

568 / Building Use

Patron Conduct

Purpose

The library seeks to provide its services with a minimum of regulations and restrictions, adopting only those which are absolutely essential to maintaining a quiet, safe, and otherwise appropriate environment conducive to the use of the library's informational, educational and recreational materials, programs, and services.

Code of Conduct

All patrons observing proper conduct in the library are allowed to freely make use of the library. Those whose conduct is disruptive to library operations and other patrons' use of the library may have the privilege of using the library abridged or denied.

No list can be exhaustive, and any conduct which disrupts the library is prohibited. Conduct on library property which may lead to denial of library privileges includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Circulation of petitions, distribution of leaflets or related materials, and campaign activities such as these are not permitted within the library building. Noncommercial speech activities such as these are permitted outside the library building on library sidewalks at a distance of 15 feet or more from any library entrance so long as such activities do not block or otherwise interfere with the passage of library patrons, pedestrians or vehicles and do not otherwise conflict with this Patron Conduct policy.
- Damaging library property or removing library property from the library without permission. Damaging includes, but is not limited to, vandalism, littering, and leaving areas of the library in a disorderly and/or unclean state.
- Threatening and/or harassing patrons or staff members or preventing staff members from performing their duties
- No conduct is permitted that may reasonably be expected to create a disturbance or interfere with the safe use and enjoyment of the library by others. (Examples include yelling, profanity, running, rowdy or aggressive behavior, climbing or jumping on furniture.)
- Possessing a weapon unless in performance of official duties
- Bringing animals into the library except service animals or those that are part of a library-sponsored program
- Possessing alcohol or any other illegal substance or being under the influence or a controlled substance as defined in the Illinois Criminal Code
- Eating in the main public areas of the library (food is only permitted in the meeting rooms, vending area, and the first floor lobby)
- Covered beverages (with lids) are allowed in the library. Drinking uncovered beverages and eating is limited to the lobby and program rooms.
- Smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products in the library or within 25 feet of the library's main entrances, exits, or air intakes
- Entering the library not fully clothed (including shoes and/or shirt)
- Playing of audio equipment, including phones, so others may hear it

- Talking loudly, and/or using offensive, abusive, or profane language
- Using a cell phone in a manner that disturbs others; cell phones should be set to silent or turned off, and when talking on a cell phone, persons shall use a low conversational voice and move to an area zoned for cell phone conversations.
- Using the library restroom for bathing, shampooing, or as a laundry
- Using a skateboard, scooter, rollerblades, roller shoes, jump ropes or skates in the library or on library property
- Prolonged or habitual sleeping in the library
- Leaving unattended belongings (see Policy 568.2/Building Use: Patrons Belongings)
- Soliciting, selling, sponsoring, and/or promoting commercial enterprises or non-library activities in the library or on library grounds
- Blocking entryways, vestibules, book returns, restrooms, staircases, elevator, or other common areas
- Trespassing into any area of the library closed to the public
- Anything which may be reasonably expected to result in injury to self or others
- Any illegal activity
- Access to the library's Youth Services Area is denied to anyone on the Illinois State Police Sex Offender or Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth registries, unless that person is accompanied by his/her own child(ren). The previous provision shall not restrict patrons from participating in and having access to adult programs

In addition, all patrons must expeditiously leave the library premises at closing time. Transportation is the sole responsibility of the patron or parent, guardian or other authorized person. Adults or minors who remain at the library after closing may be referred to the police in order to ensure their safety.

Any library staff member may enforce this policy by pointing out violations to patrons and requesting compliance with this policy. Staff members shall report serious or recurring violations to the Librarian-in-Charge. The Librarian-in-Charge may request that a patron who refuses to comply leave the library for the remainder of the day or until his or her behavior is brought into compliance with the policy.

Video recordings made from security cameras showing a violation by a patron of the library's Patron Conduct policy may be used to support suspension or termination of a patron's library privileges and/or immediate ejection from the library.

The Library Director is authorized to exclude from the use of the library any person who engages in behavior violating this Patron Conduct policy. The patron may appeal the decision to the Library Board of Trustees in writing within one month of the exclusion date. The Library Director or, if appealed, the Board of Trustees will determine the time period for which a patron is excluded from the library.

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