

Library Patron Conduct Expectations/Disruptive Behavior Policy

Library patrons are expected to be engaged in productive use of the library's resources. This includes reading, studying, researching, attending programs, and utilizing library material. Patrons have the right to use the library undisturbed and library employees have the right to work without undue interference.

No person shall engage in any conduct which disturbs or interferes with the legitimate use of the library including, but not restricted to, the following:

- Any behavior that is illegal.
- Any behavior that endangers oneself or others.
- Any behavior that is disruptive to the Library environment.
- Any behavior that is abusive to a staff member or patron.
- Any use of the Library that interferes with the Library's purpose.
- Specific prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Willfully annoy, harass, or threaten another person.
 - Behaving in a disorderly, loud, or boisterous manner.
 - Defacing or destroying library property.
 - Remaining in the library after regular closing hours.
 - Playing audio equipment at a volume that is disturbing to other users.
 - Theft of library materials or the personal property of other patrons or staff members.
 - Use of abusive language.
 - Stalking, harassing, or intimidating patrons or library staff anywhere on library property.

Enforcement of these rules for persons may take the form of any of the following actions, depending on the severity of the misconduct that will be determined by the staff on duty at the time. These disciplinary procedures are merely guidelines. They are not listed in any order and there is no requirement that any particular disciplinary action precede any other action. The library may choose to implement any of the procedures listed, including immediate banishment from the premises, at any time, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

1. In the case of a minor disruption, the patron receives two warnings. At the third offense, the patron must leave the library for the rest of the day.
2. In the case of any misconduct that, in the judgement of a staff member, is extreme, the offender may receive only one warning, be ordered to leave the building immediately, or the police may be called as appropriate.
3. Patrons causing disruptions on repeated visits will be warned by the Director or designee that they will not be allowed to enter the building if the behavior continues. Patrons who engage in repeated disruptive behaviors that interfere with others' use of the library, or who engage in behaviors that violate City Code or State Statutes, may be permanently banned from the library premises by the Director. An appeal of the Library Director's decision may be made to the Library Board. An appeal to the Library Board must be in writing.
4. Exceptions to the above may be authorized by the Library Director and/or her/his designee.