

Bethalto Public Library District

Homeless or Displaced Resident Policy

The Bethalto Public Library District recognizes that homeless or displaced residents shall be granted the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of the District. Therefore, the library will issue a displaced patron library card to anyone who resides at a temporary place within the library district.

Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act (775 ILCS 45/):

(775 ILCS 45/10)

Sec. 10. Bill of Rights.

- (a) No person's rights, privileges, or access to public services may be denied or abridged solely because he or she is homeless. Such a person shall be granted the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of this State. A person experiencing homelessness has the following rights:*
- (1) The right to use and move freely in public spaces, including but not limited to public sidewalks, public parks, public transportation, and public buildings, in the same manner as any other person and without discrimination on the basis of his or her housing status; (2) the right to equal treatment by all State and municipal agencies, without discrimination on the basis of housing status; (3) the right not to face discrimination while maintaining employment due to his or her lack of permanent mailing address, or his or her mailing address being that of a shelter or social service provider; (4) the right to emergency medical care free from discrimination based on his or her housing status; (5) the right to vote, register to vote, and receive documentation necessary to prove identity for voting without discrimination due to his or her housing status; (6) the right to protection from disclosure of his or her records and information provided to homeless shelters and service providers to State, municipal, and private entities without appropriate legal authority; and the right to confidentiality of personal records and information in accordance with all limitations on disclosure established by the federal Homeless Management Information Systems, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the federal Violence Against Women Act; and (7) the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in his or her personal property to the same extent as personal property in a permanent residence.*

Homeless or Displaced Resident Policy:

- I. Acquiring a displaced patron card
 - a. Individual must present a photo identification and provide contact information to the library (we prefer a phone number). If either of these items is not available, then the Director or Assistant Director will need to be consulted before a library card will be issued.

- b. A displaced patron library card shall be valid for six months from the date of issue, and will be renewed for six months at a time.
- II. Circulation services allowed for a displaced patron card
 - a. The displaced patron card will be allowed to check out two print items at a time.
 - b. Fees for damaged, lost, or stolen material shall be assessed at the normal rate on displaced patron cards.
 - c. Displaced patron cards are valid ONLY at Bethalto Public Library District and are not eligible for reciprocity or inter-library loan.
- III. Other Library services allowed
 - a. Patron computer use will be allowed as for any library card holder.
 - b. Printouts relating to job searching, social services, medical assistance, or any other topic deemed to be necessary for the individual shall be free of charge. Printouts not so deemed shall be charged at the normal rate.

Adopted – July 8, 2021

Reviewed –

Revised or Amended –