

Columbus Public Library

Library User Policy

The Columbus Public Library is committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment for learning, recreation, and community engagement. To ensure the comfort and safety of all patrons, the following guidelines apply:

Behavior Guidelines

The library has a responsibility to maintain a safe and secure environment for staff and patrons. Any violation of these guidelines may result in being asked to leave the premises and/or law enforcement being contacted.

Prohibited behaviors include:

- Aggressive or abusive behavior or language toward staff or other patrons
 - Direct or indirect threats
 - Profanity or hate speech directed at an individual
 - Fighting
 - Excessive or disruptive noise
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Health & Safety Guidelines

To maintain a healthy and comfortable environment for everyone, patrons must:

- Be fully clothed and wear shoes at all times
- Refrain from using or consuming tobacco products, vape products, alcohol, or other controlled substances on library grounds
- Not enter the library while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Not carry concealed or openly carried firearms or other weapons
- Not damage, deface, or misuse public property
- Keep food and beverages in closed containers, and avoid eating or drinking near public computers
- Children must be accompanied by an adult on the elevator

Unsupervised Children in the Library

Columbus Public Library welcomes children of all ages. However, parents and guardians are responsible for supervising their children and ensuring they follow this policy.

- Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caretaker at all times. Guardians of unaccompanied minors will be contacted to pick up the child. If a guardian cannot be reached, the Columbus Police Department will be contacted.
- Siblings or caretakers must be at least 12 years old to be considered adequate supervisors
- If a child is left unattended at closing time, staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian. If a child has not been picked up within 5 minutes after closing, the Columbus Police Department will be contacted

Animals in the Library

No pets or animals are allowed in the library unless they are:

- Service animals, as defined by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Animals that are part of a Library-sponsored program