
Library Behavior Policy

This document covers Berks County Public Libraries Uniform Requirement and Responsibilities policy requirements of Public Service Policies for: Unattended/Abandoned Children, Library Behavior Policies, Use of Personal Equipment and Devices; Fiscal Authority and Responsibility: Solicitation and Sales Policy

1. The objective of this policy is to establish, in writing, clear and concise rules of acceptable behavior in the library in order to protect the library's users, volunteers and staff and also the library's building, furnishings, materials and equipment.
2. This Library Behavior Policy applies to all patrons and is non-discriminatory with regard to age, race, creed, economic or social class, gender, physical ability, religion, or sexual orientation.
3. This Library Behavior Policy does not in any way deny or limit a patron's right to read, view or receive any written, audio, visual or technical information.
4. Library users are expected to be considerate and courteous to others using the library.
5. Parents and guardians are responsible for the behavior and well-being of all minors. Parents will be notified in the event of a problem.
6. Food and drinks in a covered container are allowed in the library at the discretion of the staff.
7. This Library Behavior Policy prohibits the following activities within the library or on library grounds:
 - a. Abandoning children, or leaving children below the age of 8 (eight) unattended.
 - b. Children under the age of 8 (eight) must be accompanied by someone over the age of 14 (fourteen).
 - c. Abuse, vandalism or defacing of library facilities, equipment or materials
 - d. Behavior or language that is offensive to others
 - e. Physical, sexual or verbal harassment or discriminatory behavior, in any form, to other library users or library staff
 - f. Interfering with another's use of the library
 - g. Clothing or accessories with offensive language, logos, or pictures
 - h. Intoxication
 - i. Indecent behavior
 - j. Obscene language or activity
 - k. Illegal activities
 - l. Excessive noise such as loud talking or loud playing of audio equipment
 - m. Cell phone use except in the library foyer
 - n. Misuse of restrooms
 - o. Possession or consumption of alcohol except at authorized library functions
 - p. Possession or consumption of illegal drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances
 - q. Consumption of tobacco products or vaping
 - r. Possession of unlawful weapons

- s. Sleeping
 - t. Loitering
 - u. Littering
 - v. Soliciting
 - w. Exhibiting poor personal hygiene, including offensive and pervasive odors which are offensive to others
 - x. Animals other than service dogs unless permitted by Library Director or part of a program
 - y. Skateboarding, rollerblading, bike riding, or scooter riding on library property, except for the purpose of transportation to or from the library.
 - z. Using library computers in a manner prohibited by the library's Internet Access Policy.
8. Library users disobeying rules will be asked once to modify their behavior. Upon failure to do so, they will be asked to leave the library facility. Police will be called if there is not compliance or if staff feels in any way unable to handle the situation or feels threatened. When criminal actions are committed, the library will prosecute to the full extent of the law.

Approved: May 12, 2016

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