



PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Library patrons are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which enable their fellow patrons, staff, and themselves to accomplish their intended Library tasks in a safe, reasonably pleasant, and orderly atmosphere.

1. Staff will take appropriate action when patron behavior causes disruption or unreasonable interference in the delivery of services. Staff respects, and will respond to, complaints from patrons and will exercise professional judgment in taking action on a case-by-case basis.

2. According to Michigan statutes, the Board may exclude from the use of the Library any all persons who shall willfully violate such reasonable rules and regulations as the Board may adopt (MCL 397.206). Such exclusions from this Library shall occur on the orders of the Director or Director's designee. In this document, "withholding of library privileges" is defined as meaning that an individual may or may not enter or use the Library.

3. For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of Library property, the following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on Library property:

A. Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local, or other applicable law, or Library policy.

B. Carrying guns, pistols, firearms or other weapons, including but not limited to knives, clubs or razors, is prohibited, except where carrying such guns, pistols, or firearms is (1) specifically permitted by law and/or (2) exempt from local regulation by law. Staff shall have discretion to determine what is a potential weapon.

C. Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, and selling, using, or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs.

D. Verbally or physically threatening, or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff; including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.

E. Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the Library.

F. Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of Library property in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment.

G. Trespassing in non-public areas, being in the Library without permission of an authorized Library employee before or after Library operating hours, or camping on Library grounds.

H. Fighting, or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.

I. Creating disruptive noises such as loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards.

J. Gambling and group activities which are disruptive to the Library environment.

K. Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a manner that disturbs others. Cell phone and pager audible rings must be turned off.

L. Littering.

M. Smoking, chewing, or other tobacco use in the Library facilities.

N. Entering the library barefooted, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be, in the judgment of the staff, disruptive the Library environment.

O. Consuming food or beverages in public areas of the Library, including the restrooms (except for water in closed containers as permitted by authorized Library employees, drinking fountain use, baby bottles, nursing, and locations where use is authorized).

P. Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which, alone or in aggregate, impede the use of the Library by other users.

Q. Using wheeled devices in library property or on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including: skateboarding; roller skating; bicycling; scooters, and shopping carts. Exceptions are wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers.

R. Lying down or sleeping in the restrooms or on any floor, couch, table, or seat in the Library, or by blocking the aisles, exits, or entrances by sitting or lying down in them.

S. Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children.

T. Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the Library, except as authorized by the Director.

4. All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by security and other authorized personnel. The Library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the Library.

5. Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. If necessary, staff will call the City of Ferndale police for assistance. Failure to comply with the Library's established rules, regulations, and policies could result in removal from the premises and expulsion from the Library for a period of one day to one year, or in arrest or prosecution. Violations could also result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including the use of library computers and other equipment.

Expulsion for more than one week may be appealed in writing to the Board.

Adopted on February 24, 2011

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