

## BEHAVIOR POLICY

**PURPOSE:** To define and describe acceptable behavior in the library.

**GUIDELINES:** The library has the right to maintain its facility in a clean, pleasant and safe manner. Every individual has the right to use the library undisturbed and every library employee has the right to work without undue interference. All library users and employees should be free of any threat of harm, invasion of property, or gross indignity. To guarantee these rights for all persons, the following rules of conduct apply to behavior on ~~the premises of~~ all library property. Since it is impractical to address every behavioral situation that may occur in the library, Staff has the responsibility to make decisions that are in the best interest of the library.

A person may enter the library during business hours for the purpose of transacting library business. Library users are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and with respect for others when using library facilities and resources.

Young children or unattended individuals for whose safety the staff has a reasonable basis to be concerned, must ~~at all times~~, be accompanied and supervised by an adult. ~~Columbia Heights Public Library's~~ Staff is not responsible for the care, safety, or supervision of vulnerable individuals. See also the library policy on unattended children.

1. No person shall cause a nuisance within the library or on its grounds. Causing a nuisance as defined in Minnesota Statute 561.01 ~~as is~~ anything that is:
  - a. Harmful to the health of a person, or
  - b. Offensive to the senses of a person, or
  - c. An obstruction to the free and unrestricted use and enjoyment of the library property by other persons.
2. Examples of unacceptable behaviors that will not be permitted, include but are not limited to:
  - a. Carrying dangerous weapons
  - ~~a-b.~~ Using audio devices including cell phones that ~~cause a disturbance for disturb~~ others,
  - c. Use of ~~Tobacco~~tobacco or cannabis (smoking, vaping, chewing)
  - d. Use of ~~alcohol~~alcohol
  - ~~b-e.~~ Use of recreational drugs or controlled substances~~use~~
  - ~~e-f.~~ Running, roller-skating, skateboarding, rollerblading or similar inappropriate activities,
  - g. Horseplay or fighting.
  - h. Offensive body odor, including excessive scent, which unreasonably interferes with another patron's or staff member's ability to tuse the library and its services
  - i. Sleeping
  - ~~e-j.~~ Violating federal, state or local laws
  - ~~e-k.~~ Willfully annoying, harassing, or threatening another person
    - i. Conveying threats or any kind of physical force or harm
    - ii. Using obscene, abusive or racially~~-~~charged language
    - iii. Engaging in sexual conduct
    - iv. Stalking, staring, or invading personal space

- v. Solicitation of funds, panhandling, gambling, selling, advertising, or petitioning for contributions or support.
  - vi. Failure to wear appropriate clothing, including shirt and shoes.
3. No person shall intentionally steal, vandalize, or damage the real and personal property of other library users, the library or library grounds.
4. Library furniture or equipment may not be moved without the permission of the library staff. Furniture and equipment may be used only for their intended purpose. All persons shall, after a reasonable length of time and/or when requested by the library staff, yield machines, conference ~~or meeting~~ rooms, ~~meeting rooms~~, or library materials to others.
5. Persons using library ~~Internet-computer~~ workstations and wireless access points must follow the Library's Internet Use Policy. If individuals adhere to the Internet Use Policy, they may connect headsets and USB flash drives to library computers. No other devices may be attached to either the library's or the city's network.
6. ~~Covered beverages are allowed in the Library but f~~Food is not allowed. ~~in the library. Covered beverages are allowed in the Library.~~ Food may be consumed ~~outsideat the outdoor picnic tables~~, in the lobby or in the community meeting room.
7. All animals are prohibited from entering library facilities, with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, service animal trainees and animals featured in programs sponsored by Columbia Heights Public Library.

The Library reserves the right to search bags, briefcases, etc., upon probable cause in instances when staff has objective facts and a person of ordinary care and prudence has reason for honest and strong suspicion that a crime has been committed.

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Anyone violating these rules is first warned by a library staff member at the time of the offense. If the conduct continues, the offender will be ordered to leave the premises.

Patrons who engage in threatening, abusive, or willfully malicious behavior or other serious infractions of the rules will be expelled from the building and grounds without warning. Staff members may call for law enforcement assistance as the situation merits.

#### **FAILURE TO COMPLY:**

1. Failure to observe these rules may lead to revocation of Library privileges, including the right to visit the building and grounds.
2. Persons ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to legal actions, which could include arrest and prosecution for trespassing.
3. Anyone wishing to appeal their loss of library privileges may submit an appeal in writing to the Library Director.

**Revised: 5/8/2007; 8/8/2007; 5/2/2018; 2/5/2020; ~~xx/xx/2025~~**