

Rules of Behavior on Tyler Public Library Premises

The Tyler Public Library strives to provide a safe, pleasant and comfortable environment for all who use its resources, materials and facilities. As there are often a multitude of people using the Library at any given time, balancing every user's needs and wants is a responsibility that Library takes seriously. In order to accomplish this, all those who use the Library are expected to respect the rights and activities of other patrons and Library and City staff and use Library spaces for their intended purposes. Misconduct and violations of this and other Library Policies are not allowed and will be addressed by Library staff and law enforcement, if necessary.

Patrons are expected to:

- Behave respectfully to Library staff and other library users.
- Use Library collections, equipment, facilities and furniture for their intended purposes.
- Be courteous and as quiet as possible while using personal devices and computers.
- Provide proper supervision of children.
- Dress appropriately, including wearing a shirt and shoes. Face masks or coverings may be required during pandemic outbreaks.
- Cooperate with staff and allow belongings to be searched in order to prevent unauthorized removal of library materials and equipment.
- Conduct themselves and their business so as not to disrupt or prevent others from using Library resources, materials, furniture and/or facilities.
- Parents or other legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their minor children in the Library.
- All patrons are asked to leave the building at closing.

In order to allow a wide variety of people maximum enjoyment and comfort while in the Library, patrons may not engage in the following activities or behaviors:

- Bring animals into the library except for service animals necessary for those with disabilities, as defined under local, state and federal laws.
- Deposit litter anywhere other than in garbage receptacles provided.
- Engage in sexual activity of any kind, sexual harassment or indecent exposure.
- Smoke or use tobacco products on Library property, except within a personal vehicle.
- Consume, possess or be under the influence of illicit or intoxicating substances while on Library premises.
- Harass, intimidate or threaten any Library staff or patron, including but not limited to threatening physical violence, cursing or using inappropriate language; throwing things; interfering with those attempting to leave or enter a building, room or space; engaging in sexual or verbal abuse; or soliciting, selling or campaigning.
- Behave in a loud, disorderly or boisterous manner.
- Lay hands on another person or their property in a violent or harmful way.
- Bring any dangerous weapon into the library, unless otherwise permitted by law.
- Conduct gang activities or wear gang colors and/or symbols.
- Violate the Library's Internet Usage Policy.
- Solicit, petition, or distribute written materials, or canvass for business, political, charitable, or religious purposes without prior approval from library or city staff.
- Leave computers, packages, backpacks or any other personal items unattended.

- Congregate or loiter on Library premises in a manner which obstructs access or interferes with use of Library facilities or services or where such activity is likely to result in an unsafe or intimidating environment.
- Take photos or videos of others without their explicit permission. [No commercial photography or videotaping is allowed without the explicit permission of the Library Director or designee.]
- Steal, vandalize or deliberately mar or harm Library, staff or other patrons' property or materials.
- Bring in or use sporting equipment within a Library facility, unless part of a Library program.
- Interfere with another person's enjoyment of library service and facilities.

All customers and those on any Library property are expected to abide by this Policy. Inappropriate behavior as outlined above or the commission of any crime on Library property will not be tolerated and will be addressed by Library staff immediately. Depending on the behavior or activity and the severity of the violation, staff may respond in the following ways:

- Patrons will be notified that they are in violation of this Policy and asked to stop or correct the activity or behavior.
- A patron may be asked to leave the library premises immediately and not allowed back for the remainder of the day.
- Additionally, a patron may be barred from library premises temporarily, such as a few days, a week, month or longer depending on the severity of the offense or a patron's refusal or apparent inability to change his/her behavior.
- If a violation is particularly egregious or dangerous or a patron engages in the same activity repeatedly, the Library may permanently ban that customer from either a service (such as using the public computers) or from the Library premises.
- Any person who is asked to leave the Library as a result of a violation of these guidelines and refuses to do so shall be considered to be trespassing and may be subject to permanent exclusion from the Library.
- Law enforcement will be called when necessary when staff are unable to handle a situation or patron.

It is against library policy to leave children age six (6) or younger unattended at the library. For purposes of this policy "unattended" means that the person responsible for the child is not within sight of the child. Library staff will not assume responsibility for the safety and security of unattended children. Exceptions may be made when a child is attending a children's library program.

Any child who is considered to be disruptive or unsafe by the library staff will be asked by the library staff to stop the behavior. A second request by the librarian for the child to stop the disruptive behavior will be directed to the responsible parent, legal guardian or childcare provider to correct. If a parent or legal guardian is not on the library premises a child may be asked to leave the building. If the child needs to contact a parent or guardian, they may do so. If a problem involving an unattended child still remains and library staff feels the child may be unsafe, library staff has the right to call the police or child protective services.