



## ASHBURNHAM STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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### **Policy on Lending to Residents of Decertified Communities**

As a participant in the State Aid to Public Libraries Program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), Stevens Memorial Library complies with requirements regarding use of its collection that are specified in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, Section 19A and 19B and further defined in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 4.00). Stevens Memorial Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to residents of the Commonwealth who reside in communities that offer state certified library services.

Public libraries in Massachusetts that do not meet the minimum standards for funding and service necessary for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are decertified by MBLC. Decertified libraries are not eligible to receive state aid to public libraries funding, apply for LSTA grants, or contract with a regional consortium to provide supplemental services.

Stevens Memorial Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Stevens Memorial Library will discontinue borrowing privileges, including interlibrary loans, for residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. Residents of decertified communities who submit written proof that they are an Ashburnham taxpayer are the exception to this policy and will continue to have borrowing privileges.

Public libraries that receive waivers from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified. Residents of communities where the library has received a waiver will be allowed to borrow materials from the Stevens Memorial Library.

Massachusetts General law (605 CMR 4.01) states “all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community.” Residents of communities with decertified libraries are welcome to use Stevens Memorial Library resources within the library building.

Out of state borrowers may register for a library card at the Stevens Memorial Library for an annual fee of \$50.

*Approved by Library Board of Trustees, June 2025*

