

Patron Behavior Policy

Policy Statement

It is the role of the Thornton Public Library to enrich the community and all other eligible patrons by providing dynamic resources, exceptional service, and reliable information in a comfortable, and welcoming space. The purpose of this Patron Behavior Policy is to ensure that the library has a pleasant and productive environment for its users to fulfill those needs. All patrons shall have fair and equitable opportunity to the quiet use and enjoyment of the Library's services, materials and facilities without being subjected to unreasonable interference or disturbance by others. Patrons using the Library are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to the Library's purpose.

Regulations

Unacceptable behavior on library property or within the library includes:

- Disruptive behavior such as rowdiness, running, noise, vandalism, obscene or vulgar language or such behavior not in accordance with the normal use of the library. Cellular phone or pager use that impinges the rights of others or disturbs other Library patrons will be considered disruptive behavior.
- Harassment of any kind or for any reason of a Library patron or employee (whether verbal, physical or visual) is prohibited. Harassment encompasses a broad range of physical or verbal behavior which may include, but is not limited to:
 - Physical or Mental Abuse
 - Racial Insults
 - Derogatory Ethnic Jokes
 - Religious Slurs
 - Sexually suggestive queries or remarks
 - Taunting
- Entering unauthorized areas, remaining in the Library building after closing or when requested to leave during emergency situations.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Loitering and/or impeding access to the Library or any part of the Library property.
- Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or offense under Federal, State or municipal law, rule regulation and/or ordinance
- Mutilation of Library materials by marking, underlining, removal of pages, removing electronic detection devices or in any way defacing Library property.
- Removal of Library materials without authorization.

- Tampering with or intentionally damaging Library computer hardware, software, printer, operating systems or other associated equipment.
- Smoking, including the carrying or holding of a lighted pipe, cigar, or cigarette or any other lighted smoking equipment and also including the use of an electronic pipe, cigar, cigarette or vape in the Library or within 15 feet of a Library entrance, or the use of smokeless tobacco or illegal drugs in the Library.
- Concealing Library materials for the exclusive use of an individual or group.
- Refusal to abide by Library regulations regarding the return of materials and payment of fines.
- Consumption of food or alcohol.
- Entering the Library with uncovered beverages. (Examples of covered beverages are coffee cups with a lid, water or soft drink bottles with a screw on top, soft drink cans and soft drink containers with a lid and straw).
- Weapons such as explosives, firearms except by on-duty law enforcement officers, knives, look-alike weapons, or any other objects that can reasonably be considered as weapons, are not permitted on Library property or at any related events.
- Users are not permitted to leave personal belongings when they leave the building. The Library is not responsible for any loss of user's personal belongings, through theft or otherwise. Bulky items that take up excessive space are not permitted in the Library facilities or on Library grounds.
- Animals, other than specifically trained animals used as aids by persons with disabilities, are not permitted in the Library.
- Patrons must wear footwear and proper clothing providing appropriate body coverage.
- Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive as to constitute a nuisance to others may be required to leave the building.
- Solicitation, fundraising, campaigning, lobbying, proselytizing, selling and loitering on Library property is prohibited.
- Use of photographic equipment of any kind on the Library premises except upon order or approval of the Library Administrator.
- Use of roller skates, roller blades, skate boards or jump ropes on Library property including the Library building, walkways, entryways, parking or landscaped areas.
- Leaving children under the age of ten (10) unattended by a parent, guardian, or caregiver
- Ringing of and talking on cell phones inside the building (silent mode and texting are permitted) or using other personal electronic equipment at a volume which is disturbing to other patrons. Volumes should be set to silent or vibrate and headphones should be used
- Using the restrooms for bathing, shampooing, or laundry.
- Petitioning, soliciting, or selling merchandise or services including the distribution of handbills or flyers without the written permission of the Library Director

- Public indecency, including sexual activity.

Any patron who violates these or other posted rules and regulations may be temporarily barred from using the Library by the Library Director or may be permanently barred from the use of the Library by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library will actively pursue disciplinary action, prosecution or other legal actions when necessary.

In addition, all patrons must expeditiously leave the Library premises at closing time. Transportation is the sole responsibility of the patron or parent, guardian or other authorized person. Adults or minors who remain at the Library after closing may be referred to the police in order to ensure their safety.

Any Library staff member may enforce this Policy by pointing out violations to patrons and requesting compliance with this Policy. Staff members shall report serious or recurring violations to the Librarian Director. The Librarian Director may request that a patron who refuses to comply with the Policy leave the Library for the remainder of the day or until his or her behavior is brought into compliance with the Policy.

Video recordings made from security cameras showing a violation by a patron of the Library's Patron Behavior Policy may be used to support suspension or termination of a patron's Library privileges and/or immediate ejection from the Library.

The Library Director is authorized to exclude from the use of the Library any person who engages in behavior violating this Patron Behavior Policy. The patron may appeal the decision of the Board of Library Trustees in writing within one month of the exclusion date. The Library Director or, if appealed, the Board of Trustees will determine the time period for which a patron is excluded from the Library.

The Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.