

Park districts in Illinois, like other public bodies, operate under the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), [according to the Illinois Attorney General's office](#). This Act ensures public access to meetings where public business is discussed or acted upon.

However, the OMA also allows for the regulation of public conduct during meetings to maintain order and facilitate the conduct of business. Park districts, as public bodies, can establish rules of decorum to manage public comment and behavior during meetings.

#### Key aspects of managing disruptive behavior in Illinois park district meetings

- **Establishing Rules of Conduct:** Park Districts can adopt rules for decorum and public participation during meetings. These rules often prohibit behaviors such as:
  - Profane or abusive language.
  - Disruptive behavior or disrespectful conduct.
  - Exceeding time limits for public comments.
  - Engaging in discussions, comments, or movements that disrupt proceedings.
- **Enforcement by the Presiding Officer:** The presiding officer at a park district meeting has the authority to enforce these rules of conduct.
- **Warning and Removal:** Individuals engaging in disruptive behavior may be given a verbal warning. If the disruptive behavior continues after a warning, the individual may be removed from the meeting.
- **Removal for Disruptive Behavior:** Removal from a meeting may also result in forfeiture of the right to re-enter future meetings.

In essence, while the public has a right to attend park district meetings in Illinois, that right is not absolute and is subject to reasonable rules of decorum that can be enforced to ensure the orderly conduct of public business.

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