

Library Behavior

Approved 5-21-2007; Revised 6-18-07; Revised 3-21-2011; Revised 11-21-16

The Perry County Public Library encourages people of all ages to visit the library. Those using the library and its resources have the right to expect a safe, comfortable environment that supports appropriate library services. The Perry County Public Library Board of Trustees desires to adopt the rules for public behavior in the library necessary:

- to protect the rights of individuals to use library materials and services
- to protect the rights of library employees and volunteers to conduct library business without interference
- to ensure the use of the buildings, materials, and services by the greatest number of individuals
- to preserve those materials and facilities from harm; and
- to ensure the safety of library patrons, employees, and volunteers.
- to provide an environment free from harassment or lewd conduct.

The Board authorizes the Director or Director's designee to revoke or restrict library privileges of any individual who behaves contrary to these rules. The rules for public behavior are listed below. Employees are authorized to bring to an individual's attention any act or omission which violates these rules and detracts from proper behavior in the library. Such an individual will be asked to change his behavior to conform to the rules. If such change is not evident or forthcoming after one warning, that individual will be asked to leave the library building and library property. If the individual does not leave on his own, police may be called for assistance.

Depending on the severity of the misbehavior, individuals who have been asked to leave the building and property may be barred from returning to the library. Individuals who have been barred may be asked to talk to the Director or Director's designee before being readmitted. Juveniles may be asked to bring a parent or guardian to such a conference.

Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

1. Noisy, loud, boisterous actions.
2. Eating or drinking in other than designated areas.
3. Using tobacco in any form while on library property.
4. Running in the library building.
5. Misuse of library property.
6. Uncooperative attitude; or actions that deliberately annoy others or prevent the legitimate use of the library and its resources.
7. Profanity or other abusive language toward other individuals or library staff.
8. Abusing library furniture, equipment, or materials.
9. Disorderly conduct or drunkenness.
10. Possession, sale, or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances on library property.
11. Sleeping in the library building.
12. Using personal listening equipment at a level that can be heard by other individuals.

13. Loitering.
14. Illegal activities, including vandalism.
15. Solicitation.
16. Pets in the library (excluding service animals).
17. Sexual misconduct.

Appropriate apparel, including shirts and footwear, must be worn in the library. A patron whose bodily hygiene interferes with the ability of other patrons to use the library facilities as intended may be asked to leave the building until the condition is corrected. Reasonable accommodation will be made for medical conditions or in respect to religious beliefs.

Personal devices, such as laptops, CD players, and calculators, may be used if the noise level is low and cannot be heard by other individuals, and may be plugged into library outlets.

Young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. Staff cannot know if children are leaving with a parent, a friend, or a stranger. Library staff will not deliberately seek out unattended children; however, unattended children frequently become disruptive when they become bored. Parents are responsible for ensuring the appropriate behavior of their children while in the library. (See Unattended Children Policy)

An Incident Report must be completed by any staff member involved with patrons who have been asked to leave the building because of the severity of their infraction of the above rules, or who place an unattended child in the care of proper authorities.