

LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY LIBRARY USE POLICY

The Lake County Library has a responsibility to make the library a safe, welcoming space for every patron. It is the mission of the Lake County Library to collect and make available printed and other materials for the informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the community.

Use of the library is intended to be for browsing of these materials, quiet conversation, and reading, studying, writing and listening to written or electronically transmitted materials. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a positive library experience for everyone.

The public is expected to behave in a manner that is respectful of other library patrons and of staff, material, equipment, and facilities. Adults are responsible for the conduct of children in their charge and are responsible to monitor their behavior. Any behavior that is disruptive to the intended use of the library is prohibited.

As used in this policy, the term "nuisance" refers to conduct that is unreasonable under the circumstances and substantially interferes with other library users and / or library staff.

Dangerous, destructive or illegal behavior, including but not limited to the following, will not be tolerated:

- Physical abuse or assault.
- Making threatening or violent statements.
- Engaging in or soliciting any sexual act.
- Public intoxication, or possession or use of illegal substances.
- Damaging, destroying, or theft of library property.

Any patron displaying any of these behaviors or any other illegal behavior will be instructed to leave the library immediately. Local law enforcement will be called and appropriate legal action will follow.

It is the goal of the library to provide a welcoming environment.

Examples of disruptive behaviors that are prohibited include but are not limited to:

- Sexual, physical or any other harassment.
- Creating unreasonable noise or engaging in boisterous activity such as running, jumping, pushing or shoving.
- Using electronic devices without headphones or using headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using any communication devices in a manner that disturbs others.
- Entering the library with items inappropriate to library use and of a nature that is a nuisance to others, such as bicycles, weapons, or large containers or packages that collectively exceed 16" x 18" x 24" .
- Leaving personal items unattended on library premises. Library staff may remove and dispose of personal belongings left unattended.
- Obstructing aisles, walkways, or monopolizing library space, tables, or seating.

It is the role of the library to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment. Examples of inappropriate behaviors that are prohibited include but are not limited to:

- Leaving children under the age of 8 unattended by a parent or responsible adult.
- Smoking of any kind, or other tobacco use inside the library or 20 feet from entrances or operable windows.
- Consuming food or beverages in a manner that creates an unclean environment, that disrupts other library patrons, or is harmful to library materials.
- Exuding offensive, pervasive odors, including fragrances caused by perfume or other products, which are a nuisance to staff or patrons.
- Bringing animals inside the library that are not service animals authorized by law.
- Using restrooms for activities beyond their intended use, such as bathing, shaving, or washing personal belongings.
- Using furniture in a manner that is beyond its intended use, such as standing on, climbing, or hanging from tables, chairs, or shelving.
- Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request or failing to leave the Library during emergencies and at closing time.

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff and/or local law enforcement will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

Patrons who are behaving inappropriately or disruptively will be warned that the behavior must stop. If the behavior is not immediately corrected, the patron will be told to leave the premises.

Failure to comply with the library's established policies could result in removal from the premises. Repeated violations could result in exclusion from the library, arrest or prosecution. Violations could also result in the restriction and/or termination of Library privileges, including use of library computers and other equipment.