

Stillwater

Public Library

Policy Title: Public Conduct in the Library Policy
Date adopted: 12/1994
Date amended: 07/1998; 08/1999; 10/1999; 01/2001; 06/2001; 04/2005; 08/2017
Date last reviewed: 08/2017

Stillwater Public Library welcomes and encourages people of all ages to use library facilities, resources and services. To protect the rights and safety of library customers and staff and to protect property, we expect that individuals will obey laws and follow library policies. No one shall engage in behaviors that are contrary to the principles, roles, and responsibilities defined in the Library Board of Trustees' Public Conduct Policy.

Patrons are expected to:

- Understand that the library is a public place shared by many.
- Avoid disruptive behaviors that may hinder other library patrons.
- Be courteous and respect other library patrons and library staff.
- Conduct themselves in a safe and orderly way, allowing others to do the same.
- Attend children and vulnerable adults in their care by providing adequate supervision at all times.
- Respect library property.
- Safeguard personal items.
- Comply with all federal, state and local laws.
- Follow Stillwater Public Library policies, including the Internet Public Use Policy.

The following examples are provided to illustrate ways in which a patron's conduct would violate the responsibilities defined in the Library Board Public Conduct Policy. The examples are intended to guide staff in decision making; they do not presume to be a complete list.

Patrons are participants in a shared, public use environment and must conduct themselves accordingly. They will be courteous, considerate and understanding of library patrons and staff.

Examples of conduct that would violate this principle:

- Behavior which may disturb others or interfere with their rights to use library facilities including but not limited to loud, repetitive, abusive, harassing, intimidating, disrespectful, obscene or threatening language; loud telephone conversations, singing, running, shoving, throwing things, and/or fighting.
- Offensive body odor, including excessive scent, which unreasonably interferes with other patron's ability to use the library and its services.
- Use of sporting equipment is not allowed in the library (skateboarding, etc.)
- Any act or conduct in violation of federal, state, or local laws, ordinance or regulations or library policies is not allowed.
- Proper attire which conforms to the standard of the community for public spaces, including shoes and shirt, is required at all times.
- Only those animals needed to assist a customer with a disability are allowed in the library.

Parents and caregivers are responsible to supervise the activities and choices of their charges.

Example of conduct that would violate this principle:

- Leaving vulnerable adults or children under eight years old unattended or alone in the library

Patrons are stewards of the library and its resources. They will value and respect library resources and conduct themselves in a safe and orderly way.

Examples of conduct that would violate this principle:

- Defacing, damaging, or destroying library property
- Bringing beverage in uncovered containers into the library
- Moving library furniture from where it is placed by library staff

Patrons will comply with federal, state, and local laws and policies.

Examples of conduct that would violate this principle:

- Panhandling or soliciting
- Bringing dangerous weapons on the premises
- Consuming alcoholic beverages or controlled substances or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances in a manner that causes public disturbance
- Smoking, chewing tobacco or use of e-cigarettes
- Infringement of copyright laws including illegal downloads of copyrighted materials

Enforcement

Authorized library staff and/or Stillwater police officers may intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply may result in: 1) withdrawal of a person's permission to remain on library property and/or 2) issuance of a Trespass order or arrest from library property for a period of one day to one year. Legal action will be followed in accordance with Minnesota Statutes.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff play an important role to ensure that Stillwater Public Library is a welcoming public library environment. The Library Director and other staff members to whom the Director delegates authority shall have the responsibility for enforcing this Public Conduct Policy and determining when behavior in the library violates the policy.

The most current policy supersedes any and all previous policies issued relative to this subject.