



Henderson County Public Library Library Behavior Policy

Purpose:

The Henderson County Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all patrons, staff, and visitors. To maintain a space conducive to reading, learning, and community activities, all individuals using the library must adhere to the following behavior policy.

General Guidelines:

1. **Respectful Conduct:** Patrons must treat others with respect and courtesy. Harassment, disruptive behavior, or threatening actions, whether verbal or physical, are not permitted.
2. **Noise Levels:** The library is a shared space. Patrons should speak quietly, set mobile devices to silent, and use headphones when listening to audio. Activities that disturb others are prohibited.
3. **Appropriate Use of Library Spaces:**
 - Patrons must use library facilities, equipment, and furniture properly and for their intended purposes.
 - Sleeping, bathing, or any inappropriate use of library spaces is not allowed.
4. **Personal Belongings:** Patrons must keep their personal items with them at all times. The library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
5. **Food and Drink:** Food and beverages are allowed in designated areas only. Patrons are expected to clean up after themselves to maintain a clean and inviting environment.
6. **Smoking, Drugs, and Alcohol:** The use of tobacco products, vaping, alcohol, and illegal substances is prohibited on library property.
7. **Appropriate Attire:** Patrons must wear shirts and shoes while in the library.
8. **Animals:** Only service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are permitted in the library.
9. **Solicitation and Distribution of Materials:** Unauthorized solicitation or distribution of materials is not allowed on library property.

Prohibited Behaviors:

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Engaging in disruptive or inappropriate conduct that interferes with the use and enjoyment of the library by others.
- Damaging or stealing library materials, equipment, or property.
- Viewing or displaying offensive or inappropriate content on library computers.
- Sleeping, loitering, or blocking access to library entrances, exits, or aisles.

Enforcement and Consequences:

Library staff are authorized to enforce this policy. Patrons who do not comply may receive a warning or be asked to leave the premises. Serious or repeated violations may result in suspension of library privileges, banning from the library, or law enforcement involvement as necessary.

Incident Reporting:

Library staff are required to complete an incident report any time they address a behavior issue. These reports help maintain accurate records and support consistent enforcement of this policy.

Adopted by the HCPL Board of Trustees on July 10, 2024.
Reviewed and amended on July 13, 2017.
Reviewed and amended on November 14, 2024.