



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Unacceptable Behavior Policy

Unacceptable behavior includes behavior within the Library or on Library premises that interferes with the use of the Library by other patrons, creates a risk of harm or injury to other patrons or Library personnel, interferes with the work of Library personnel, or creates a risk of damage to Library property.

The Library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in unacceptable behavior to leave the premises, the right to restrict privileges for a specified period of time, and the right to ban the individual from the library for a specified period of time or permanently.

Library personnel will inform patrons who are in violation of the policy with one verbal warning, unless the behavior poses an imminent risk to safety or property, in which case, patrons may be expelled from the Library or Library premises without prior warning. Unlawful activities will be immediately reported to the police.

Unacceptable behavior within Library buildings and on Library premises includes, but is not limited to:

- Use or display of profanity, violence, abusive or threatening language or gestures
- Smoking, vaping, use of e-cigarettes or any Electronic Nicotine Delivery System, or use of other nicotine or tobacco products; use of all such products is prohibited within 15' of Library entrances.
- Unreasonable noise levels including shouting, loud talking, fighting, or disruptive conversation
- Playing music or other media at levels that are disruptive to patrons or Library personnel
- Damaging, defacing, or theft of any Library property or materials, or of the personal property of other patrons
- Food and drink except as permitted in designated areas
- Failure to evacuate in an emergency or during a drill
- Non-emergency activation of alarms
- Running, throwing objects, horseplay, and other boisterous behavior
- Leaving personal items unattended; such items may be discarded at the discretion of Library personnel to preserve a safe environment
- Solicitation, gambling, panhandling, or campaigning
- Loitering
- Using restrooms for bathing, or laundering clothes
- Use of, possession of, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs

- Skating, skateboarding, bicycling, using a hover board, or any other recreational vehicle
- Bringing animals into the Library except those that are service animals, or those that are authorized as part of a Library-sponsored program. Service animals may not be left unattended and must remain in the care of their handlers at all times.
- Animals outside the Library may not be tied or otherwise tethered to any area on Library property, and may not be left unattended on Library property at any time; all animals outside the Library must be accompanied by a rightful owner at all times.
- Failure to wear appropriate attire including shirt and shoes
- Sexual harassment or any other type of harassment, including following other patrons, staring unnecessarily, or intimidation
- Viewing sexually explicit images on Library or personal computers or electronic devices
- Sexual misconduct, public lewdness, excessive displays of affection, or publicly inappropriate physical contact
- Being in an unauthorized or personnel-only area
- Leaving children unsupervised
- Personal hygiene, to include bodily odor or perfumes, that constitutes a disturbance to other patrons or that interferes with the work of Library personnel
- Possession of weapons of any kind, except by law enforcement officers or as allowed by IC 35-47-11.1