

Code of Ethics – Board

The Chesterfield Township Library Board of Trustees recognizes that sound, ethical standards of conduct serve to increase the effectiveness of the Library Board, promote public confidence, and further the attainment of Library goals. The Board has determined that it is in the Library's best interests to adopt a code of ethics setting forth the following standards of conduct required of all Library Board members.

1. **Mission and Policies:** A trustee shall abide by and support the mission statement of the Library and the policies adopted by the Board.
2. **Matters before the Board:** A trustee shall not receive or enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before the Library Board of Trustees.
3. **Confidential Information:** No trustee shall disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties or use such information to further his or her personal interest. In addition, he or she shall not disclose information regarding any matters discussed in a closed session of the Board of Trustees.
4. **Board Action:** Unless delegated by the Board, a trustee has no individual authority to bind the Board. Board decisions may only be made by a majority vote at an open meeting. A trustee shall abide by a majority decision of the Board even if he/she personally disagrees and shall take no public or private action that compromises or disparages Board decisions and actions.
5. **Participation:** A trustee shall participate in official Board discussions and decisions and reach conclusions after deliberation and full public debate with fellow trustees in a public meeting.
6. **Improper Influence:** A trustee shall not improperly influence or attempt to improperly influence other officials, including fellow trustees, to act at his/her behest. A trustee shall follow only legal and ethical procedures to bring about desired changes.
7. **Cooperation:** A trustee shall work cooperatively and effectively with governmental agencies, political subdivisions, and other organizations in order to further the interests of the Library.
8. **Gifts:** No trustee shall directly or indirectly solicit, accept, or receive any money or gift, whether in the form of cash, check, loan, credit, services, travel, entertainment, hospitality or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the money or gift was intended to influence him or her in the performance of his or her official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his or her part.
9. **Complaints:** A trustee shall not act on complaints from the public or staff on Library matters, but shall refer complaints to the Library Director. Unresolved complaints may be taken up for Board action if a policy revision is necessary or legal consequences result.