

Patron Conduct

The policy of the Hiawatha Public Library is to provide a safe, comfortable environment conducive to the use of the Library materials and facilities. The Library is intended for the use of all members of the public. Patrons are expected to observe the rights of other patrons and staff members and to use the Library for its intended purpose. Prohibited conduct will not be allowed in the Library.

Definition

Prohibited conduct is that which:

- Interferes with the rights of individuals to use Library materials and services,
- Interferes with the ability of the Library staff to conduct Library business,
- Or threatens the secure and comfortable environment of the Library or those using the Library

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

1. Willfully annoying, harassing, or threatening another person. (Harassment is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce psychological or physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule. Harassment is characterized by request for sexual conduct, unwelcome physical advances, or conduct (verbal or physical) of a nature that is intimidating, demeaning, hostile, offensive, or potentially dangerous to self or others).
2. Fighting, challenging someone to a fight, physical abuse or assault.
3. Engaging in or soliciting a sexual act. Indecent exposure.
4. Any behavior that endangers or could endanger the safety or health of others.
5. Behaving in a disorderly, loud, or boisterous manner.
6. Theft, vandalism, or the deliberate destruction of Library materials, property, or the personal property of other patrons or staff members.
7. Maliciously accessing, altering, deleting, damaging, or destroying any computers, peripherals, computer system, network, computer program or data.
8. Impeding access to the building or an area of the building, or blocking book stack aisles for extended periods.
9. Entering the non-public or locked areas, unless accompanied by a staff member or through prior authorization from a staff member.
10. Leaving personal items in the building. The Library assumes no responsibility for any belonging left unattended.
11. Use of cell phones or electronic devices at a volume that is disruptive to others.
12. Picture taking or video recording of individuals unless authorized by the individuals involved or their parent if minors are present.
13. Campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey taking, soliciting, or selling unless authorized by the Library Director or designee.
14. Bringing animals into the Library, except those trained to assist individuals with disabilities.
15. Smoking, chewing tobacco, using snuff, or vaping.
16. Use of alcohol or drugs.

17. Offensive body odor that unreasonably interferes with patron or staff ability to use the library and its services.
18. Using restroom facilities for bathing.
19. Violation of any municipal, state, or federal law or code.

Consequences

Enforcement of these rules for persons age nine or older may take the form of any of the following action, depending upon the severity of the misconduct that will be determined by the staff on duty at the time. Misconduct by persons under the age of nine is discussed by the remedies provided in the "Library Policy of Unattended Children and Disruptive Behavior."

- In most cases, patrons who are behaving inappropriately in the Library will be given one warning and asked to correct their behavior. Patrons who do not modify their behavior after one warning will be asked to leave the Library for the rest of the day.
- If the patron continues to behave in an inappropriate manner staff may ask the patron to leave and Library privileges are withdrawn for a week.
- The Director or designee will warn patrons who continue to engage in misconduct after two offenses that they shall be barred from the Library for one month.
- In the case of any misconduct that - in the judgment of a staff member - is severe, the offender will be ordered to leave the building immediately, additionally; a staff member may call the police.
- An individual will be barred from the Library for one year for any severe violation of this policy.
- Barred patrons who wish to appeal their suspensions may ask for reconsideration by meeting with the Library Director or designee.

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