

PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Rules of Conduct

- Behavior: Inappropriate or disruptive conduct is strictly prohibited.
- Disruption: Visitors cannot interfere with others who are lawfully using the library.
- Approved Activities: Behavior must align with traditional uses like reading, studying, and proper material use.

Key Definitions

- Premises: All indoor and outdoor areas of the library property.
- Public Area: Portions of the building and grounds open to the general public.
- Library Facilities: Both public areas and restricted, staff-only (non-public) areas.

Code of Conduct Framework

- Right to Access: Visitors have a right to a clean, welcoming, and disruption-free space.
- Right to Work: Staff have a right to perform duties without unnecessary interference.
- Respect Space: Keep all library areas clean and welcoming.
- Respect People: Treat everyone with dignity and do not disrupt others.
- Respect Property: Treat personal belongings and library equipment with care.

General Behavior Violations

- Disruption & Noise: Loud talking, excessive conversation, running, throwing objects, loitering, and sleeping.
- Harassment & Intimidation: Threatening, stalking, following, staring at, or abusing patrons or staff.
- Abusive Language: Using profanity, foul language, or obscene words.
- Physical Violence: Fighting, hitting, pushing, shoving, or physical confrontations.
- Property Misuse: Theft, vandalism, defacement, or removing materials without checking them out.
- Improper Attire: Bare feet, lack of shirts, uncovered swimwear, or clothing with obscene/explicit graphics.
- Hygiene Issues: Offensive bodily odor or pervasive scents (like perfume) that create a nuisance.
- Illegal & Lewd Acts: Any illegal activity, sexual conduct, indecent exposure, or drug/alcohol-influenced behavior.
- Group Disruption: Gathering in groups that block access, obstruct others, or make users feel unwelcome.
- Neglect: Abandoning children or adults who require care and supervision.

Food & Beverage Rules

- Unapproved Meals: Eating any food other than dry snacks, unless provided at a Library event.
- Restricted Snack Zones: Eating snacks near computers and electronic devices.
- Open Drink Containers: Carrying or drinking any beverage other than water in an uncovered container.
- Alcohol: Consuming alcoholic drinks or entering the Library while intoxicated.

Building & Grounds Rules

- Unauthorized Wheels: Using bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or hoverboards (wheelchairs and strollers are allowed) (Scooters, skateboards, and hoverboards can be brought inside, but not used.)
- Altering Space: Moving furniture, rearranging equipment, or blocking staff from cleaning and reshelving.
- Misusing Materials: Using library items for purposes other than reading, research, viewing, or listening.
- Commercial Activity: Selling, soliciting, canvassing, or posting notices without written staff approval.
- Smoking & Substance Use: Smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco inside or within 20 feet of any entrance.
- Intoxication: Possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- Animals: Bringing in any animal except certified service animals or pre-approved educational program animals.
- Weapons: Possessing real or look-alike weapons, or any objects that could reasonably be used as weapons.
- Vandalism & Theft: Stealing property, damaging items, or removing protective media covers to steal/damage them.
- Trespassing: Knowingly entering non-public, restricted staff areas without authorization.
- Bathroom Misuse: Bathing, shaving, washing clothes, or storing personal items in the restrooms.
- Equipment Interference: Using library phones or specialized equipment without official permission.

Unattended Minors Policy

- Age 7 and Under: Must be closely supervised at all times by a responsible person aged 14 or older.
- Parental Contact: Staff will contact a parent or guardian if a child age 7 or under is found unattended.
- Extended or After-Hours Stay: The Library will contact authorities if any minor (under 18) is left unattended for too long or after closing.

Inappropriate Use of Children's Services

- Restricted Adult Access: Adults without a child or a clear need for youth materials must use other library areas.
- Prohibited Behavior: Adults may not linger near children without an obvious, legitimate reason (such as browsing children's books).
- Staff Intervention: Staff will immediately ask adults to relocate if they spend unusual or unnecessary time watching or sitting near children without a clear purpose.

Harassment Policy

- Zero Tolerance: The Library maintains a working environment free from harassment, sexual harassment, and intimidation.
- Prohibited Harassment: Verbal or physical conduct targeting an employee's age, race, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability is banned.
- Interference: Any behavior that creates an offensive workspace or disrupts an employee's job performance is a violation.
- Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or offensive verbal/physical conduct are strictly prohibited.

Theft, Vandalism, & Illegal Activities

- Police Involvement: Staff will immediately call the police and notify management for any property theft, malicious destruction, or illegal acts.
- Property Protection: This protection applies equally to all Library property and the personal belongings of staff and patrons.
- Mandatory Prosecution: The Library will fully prosecute anyone who steals, vandalizes property, or commits illegal acts (such as indecent exposure) on the premises.

Consequences for Violations

- Enforcement Authority: Staff have the right to determine if a policy is broken and order the violator to leave immediately.
- Escalated Penalties: Serious or repeated misconduct will result in temporary or permanent loss of library privileges.
- Legal Action: The Library will pursue appropriate legal action against violators when necessary.

This policy was adopted by the board on May 21, 2026.