

Policy on Public Conduct for the Bayport Public Library

Bayport Public Library welcomes and encourages people of all ages to use library facilities, resources, and services. While everyone has an equal right to access library services and facilities, no person has the right to interfere with the ability of others to use and enjoy library resources, services, and facilities. To protect the rights and safety of library customers and staff and to protect property, we expect that individuals will obey this Policy, as well as state and federal law, or face criminal prosecution. Access to library services and/or facilities may be denied to individuals who do not follow library policies and rules.

For the safety and comfort of library visitors, volunteers, and staff and the protection of library property, the following actions are examples of conduct not allowed on library property:

Any activity in violation of federal or state law

Carrying firearms or dangerous weapons of any type, except by law enforcement officials

Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

Defacing or otherwise damaging library property

Smoking, chewing and other tobacco use

Eating and/or drinking, except in designated areas at selected locations

Lying down or sleeping on any floor, table, or seat in the library

Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the library

Making loud noise

Running, pushing, shoving, or throwing objects

Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other visitors, library staff or volunteers, including stalking, staring, touching, or using offensive language

Use of cell phones in the library proper is prohibited.

Entering the library barefooted, without a shirt, or without appropriate attire, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene so as to be disruptive to the library environment.

Playing any game not provided by the library.

Running, skating, skateboarding, and similar activities.

Smoking inside the library and near the outside of the library entrances.

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by library personnel. The library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the library.

Library staff or Security personnel will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the library's established standards of acceptable behavior may result in removal from the building and/or restriction of library privileges.

Individuals engaging in illegal behaviors including the following shall be subject to criminal prosecution:

1. Use of library facilities, materials, resources, and equipment for the following purposes:
 - a. To gain unauthorized access to resources or entities,
 - b. To invade the privacy of individuals,
 - c. To violate local, state, or federal laws or regulations, including those regarding obscenity, child pornography, or materials harmful to minors.
2. Use of library facilities, materials, resources, and equipment to cause intentional damage to library facilities or to library property including books, other library materials, and equipment is prohibited by law.
3. Keeping books and resources more than 60 days after a written notice is a petty misdemeanor. The names and addresses of patrons who have held Library property for over 90 days and for which the value exceeds \$50 will be referred to the County Financial Services Department for collection.

Access To and Use of Library Facilities and Library Grounds

1. Individuals other than library staff must remain in public areas of the library except with the permission of the library staff member in charge of the facility. Library staff should accompany all non-staff visitors when in staff-only areas of the facility. Permission of the library director is required for non-staff to be in a library facility which is closed to the public.
2. Young children and vulnerable adults must not be left unattended in the library and must have adequate supervision at all times. Authorities may be notified when they are left unattended, especially at closing time.
3. Soliciting, petitioning, selling, or campaigning is permitted only with the permission of the library director and only when done for the benefit of the library.
4. Animals (except those specifically trained to assist handicapped individuals or those participating in library programs) are prohibited from Bayport Public Library.

Dress and Behavior in Library Facilities or on Library Grounds

1. Parents and guardians are responsible for the dress and behavior of their children and wards and should guide and direct their children's and ward's use of library facilities, materials, resources, equipment, and services.
2. Appropriate dress is required of all individuals while in the library or on the library grounds.
3. Library furniture and equipment must be used in designated places and for designated purposes, and may not be moved, altered, or damaged. Library entrances, exits, and aisle ways must be kept unobstructed and accessible.

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