

Acceptable Patron Behavior Policy

Purpose

The Camas County Public Library has established this Behavior Policy to ensure that the library facility is a safe and welcoming environment for all library users. We will provide equitable access to materials and services for everyone. In order to achieve this, the library needs to establish appropriate personal library conduct for any activities taking place in the library such as: reading, studying, properly using library materials and computers in a manner which does not interfere with others who are using the public library.

Overview and Definitions

Appropriate behavior is expected of all users of the Camas County Public Library's facilities, as is associated with the normal use of a public library while in the building or on the grounds. Violations of the Behavior Policy will result in increasing levels of action, ranging from a staff issued warning, to asking the patron to leave the library for the remainder of the day, to the patron's temporary or permanent loss of all library privileges, to legal action including criminal prosecution. The level of action shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Behavior Rules

Use of the library materials and services should not disturb other patrons. Library materials and services are available for educational as well as entertainment uses, and patrons should keep in mind that these resources are in the library to be shared by all.

Inappropriate behavior is considered to be behavior which creates excessive noise levels or disturbances, interferes with other patrons' use of the library, and/or damages library property.

The following are examples of behavior that is not permitted:

- Engaging in any unlawful activity such as, use of computers for illegal gambling or pornography
- Having loud, disruptive conversations, including shouting
- Using personal electronic equipment at a volume that can be heard by others

- Using profane and/or abusive language
- Engaging in any behavior that the reasonable library user would find to be disruptive ie: harassing, or threatening in a nature to library users or staff, including stalking, prolonged staring at, or following another with the intent to annoy, or intentionally behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to annoy or disturb other patrons
- Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming or appearing to be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance
- Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal state or local ordinance
- Smoking or other use of tobacco anywhere, except in designated areas outside of the premises
- Engaging in any sexual contact, activities, or conduct
- Selling, soliciting, surveying, or distributing written materials, panhandling, or canvassing for any political, charitable or religious purposes inside a library building, doorway or vestibule without prior authorization by the library director
- Wearing inappropriate clothing, and not wearing shoes or not wearing a shirt within the building
- Entering or remaining upon library premises with a bodily hygiene so offensive that it constitutes a nuisance to others
- Bringing bags into the library larger than a standard backpack, briefcase or canvas tote bag
- Interfering with the safe and free passage of the library staff or patrons on the premises including, but not limited to the placement of objects in hallways, aisles, flooring, or elsewhere, in a manner that impedes the free passage of persons about the library.
- Bringing any animal into the library except service animals, animals for a scheduled library program or with special permission from the library director
- Improperly using library restrooms or facilities for purposes such as bathing, shaving, or laundering clothes
- Violating the library's rules for acceptable use of the internet and public computers
- Possessing, selling, distributing, displaying, or using any dangerous weapon. A weapon shall include, but not be limited to, a knife, cutting instrument, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury

- Engaging in any physical intimidating or assault-like behavior, including making any threats of violence or unlawful activities.

The library has a policy of zero tolerance for threats or acts of violence. Any person engaging in such behaviors will be immediately ejected from the library

Any person who violates the behavior policy will be handled in a professional and courteous manner by staff, but the degree of the violation will determine the response.

Staff is instructed to call the sheriff immediately in response to any behavior that is deemed dangerous, and for any behavior that is in violation of federal, state or local ordinances. Staff will call the sheriff if a person or group of persons is asked to leave the library and they refuse to leave and/or become uncooperative.

For most other inappropriate behavior, one warning will be given. Continued violations will result in patron being asked to leave the library for the day. A serious violation or repeated violations, or a violation where the authorities are called, may result in longer exclusions from the library up to permanent banning from the library.

An individual who is banned from the library may be criminally charged with trespassing if they return to library property during the term of the ban. Any individual who is banned and whose library privileges have been revoked, may request to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the Library. The request must be made in writing and submitted to the Library Director and the Chair of the Camas County Public Library Board, PO Box 292, Fairfield Idaho 83327 within 30 days of the alleged offense.

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