

TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

PERU FREE LIBRARY

Rationale and Goal—Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States. The U.S. Surgeon General has stated that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; even brief exposure can be dangerous. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke as a known human carcinogen. Electronic cigarettes emit an aerosol that can contain toxic substances including known human carcinogens. Tobacco product consumption produces hazardous byproducts and waste which, when littered, is toxic to people and the environment.

The Peru Free Library desires to provide a healthy, comfortable and safe working environment for employees, vendors and visitors. The goal of this tobacco-free policy is to create a healthy and respectful environment by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and toxins emitted by electronic cigarettes, and to promote tobacco cessation.

Definitions—“Tobacco product” means any product made or derived from tobacco, or which contains nicotine, such as cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, hookah and smokeless tobacco products such as chew, spit, dip and snuff; herbal cigarettes.

“Electronic Cigarette” means any electronic device that, when activated, produces an aerosol that may be inhaled, whether or not the aerosol contains nicotine, such as e-cigarettes and vape pens. “Electronic Cigarette” does not include products approved by the Federal Drug Administration for tobacco cessation.

Scope—NYS Public Health Law prohibits tobacco product use within one hundred feet of the entrances, exits or outdoor areas of any public or association library.

This policy expands the public health law provision to also prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes.

This policy applies to Peru Free Library employees, contractors and visitors.

Compliance—Adherence to this policy is the responsibility of all Peru Free Library employees, clients and visitors. Employees who do not conform to this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

Questions related to the policy and reports of non-compliance can be directed to the Library Director.

Effective Date—This policy will go into effect on June 18, 2019

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees: September 25, 2019

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees: May 14, 2025