



# Pine Plains Free Library

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## Filming and Photography Policy

Public libraries are defined by the Supreme Court as *limited public forums* subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. In contrast to *traditional public forums*, defined as places held in trust of the public to use for free speech and other activities protected by the First Amendment. The Pine Plains Free Library is within its rights to limit filming and photography inside facilities when such restrictions serve Library purposes.

The Pine Plains Free Library respects a patron's First Amendment right to film so long as it respects the ALA Bill of Rights and NYS Right to Patron Privacy which the Pine Plains Free Library adopts to its policies. Foremost of these is ensuring Library patrons the right to acquire knowledge and information freely and confidentially without scrutiny, intimidation, or distraction by others. Library users should be able to use library services without fear that their identity, location, or reading choices will be published.

Therefore, casual amateur filming and photography in the Pine Plains Free Library is allowed under the following rules:

- Photography/filming with any device should not disturb or interfere with patrons.
- Avoiding using flashes or bulky equipment that might cause disturbance to Library staff and users.
- If a patron asks not to be photographed or filmed in the Library, that is to be honored.
- There can be no filming or photography that violates a patron's expectation of privacy in the Library.
- Photography or filming of anyone under the age of 12 must have expressed permission of the child's parent or guardian.
- No photography or filming in bathrooms, staff-only areas, meeting rooms that are not open to the general public, or of programs/presentations in which the presenter does not wish to be filmed or photographed.

Professional photography or filming can be arranged with the permission of the Library Director.

Pine Plains Free Library may film, photograph, or record Library-sponsored programs or events (in-person or virtually) at its discretion for publicity and promotional purposes. Library staff will notify patrons when filming/photography of programs is taking place.

The Library staff reserves the right to terminate any session that appears to compromise public safety, patron privacy, library operations, or is inconsistent to the Library's mission.