

Bent Northrop Memorial Library Patron Behavior Policy



PURPOSE

In an effort to provide a comfortable and safe environment for all Library patrons, the Board of Trustees of the Bent Northrop Memorial Library has established a Library Patron Behavior Policy. The Policy is designed to provide clear and reasonable guidelines governing patron behavior within the Library and on the Library premises.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

Unacceptable behavior includes behavior within the Library or on Library premises that interferes with the use of the Library by other patrons, creates a risk of injury to self, other patrons, or Library personnel, interferes with the work of Library personnel, or creates a risk of damage to Library property. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:

1. Use of profanity, abusive or threatening language
2. Threatening gestures, unwanted physical contact, harassing conduct, or roughhousing
3. Displays of affection, including sexual or physical conduct deemed inappropriate for a public place
4. Damaging, defacing or theft of any Library property or materials. The Library staff may ask to examine patron's handbags, briefcases, or other packages. The Library reserves the right to confiscate unattended bags and is not responsible for patrons' personal belongings.
5. Possession or use of alcohol except at authorized Library functions
6. Possession or use of illegal drugs, narcotics or controlled substances
7. Use of tobacco, cannabis, or vaping products
8. Unreasonable noise levels including shouting, loud talking or disruptive conversation, or using a cell phone or other electronic device that is audible to others
9. Consuming food except in designated areas or at authorized Library functions
10. Bringing animals into the Library except those who are part of a program or are registered service animals
11. Using restrooms other than as intended

ENFORCEMENT

Violation of the Policy may result in escalating responses ranging from limitation or revocation of the patron's Library privileges to removal from the premises or criminal prosecution if the conduct constitutes a violation of local, state or federal law.

The Library Director or their authorized designee, at their discretion, may limit or revoke the patron's Library privileges. The patron may file a written appeal with the Director. The appeal will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees whose decision is final.

Adopted: November 2011

Reviewed and Approved: March 2018

Reviewed and Approved: March 2020

Revised and Approved: March 2024

BNML Board of Trustees