

LIBRARY PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Reviewed January 17, 2001, April 20, 2005

Revised January 2009, May 2013, July 19, 2017

Reviewed 7/21/2021, 10/19/22

The Mabel C. Fry Public Library Strives to be a welcoming, safe place to all and is committed to providing equal access and services to all people. The library staff has the responsibility to protect the safety of all patrons and employees; to maintain the security of the library property; and to maintain order within the library. The following policy has been established to help the library staff meet those responsibilities.

Routine complaints for which specific procedures exist are not considered problem behavior (i.e. complaints regarding an overdue fine or a sexually explicit book). Problem and/or unacceptable behavior is determined when it violates the rights of others in utilizing our facility which is to be safe, available, and useful to everyone. Unacceptable patron behavior requires intervention by the staff when patrons or staff feel there is a serious threat to their personal safety or ability to use the library. If the situation cannot be resolved by a library staff member, the staff must act quickly by calling emergency personnel or leaving the building.

Eccentric behavior which is strange but does not disturb others in ways listed below does not require intervention from the staff. Sometimes it is difficult to evaluate when eccentric behavior becomes problem behavior. Supervisors or administration should be consulted in determining what actions, if any, should be taken.

The following are not allowed on library property:

1. Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local or other applicable law
2. Carrying firearms and/or other weapons (except by law enforcement officers)
3. Disrupting the use of library services of other patrons. For example: loud talking, screaming or crying, operating electronic cellular equipment in an audibly disrupting manner, or contributing to loud and or persistent noise producing actions
4. Selling, consuming, possessing or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances
5. Use of tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes/vaping devices
6. Lying down and sleeping on any floor or couch, table or seat in the library
7. Using restrooms for bathing, shaving or doing laundry
8. Entering the library without a shirt and shoes

9. Engaging in acts of indecent exposure or sexual activity of any kind
10. Harassing other persons verbally or physically
11. Unruly or offensive behavior that disrupts the normal functioning of the library.
For example, fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things, etc.
12. Abuse of the library contents or property
13. Loud or disruptive noise
14. Running or rough-housing inside the library
15. Skates and skateboarding on library property
16. Blocking the handicapped parking space or handicapped accessible door with bicycles, etc.
17. Smoking, possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages and or illegal substances
18. Eating in the library and drinking beverages without spill-proof lids
19. Children under the age of 7 being left unattended in the library except those participating in age-appropriate library programs
20. Pets or animals (except use of service animals as outlined by ADA:
https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)
21. Verbal harassment, physical molestation, or assault of patrons or staff
22. Destruction or theft of personal property of patrons or staff
23. Possession of weapons
24. Engaging unwilling patrons or staff in religious or political discussion
25. Littering
26. Offensive sexual behavior such as exhibitionism, peeping, and child molestation
27. Unauthorized soliciting or collection of funds for any purpose
28. Knowingly harassing any other person (Harassment is determined as conduct which is specifically intended to frighten, embarrass, or anger the person or persons which are the object of such conduct). The person accused has reason to

know it is likely to produce such reactions or as any repeated communication which, inflicts injury or tends to incite any immediate breach of peace

29. Summon police, fire department or ambulance without reason
30. Loitering on the premises under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety or health of any person or property in the vicinity, (i.e. Being one of a group of people threatening, making gestures, or otherwise menacing any person in the area)

A library patron who does not respect the above policy will be asked by staff members to correct his/her behavior. There are always a minimum of two library staff members on premises at all times; a full-time employee will be the one to intervene when necessary. The chain-of-command is, the Librarian/Director, the Assistant Librarian and finally a Library Associate. If the patron continues to abuse the policy after being asked to cease and desist, he/she will:

1. be instructed to leave the library premises for the remainder of the day
2. be restricted from library property for a period of time set by the Librarian/Director