

Visitor Code of Conduct

The Massachusetts Historical Society is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. All members, guests, visitors, and service providers are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in a civil and courteous manner at all times, and in accordance with all rules, policies, and protocols adopted by the MHS
- Follow MHS policies regarding visitor name tags, bag storage, registration and sign-in
- Respect the property, collections, assets, and equipment of the MHS and of other individuals in the building
- Refrain from visiting or attempting to visit non-public areas of the MHS
- Consume food and/or alcohol or other services and provisions offered by the MHS in a civil, courteous, and responsible manner, mindful of other staff and guests' needs, and in accordance with any rules or protocols adopted by the MHS.
- Refrain from any behavior that constitutes harassment of any kind, including without limitations harassment based on gender, race, disability, or sexual orientation. Such behavior is prohibited with regard to: any MHS staff, volunteer, vendor or contractor, any visitor or other guest, any speaker or other program presenter, or any other person who is authorized to be on MHS' premises

Restricted Activities

MHS is a smoke-free building. Smoking and/or vaping is not permitted in any area of the building, including restrooms, and within 25 feet of the building.

All disruptive behavior which includes, but is not limited to the following, is prohibited:

- Speaking loudly, running, or other disruptive, noisy conduct
- Eating and or drinking outside of designated areas
- Playing of audio equipment without the use of earphones or with earphones whose volume is so high as to be audible to others
- Fighting or making threats
- Intoxication
- Sexual misconduct
- Verbal or written abuse, including obscene language or racial slurs
- Use or distribution of controlled substances
- Loitering on MHS premises, i.e. sleeping, wandering aimlessly, or lingering by the entrance
- Bringing in animals except those assisting an individual with a disability
- Mutilating, damaging, or defacing any MHS material or property

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- Tampering with computer hardware or software
- Improper removal or theft of MHS property or personal property of others
- Solicitation, distribution, or sale of materials without prior approval
- Bare feet are not permitted
- Shirts must be worn
- Bathing, washing of clothes or hair, and other misuse of the restrooms

Verbal Abuse

Abusive behavior transcends angry behavior in that it incorporates personal attack and/or obscene language and causes staff to experience an unacceptable level of discomfort.

The Director of Safety and Security will be notified if such an occurrence happens. Actions may be taken, up to and including calling the Police Department and removal from MHS property.

The MHS reserves the right to suspend a visitor, reader, member, or other person's right to visit the MHS and partake of its programs and exhibits in the event of a violation of any of these expectations, though this list is illustrative and is not intended to be exhaustive. This right to suspend exists before, during, and after any violation or anticipated violation of these expectations. The MHS may, but is not required to, notify any person in writing of its determination to suspend or terminate such person's use of or access to MHS facilities or services. Violations of these expectations may result in the MHS requesting police or other law enforcement assistance.