


Library Patron Code of Conduct

adopted 01.2003 er; revision approved 09.2011 chb; revision approved 03.18.2014 pfp; revision approved 3.21.2023 dmw

The Decatur Public Library has established certain standards of acceptable behavior on library property in order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use and enjoyment of the resources and services of the library; promotes the safety of the general public and library staff; and protects the building, furniture, equipment, and materials of the library. The statement “Respect Others, Respect the Building, Respect Staff” will be used to convey this message. Our goal is to offer a pleasant environment for community members to gather, conduct research, select library materials, use technology, and attend library functions. Below are general guidelines for staff to reference when maintaining a safe and respectful atmosphere in and around the Decatur Public Library.

Disruptive Behavior: This type of behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Engaging in or promoting any illegal or illicit act on library grounds
- Engaging in any behavior that hinders another’s use of the library
- Entering the library under the influence of alcohol or drugs as well as bringing alcoholic beverages into the library
- Using alcohol or illegal substances on library grounds
- Using tobacco products, vaping, matches, or lighters within the library or within 20 feet of the library’s entrance
- Consuming food in the library or leaving food waste outside waste receptacles
- Consuming drinks without lids in library especially near computer stations or leaving drink waste outside waste receptacles
- Making unreasonably loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise through speech, use of a phone, use of an instrument, use of an electronic device, or use of any library furniture or materials
- Sleeping or spreading out of a person or their belongings on any furniture or flooring inside or outside the library
- Entering the library without proper clothing attire (shirts, pants, dresses/skirts, footwear)
- Entering the library with hygiene conditions or unsanitary belongings that interfere with the use of the library by other patrons or staff
 - Selling and/or soliciting for services, money or items in the library or on library grounds
- Distributing handbills in the library or on library grounds
- Misusing of public restrooms through vandalism, removing or changing clothing outside of a closed stall, bathing, shaving, washing clothes, sexual activity, or deliberately creating an unsanitary condition
- Moving, damaging, or putting one’s feet on library furniture
- Engaging in disruptive or harassing conduct including abusive, intimidating, insulting, annoying, following or staring as well as using threatening language, actions or gestures
- Refusing to cooperate with library staff
- Failing to supervise children in your care (see also the Unattended Children Policy)
- Bringing pets into the library. Service or companion animals are welcome
- Bicycling, roller skating or skateboarding on library premises

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- Removing library materials from the building before checking them out
 - Blocking library entrances
 - Misusing or defacing library materials, furnishings, equipment, or facilities
 - Entering non-public areas of the building without library staff permission

PLEASE NOTE

The violation of any one of these rules may subject the individual involved to a police report and/or exclusion from the library premises.