

Patron Conduct Policy

Pickaway County District Public Library

Pickaway County District Public Library encourages the use of its facilities for learning, enrichment, and the legitimate use of the library's resources and services. In order to preserve that opportunity, we ask patrons to be respectful of each other and behave in a manner that does not disrupt other patrons or staff.

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the rules for public behavior in the library that are necessary to:

- Conduct library business without interference;
- Protect the rights of individuals to use library property, materials, and services;
- Protect the rights and safety of library patrons, staff, and volunteers;
- Protect library materials and facilities from harm.

The rules of public behavior are prominently posted in the library. All library staff are authorized to bring to an individual's attention any act or omission that violates these rules.

Consequences of violating behavior standards:

A violation may result in a request for change in behavior, expulsion from the library, suspension of library privileges, and/or criminal prosecution or other legal actions, as appropriate. Failure to leave if asked may result in the police being called and a possible charge of criminal trespass per Section 2911.21 of the Ohio Revised Code. When necessary, the library will work with law enforcement authorities to prosecute actions for criminal behavior against the library, its patrons, and staff.

Behaviors that interfere with the rights of others include, but are not limited to:

1. Eating or drinking inside the library except in designated areas and at library-sponsored events. Spills must be immediately reported to staff.
 - a. Main Library – All food and drinks are allowed in the Gallery. Drinks with secure, no-spill lids are allowed in all areas except for the genealogy room.
 - b. Younkin Branch – No food is allowed. Drinks with secure, no-spill lids are allowed in all areas.
2. Smoking within 20 feet of entrance to the building or using tobacco products or substitutes, in any form, within the library building.
3. Using, selling, or being under the influence of drugs, including alcohol, on library property.
4. Leaving children who are under 10 years of age, or those who are in need of supervision, unattended. Responsibility for all children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone, not with the library personnel.
5. Sleeping (does not apply to children under six (6)) and/or lying on the floor.
6. Engaging in behavior that could disturb other patrons or staff including, but not limited to: loud talking, singing, boisterous activity, running, shoving, throwing objects, loud and/or prolonged periods of crying.

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7. Harassing others, either verbally or through actions. Harassment may include but is not limited to initiating unwanted conversations or other actions another individual reasonably perceives to be hostile, threatening, or offensive.
8. Using profane, obscene, or abusive language; racial and ethnic epithets; fighting, or the threat thereof.
9. Impeding access to the building, monopolizing/obstructing space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of others.
10. Improper dress including bare feet and/or no shirt.
11. Using the restrooms as bathing or laundry facilities or as gathering places.
12. Using rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards, wheeled shoes (such as Heelys), spiked shoes, cleats, or other sports equipment in the building or on library property.
13. Bringing a bicycle into the building, unless authorized.
14. Bringing animals other than service animals into the library unless authorized by library staff.
15. Selling, advertising, or soliciting for contributions or support, except as authorized. Petitioning, such as for voting or ballot issues, is permitted outside of the building on library property but petitioners cannot block the building's entrances and exits.
16. Entering non-public areas such as workrooms, offices, and storage areas without permission.
17. Abuse or improper use of furniture, equipment, or materials.
18. Damaging, destroying, vandalizing, or stealing property belonging to the library, other patrons, or staff.
19. Weapons of any kind or other items deemed dangerous by library staff, either concealed or in plain view, are not permitted in the library building or on library property, unless the owner of the weapon is a law enforcement officer.
20. Engaging in any act of sexual misconduct, including exposure, offensive touching, or sexual harassment of other patrons or staff.
21. Trespassing, violating an eviction, or entering library property when banned.
22. Any illegal act or conduct in violation of federal, state, or local law, ordinance, or regulation, including those performed on a computer.

The intent of this policy is to make the Pickaway County District Public Library a pleasant and enriching place for all library patrons and staff.