

CONDUCT POLICY

No conduct which interferes with, or discourages the public's use of the library, will be permitted. To assist in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to the public's use of the library and its collections, the Library Board has adopted this Conduct Policy and the consequences of violation of said policy.

Section 51-212 of the Nebraska Statutes specifically gives public libraries the power to regulate the use of the library and to exclude from the library persons who violate or refuse to comply with the library's rules and regulations. Library staff is authorized to report violators of these Rules, the ordinances of the City of Columbus (City Code, 32.071 & 32.072) or the laws of the State of Nebraska (Nebraska Revised Statutes, 51-212) to the Columbus Police Department.

IMPROPER CONDUCT

Improper conduct may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Talking in a voice louder than a normal conversational level;
- Inappropriate use of cell phones;
- Failure to wear attire which conforms to the standard of the community for public places, including shoes and shirts.
- Taking photographs or videos of employees or the public without permission.
- Unauthorized use of age-specific areas & services.
- Behaving in a manner which is either physically or verbally abusive to library staff or library patrons;
- Running or rushing;
- Repeatedly going in and out of the library, or excessive milling about;
- Public displays of affection;
- Swearing / cursing;
- Gathering in a way that impedes indoor and outdoor traffic areas;
- Sleeping, drunkenness, or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs in the library building or on the library premises;
- Use of tobacco, controlled substances, or electronic smoking devices on library premises, indoors or outdoors;
- Eating and drinking where designated prohibited;
- Removal or attempted removal of library materials or property without authorization or checkout;
- Marking, breaking or otherwise damaging any portion of the library building, paved areas, sidewalks, or other structures constituting library property, including landscaping and grass;
- Defacing, tearing, cutting or writing upon any book or other library item; and
- Any activity deemed inappropriate by library staff.

Organizations and groups are responsible for the conduct of persons they bring into the library.

CONSEQUENCES OF IMPROPER CONDUCT

Any individual who behaves in an improper manner may be asked by the staff to leave the library premises without a warning. If the individual is a child, the parent or caregiver will also be asked to leave. The Columbus Police Department will be contacted if the person does not obey such request to leave the premises.

If any person continues improper conduct after being readmitted to the library building after a previous violation, such person may be excluded from the library building for periods of one or more days, weeks, or months, up to permanently, as may be deemed appropriate by the Library Director, and involved staff, after a fair and reasonable consideration of the pertinent facts and circumstances.

Adopted by the Library Board on 5/11/1995, revised 3/12/2009, 3/10/2011, 9/10/2015, 8/8/2019