeches, distributing petitions or other information, and advocating views or positions. However, the EVPL also has an obligation to provide library services to the public in an environment where access and privacy are maintained and where safe and unobstructed ingress and egress to EVPL property is provided. Therefore, EVPL has established this policy to allow free speech while ensuring that the rights of others to use EVPL facilities are not impeded.

NOTE: This policy pertains to the use of the EVPL grounds and not the inside of EVPL buildings. Persons wishing to reserve a designated meeting space on EVPL property should refer to the Meeting Room Policy, or speak with the person in charge of the EVPL facility they would like to use.

Regulations

1. Persons wishing to distribute material, canvass, perform, or speak on EVPL property must obtain permission in advance from the person in charge of the location.

2. The library designates the sidewalks and walkways in front of the building and around the building as areas for a person to speak, canvass, perform, or distribute materials. In addition, a person must stay at least ten feet (10') from library entrances to ensure library users will have unobstructed facility ingress and egress.
3. The conduct of persons speaking, canvassing, performing, or distributing information on EVPL grounds must be in compliance with EVPL policies and federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and statutes.
4. Distributing materials, canvassing, performing, or speaking may be done only during the operating hours of the EVPL location where the activity is taking place.
5. In the library's aesthetic interest to maintain the premises free of debris and clutter, materials including, but not limited to, posters, flyers, placards, brochures, banners, or signs of any type may not be left unattended on EVPL grounds. EVPL will remove and dispose of any unattended materials, including political campaign signs.