

Peoria Public Library Standards of Behavior Policy

(Adopted by Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees, February 15, 2011)

(Revised by Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees, February 17, 2015)

(Revised by Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees, May 16, 2017)

(Revised by Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees, July 21, 2020)

Purpose:

The Peoria Public Library is a tax-supported public institution whose purpose depends upon an environment where the public can avail itself of library resources in a calm, quiet, and controlled setting assuring patrons of their legally protected right to receive information. Library patrons therefore properly expect each of our facilities to be clean, comfortable, and safe places for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings. To this end, the Library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds consistent with its strong commitment to intellectual freedom and to freedom of access to information. For further information, please refer to the American Library Association Code of Ethics

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/proethics/codeofethics/codeethics.cfm>

and the Library Bill of Rights

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>.

In General:

As used in this policy, (1) "Library facility" or "facility" may be used interchangeably and shall mean a building, a room, an interior or exterior area (e.g., a garden or patio), equipment, fixture, or other part of the buildings, equipment, or grounds of the Peoria Public Library and (2) "Library material," "Library resource," "material," or "resource" may be used interchangeably and shall mean any book, plate, picture, photograph, engraving, painting, sculpture, statue, artifact, drawing, map, newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, manuscript, document, letter, microfilm, sound recording, audiovisual material, magnetic or other type, electronic data processing record or other documentary, written or printed material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, or any part thereof, belonging to, or on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a Library facility.

Standards:

The Peoria Public Library reserves the right to search any or all backpacks, bags, briefcases, packages, or containers being brought into Library facilities.

Behavior becomes unacceptable when it interferes with the rights of others, results in injury to oneself or others, or reasonably threatens to damage or actually damages any Library facility, material, or resource other than through customary or commonly accepted use resulting in ordinary wear and tear.

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff
- Acting in a manner resulting in a risk of potential harm to staff or other patrons
- Speaking in a loud or disruptive manner, running, congregating in unruly groups, or creating a public disturbance
- Loitering, including loitering in restrooms
- Using Library facilities for such activities as sleeping, bathing, or washing clothes or any purpose other than those normally associated with a library
- Panhandling or soliciting
- Conducting surveys not authorized by the Library
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children
- Using cellular phones or audio equipment audible to others
- Being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other substances
- Bringing animals (except service animals) into the Library, except as authorized by the Executive Director. If a service animal behaves in a way that is disruptive to Library staff or patrons, both the animal and its owner must leave the Library.
- Bringing scooters, bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, or similar wheeled devices into the Library or using such devices on the premises of a Library facility
- Failing or refusing to comply with a reasonable staff directive or request
- Smoking, chewing, or using rolling tobacco or any other form of tobacco within the Library or on Library-owned property (Smoke Free Illinois Act, 410 ILCS 82/1 et seq.) (See also Peoria Public Library Smoke, Tobacco, and Cannabis Free Property Policy)

- Vaping or using e-cigarettes within the Library or on Library-owned property
- Using cannabis products in any motor vehicle or possessing cannabis products within the Library or on Library-owned property. (410 ILCS 705/10-35)
- Lying down or putting feet up on any couch, table, or seat in any Library facility, or any use of facilities which is likely to cause personal injury or injury to others
- Entering the Library without shirt or shoes, with personal hygiene that is offensive to others, or violating federal, state or local law relating to public indecency or protection of public health
- Spitting or throwing anything over the skylight or stairwell railings
- Consuming food in public areas of the Library other than meeting rooms with permission of Peoria Public Library Programming Department (see also Peoria Public Library Meeting Room Policy)
- Bringing in belongings larger in size than may be comfortably stored underneath one chair at the Library facility into which the belongings are brought
- Sitting at a public computer in a group larger than two people
- Carrying firearms and dangerous weapons of any type, including knife blades longer than three inches, explosive devices, chemicals, and volatile substances or fluids, onto the premises of a Library facility, except for authorized law enforcement officials (Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66/65(18))
- Using another person's name or library card or giving false information in order to use Library resources, such as gaining access to computers, checking out materials, or participating in programs
- Theft, mutilation, or vandalism of any Library material or resource (Protection of Library Materials, 720 ILCS 5/16B)

Progressive discipline will be used relative to violations of this policy. Consequences of misconduct may include one or more of the following: a verbal warning, eviction from the Library, loss of Library privileges, and arrest.

Federal and state laws and Peoria ordinances pertaining to the use and protection of public facilities, specifically public libraries, and to persons working in, occupying, or using such public facilities will be fully enforced.

The Standards of Behavior Policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the Board of Trustees of Peoria Public Library.

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