

## NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING AND PROPERTY CONDUCT AND USE POLICY

The Newton County Public Library Board of Trustees, administration and staff are committed to providing library users with a setting that is conducive to library activities. It is intended that these will be activities usually associated with public library use, and that support Newton County Public Library's mission to "provide free and accessible information pathways to strengthen our communities by enriching the lives of their residents." (2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN, A VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITIES, 2017, 2018, 2020)

The Library is a service that belongs to everyone. The Newton County Public Library Board of Trustees has established these basic rules of courtesy and safety so that our facilities are pleasant, inviting places for everyone to visit.

As a visitor to any location of the Newton County Public Library, patrons may expect:

- Excellent service
- Respect for privacy
- A welcoming environment

Therefore, any person whose behavior does not support such a setting may be asked to leave Library property, resulting in the loss of access to library services. Decisions concerning acceptable behavior of Library users will be made by the Library Director or the Director's designee.

The following list, that is by no means complete, includes examples of behaviors for which any individual may be asked to leave the Library or the Library properties, or have Library services revoked.

1. Damage, defacement, or destruction of Library materials, equipment, facilities or properties
2. Any attempt to steal Library property, or that of another Library patron or employee; or to maliciously destroy the property of the Library, a Library patron or employee
3. Creation of any public disturbance including the use of obscene language; deviant, threatening or abusive behavior, whether in general or directed at any specific person or persons; offensive smells or sounds that constitute a nuisance
4. Any prolonged use of the facilities without demonstrated engagement in acceptable Library activities
5. Eating or drinking in non-designated areas of the Library

6. Inappropriate activities and behaviors include, but are not limited to:
  - Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs; public intoxication or illegal drug use;
  - Smoking or the use of other tobacco products;
  - Illegal possession of weapons
  - Intentional display of a firearm at a public meeting, as per IC 35-47-11.1-4(6)
  - Possession of objects inappropriate for Library use, such as shopping carts, bags of groceries, clothing, appliances, or luggage;
  - Gambling, selling, polling, soliciting, panhandling, loitering or sleeping
7. Library property is not to be used for unauthorized recreational activities such as skateboarding, rollerblading, BMX biking, or racing
8. Patrons are required to wear appropriate attire and footwear. Exposed or wet swimwear is not permissible indoors
9. Radios, Mp3 players, iPods, cassette or CD players may be used with headphones so that others are not able to hear sound
10. Only service animals or animals involved in Library programs are allowed in the Library. No unattended animals or pets are permitted on Library property.
11. Patrons acting in violation of standing or emergency mandates from local, state or federal government
12. Harassment of other Library patrons or Library staff

Members of the Library staff will enforce this policy. When deemed appropriate by staff member(s) the appropriate authorities will be contacted. Repeat violators and/or those who refuse to leave will be subject to arrest and prosecution.

This policy will be posted in a public area of each Library building.

Approved 12/18/06

Reviewed 4/2009

Reviewed 12/2014

Revised 12/2016

Revised 12/2018

Revised 12/2020

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