

Cheatham County Public Libraries

POLICY: PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Approved:

Amended:

Reviewed:

The Cheatham County Libraries Board of Trustees have adopted the Patron Behavior Policy in order to provide a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for everyone, including patrons and staff. This policy applies to the use of library facilities, resources and services in any form including but not limited to in-person, phone and virtual, as well as the participation in library sponsored activities on or away from library property.

Inappropriate conduct includes any individual or group activity which disrupts the use of library facilities, collections, services or programs by patrons, or disrupts the ability of library staff to perform their duties. The following behaviors are prohibited on library premises:

- **Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime under Federal, State or local law, rule, regulation and/or ordinance.**
- **Engaging in intimidating or harassing behaviors, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, following or stalking other patrons or library staff, staring/leering; or using harassing, obscene, abusive, or insulting language or gestures, or otherwise interfering with other patrons or staff.**
- **Physical abuse or assault including fighting or challenging others to fight.**
- **Making violent or threatening statements to others.**
- **Damaging, destroying, stealing, or otherwise vandalizing library property.**
- **Entering or attempting to enter non-public areas.**
- **Eating or drinking in the library except during special programs or meetings.**
- **Smoking, chewing or otherwise using tobacco products or e-cigarettes in the library.**
- **Misusing public restrooms, including shaving, bathing, washing clothes, soliciting, meeting, loitering, using drugs or engaging in sexual acts.**
- **Camping or loitering on the outdoor library property (other than use of library WiFi).**
- **Adults loitering in the children's room/area without a child.**
- **Possessing any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance on library premises.**
- **Intoxication or impairment, whether from the use of alcohol, substances or both while in the library.**

- **Carrying weapons of any kind (except for law enforcement) on library premises.**
- **Soliciting, surveying, petitioning, campaigning, selling of any kind, distributing materials, posting flyers or otherwise engaging in activities for promotion or profit without specific authorization from the Library Director.**
- **Using photographic, video, audio or other recording devices without prior authorization per the Cheatham County Libraries Board of Trustees Filming and Photography policy.**
- **Animals, except assistive animals or those authorized for library programs.**
- **Loud or disruptive behavior including: running, jumping, shouting, cell phones (silent mode, headphones, and texting are permitted).**
- **Use of skates, skateboards, scooters or bicycles in the library.**
- **Being without shoes or shirt inside the building.**
- **Any form of refusal to follow reasonable direction from library staff, including but not limited to leaving the library during normal closing procedures or following suspension of library privileges or refusing to evacuate during an emergency.**

Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other policy or provision of policy, library employees may report to appropriate management, law enforcement, public health or other authority any circumstance, behavior or conduct that, in their reasonable judgment, may constitute a threat, danger or risk to themselves, the public, any individual on Library property or to property.

As a community hub for the sharing of information to all persons, library users are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is courteous, respectful and cooperative at all times. Any library user whose behavior, in the opinion of library staff, is disrespectful to others, disruptive, inhibits access to or the delivery of services or resources to others, or otherwise violates this policy or local, state or federal laws may be asked to immediately discontinue such behavior, to leave library property, have library privileges suspended, be subject to legal action, and/or be subject to reporting to the local police department with or without warning or notice.