

Meeting Room Policy

Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) provides meeting rooms for public use. The **Meeting Room Policy** is developed in accordance with the Library's mission. Meeting rooms are available, free of charge, to all Monroe County organizations and local units of government on equal terms regardless of opinion or affiliation. Some rooms are also available to local businesses for a fee established annually by the Board of Trustees in the Library's Fee Schedule. The Library does not endorse the views of any group using the meeting rooms. A group may not use the Library logo in any form or identify or imply that the Library is a sponsor. This policy is for use of the Library for outside groups and does not apply to Library programs, Library sponsored programs, or approved use by MCPL-affiliated groups. Use of meeting rooms for Library programs and Library affiliated-programs takes precedence over use by outside groups.

General Guidelines:

- The Library has written procedures for the use and scheduling of the meeting rooms that are in the best interest of the Library and the community. Requirements for persons to reserve a meeting room: Must be age 18 or older
- Possess an active Monroe County Public Library Card*
- Be a nonprofit organization, unit of government, or business operating in Monroe County
- Read and accept Meeting Room Policy

*A Library card is not required for reservation by a government agency.

Meeting rooms can be reserved online, over the phone, or in person. Groups are limited to 24 reservations per year. Meeting room reservations should be made at least a week in advance, and may be reserved up to 90 days in advance. Reservations requested less than 72 hours in advance must be made by telephone or in person in the Library Administration Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or by phone, 812-349-3050, to ensure that meeting room use is approved. Meeting rooms are only available during hours the Library is open to the public.

The public is welcome at all meetings, unless the reserving group has noted otherwise in the reservation. The Library reserves the right to:

- Share the contact information of any individual/organization that books a meeting room, if a request is made by a member of the public.
- Preempt or reschedule meetings when the Library needs the meeting room space.
- Refuse or discontinue any use which is disruptive to the normal operation of the Library, destructive to the building or equipment, fails to follow the library's Behavioral Rules, or if information is falsified on the meeting room application. Meeting room use that generates excessive noise will be considered disruptive.
- Allow staff to enter any meeting room to ensure adherence to Library policies and to ask groups to vacate the building before Library closing. Cancel scheduled meeting room use when Library policy has been or will be violated.

The Library's Art Display Policy shall apply in a meeting room when it is being used for an art exhibition.

No charge may be made for admission and no freewill collection may be made in the Library.

Items, services, and memberships may not be sold or promoted.

Groups showing copyrighted movies in the Library are solely responsible for obtaining written public performance licensing rights. Borrowing, renting, or purchasing a movie does not carry with it the right to show the movie outside the home.

Use by Nonprofit Organizations and Local Units of Government:

Nonprofit organizations operating in Monroe County and units of local government may reserve rooms. Use by nonprofit organizations and units of local government is free of charge.

Organizations claiming nonprofit status may be asked to provide a copy of their IRS Form 501(c)(3), Articles of Incorporation, or a Tax Exempt Certificate.

It is the responsibility of the nonprofit organization or unit of local government to contact Library administration if a meeting has been canceled. If Community Access Television Services (CATS) is scheduled to record a public meeting, the organization must also notify CATS of the cancellation.

Use by Businesses:

Businesses operating in Monroe County may reserve meeting rooms for a fee established by the Board of Trustees in the annual Fee Schedule.

Payment for use by a local business is due when the reservation is made.

It is the responsibility of the business to contact Library administration when a meeting has been canceled. If a business cancels a reservation less than one week before the meeting was scheduled, no refund will be made. The Library will refund fees as follows:

- 50% of the fee if a business cancels a reservation more than one week before the meeting was scheduled.
- 100% of the fee if a business cancels a reservation more than two weeks before the meeting was scheduled.
- 100% of the fee if the Library cancels the meeting at any time.

Facility Setup:

Meeting room users are responsible for meeting room and equipment setup and cleanup. Each meeting room has a set configuration. The Library provides no setup at the Ellettsville Branch or Main Library. If a group decides to use a different room setup, the room must be returned to its original configuration upon departure.

Groups that have questions about Library meeting room equipment, or auditorium setup and use, should plan to visit the Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and/or schedule a training session with the Meeting Room Coordinator (812-349-3050 x4041, pwallace[at]mcpl.info) at least one week before their event.

The Library is not responsible for the loss of and/or damage to equipment or materials owned by groups. The Library cannot store supplies or equipment belonging to a group. All materials left are turned into Lost and Found.

Light refreshments may be served during meetings in all public meeting rooms. The group using the room must provide supplies and equipment for serving refreshments. The library does not have full kitchen facilities.

Meeting Room Usage Subject to Clean-up Fees:

If a group fails to leave a meeting room or equipment in its original configuration and condition, or does not vacate the room by the scheduled reservation time, it will be charged a fee, as approved by the Board of Trustees in the Fee Schedule.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees April 21, 2004

Amended June 15, 2011, November 16, 2011 and September 21, 2016

Updated September 22, 2016

Links
[1] <https://mcpl.info/geninfo/meeting-room-policy>
[2] <https://mcpl.info/geninfo/fee-schedule>
[3] <https://mcpl.info/library-trustees-board-trustees>