



WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Behavior Policy

Washington Public Library strives to provide the highest level of service to all library patrons. In order to foster an environment in which all patrons are able to use the library's resources, services and programs as effectively as possible, we require that all patrons comply with the following rules of conduct.

- The use of cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices is prohibited inside the library and during classes or programs. Cell phones and pagers should be answered promptly, and conversations should be brief, no longer than one minute and carried on in quiet tones. If conversations cannot be conducted quickly, patrons are expected to move to the lobby or outside the building.
- The use of phones or other electronic devices to take photos or record video or sound is prohibited without prior permission of the library.
- Patrons may not talk loudly or behave in a disorderly or disruptive manner. The use of profane or threatening language or other harassment of library users or library staff will not be permitted.
- Patrons may not create a disturbance in any matter that interferes with people's ability to use the library or staff's ability to do their job.
- Sleeping for any extended period of time is not permitted inside the library or on the library grounds. Using blankets or bedding in the library is prohibited with the exception of small children.
- Leaving belongings unattended for an extended period of time (30 minutes) inside the library or on the library grounds, is not permitted.
- Monopolizing library space, equipment, or outlets to the exclusion of others will not be permitted.
- The library allows patrons to bring in covered drinks and light snacks, which may be consumed in areas away from computers. Patrons must dispose of trash in proper receptacles.
- Any patron neglecting personal hygiene so that it is offensive and constitutes a nuisance to other patrons may be asked to leave library property.
- The use of skateboards, roller blades or scooters is not permitted on Library property. Bicycles and scooters are not permitted inside the library.
- Patrons may not misuse restrooms for bathing or shaving, soiling surfaces or facilities, or using restrooms for an extended length of time.
- Patrons must wear clothing that covers both the upper and lower torso of the body. Any state of undress, including lack of shoes, will not be permitted.
- Weapons are prohibited on library property.
- Vandalism of Library facilities, equipment or materials will be prosecuted.
- Smoking, use of smokeless tobacco and any type of e-cigarette or vaping device is prohibited inside the library.
- Selling, soliciting, panhandling, or loitering on library premises is not permitted.
- Engaging in any illegal activity or behavior will be reported to proper authorities.
- Petitioning inside library buildings is prohibited. The circulation of petitions outside library facilities may not impede the free access of the public to library buildings and resources.
- Patrons are expected to abide by established time limitations for the use of public access computers and other equipment and must observe the library's internet use policy.
- Patrons should leave the library promptly at closing time.
- Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are on library property. Children under ten years of age must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver. Older brothers, sisters, or caregivers under the age of sixteen are not considered adequate supervisors.
- Patrons of any age with cognitive, physical, or emotional impairments who require supervision should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.
- The teen and children's areas of library facilities are designed for children, teens, their families and caregivers. Use of these areas by adults who are not parents, guardians, teachers, or caregivers may be restricted to ensure that children, teens and their families have adequate access to the resources provided specifically for them.
- Animals are not permitted on Library property except when needed to aid persons with disabilities or used in conjunction with library programs.
- Library materials must be properly checked out before being removed from the building.

Persons who fail to observe this code will be asked to leave the building or will be subject to arrest.

Library Management reserves the right to expel any person whose behavior is judged to be disruptive or inappropriate to the library environment or prevents effective use of the library by other customers. Patrons may be expelled for a week, month, one year or longer depending on the seriousness of the offense.

Patrons who feel they have wrongly been expelled from the library can submit their complaint in writing. Their complaint will be submitted to the Board of Trustees at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision reached by the Board of Trustees will be put into writing and the Library Director will present it to the patron.