

The Stamford Senior Center, Inc.
Membership Guidelines

The Stamford Senior Center is a "Community Focal Point" where Senior Adults come together for services and activities that reflect their experience and skills, and respond to their diverse needs and interests. Programs are designed to enhance seniors' dignity, support their independence and encourage their involvement in and with the Center and the community.

The following guidelines have been developed to enhance the experiences of seniors participating in the activities and programs offered by the Stamford Senior Center. In our effort to provide a safe, comfortable environment for all, we realize that there are some behaviors that may detract from the enjoyment of the facility of the membership at-large. The following guidelines cannot include every situation but, instead, are intended to assist the Board of Directors and the Staff to determine what issues and behaviors could jeopardize a member's participation.

1. Membership is limited by the resources of the Center to individuals who are self-mobile, with or without assistive devices such as wheel chairs or walkers, independent, capable of making appropriate decisions, self-toileting, and have adequate appearance and hygiene to participate in daily activities. If not independent, self-mobile, members may attend with a personal aid at their own expense.
2. Members are asked to promote goodwill. No member shall mistreat, either verbally or physically, any other member or staff. Mistreatment includes sexual, racial or otherwise harassing comments. Violence of any kind will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for immediate suspension of the member's participation.
3. Members are asked to encourage diversity. Isolation of members based on race, religion, color, sex, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation and/or physical or mental disability shall not be tolerated.
4. The use of illegal drugs or alcohol is not permitted.
5. Programs, rooms, equipment, seats, etc. are for the use of the entire membership and are never for the exclusive use of any one member. Members are expected to leave things the way they found them.
6. Destructive comments or rumors will not be allowed.
7. Members may not interfere in the enjoyment of the Center by others.

If the Center's staff is unable to accommodate a member whose health, physical, or mental condition necessitates supervision, the member will be contacted to discuss alternative programs that offer a higher level of routine care. The Executive Director has the final authority for assessing a member's suitability for the programs.

A system of two verbal warnings and a final written warning will be utilized to address membership infractions, including rude and offensive behavior. A Committee, including a Board member, the Program Coordinator and the Executive Director, will meet with the member at the issuance of the written warning. If the problem behavior continues, a suspension will be issued. Length of the suspension is at the discretion of the Committee, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board. Three infractions and membership may be denied.

In the case of a more serious infraction, such as violence, the Executive Director will immediately suspend the member from the Center, pending an investigation. The Committee will meet with the member to determine the length of the suspension, or the expulsion, if necessary, or upon the third dismissal incident.