

Theft or Mutilation of Library Materials Policy

Massachusetts Law imposes severe criminal penalties on individuals who steal, mutilate, alter, destroy, or fail to return books or other library materials and property (see Massachusetts General Laws chapter 266, sections 99, 991, and 100). Parents can be liable for damage done by a child under 18 (MGL. Ch. 231, Sec. 85). Acts to which these penalties apply include:

- Taking materials from the library: including books, magazines, reference materials, DVDs, audio books, e-readers, or any other materials without proper checkout procedures.
- Any intentional cutting, tearing, defacing, or destroying of library materials.
- Failure to return library materials or property within thirty days after demand has been made for their return.
- Alteration or destruction of library ownership records or electronic or catalog records.

Theft or mutilation of library materials may result in temporary or permanent revocation of library privileges. Revocation of library privileges may be appealed to the Library Director or Board of Trustees after restitution had been made.

Approved by Library Trustees, April 2017

Pelham Free Public Library, Pelham, MA 01002