

Garrett Public Library

Behavior in the Library Policy

Purpose:

The Behavior in the Library policy is established to provide guidelines for patron behavior that will ensure the safety of staff and patrons as well as maintaining a welcoming atmosphere in the library and providing equitable access to all individuals.

Overview:

Behavior rules apply to all patrons of Garrett Public Library when using library facilities, or when participating in library programs.

Inappropriate conduct includes any individual or group activity which is unreasonably disturbing to other individuals lawfully using library facilities, materials and/or premises or is otherwise inconsistent with activities such as reading, studying, properly using library materials and other similar conduct normally associated with a public library.

Definition of Inappropriate Behaviors:

Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to the following activities:

- Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime.
- Possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or using any dangerous weapon upon library premises or using or threatening the use of any other object in such a manner that it may be considered a weapon. Limited exception will be made for firearms with legal carry permits.
- Engaging in any physically intimidating or assaultive behavior or making threats of violence.
- Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance.
- Engaging in any behavior that a reasonable person would find to be disruptive, harassing, or threatening to library users or staff including stalking, prolonged staring at or following with the intent to annoy or behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to annoy or disturb other patrons.
- Engaging in any sexual contact, activities or expression.
- Selling, soliciting, surveying, distributing written materials, panhandling or canvassing for any political, charitable or religious purposes inside a library building, doorway or vestibule without prior authorization of the Library Director.
- Smoking or other use of tobacco products including vapor or e-cigarettes in library facilities or on any library property, including outdoor seating areas and parking lot.
- Sleeping, napping or dozing in or on library premises.
- Possessing or consuming food in any area except during authorized programs or with the prior approval of the Library Director, or possessing or consuming drinks around the computers.
- Engaging in excessive or disruptive conversations, swearing, talking loudly, or making ongoing noise that is disturbing to other library users or staff.
- Not wearing shoes or not being fully clothed within the library.
- Entering or remaining upon library premises with a bodily hygiene so offensive that it constitutes a nuisance to others.
- Use of furniture in any manner that may damage the furniture, to include placing feet on the furniture.
- Using library materials, equipment or facilities in any manner inconsistent with their customary use.
- Theft or intentional damage of library materials, furniture, equipment or facilities.
- Bringing any animal into the library except service animals.
- Entering non-public areas of the library without permission.
- Violating library rules for acceptable use of the internet and library public computers.

Staff Response to Infractions:

Violation of one or more of the behaviors listed above shall constitute misconduct that will result in enforcement of the policy which may include expulsion from the library and forfeiture of library privileges.

Minor violations of these rules will first result in library staff attempting to educate or warn individuals about policies and enforcement. Repeat misconduct or severe offenses (even in a single isolated event) may result in individuals being banned from the Library for a minimum of one day to a maximum of one year. Library staff will follow the banning procedure set forth below.

Garrett Public Library has a zero tolerance policy for threats and acts of violence. Any conduct that threatens the life or safety of any person or that is damaging to library property, equipment or facilities will result in immediate expulsion from the library.

Library staff is authorized to contact law enforcement in response to any illegal behavior or in the event an individual refuses to leave the library when expelled. Staff may also contact law enforcement to assist in the management of any situation which may be considered dangerous or unpredictable.

Whenever possible bans should be issued by a supervisor or the Library Director; however, all staff are fully empowered to issue bans at any time without prior approval.

Banning Procedure:

If a person has engaged in severe or repeat misconduct and staff has determined that the individual involved should be banned:

Staff will issue a written notice to the individual involved stating that the individual is banned from the premises of Garrett Public Library. The notice will indicate the reasons for the ban and the time period of the ban. A copy of the behavior policy and the ban notice will be given to the individual at the time the ban is issued. If necessary the ban may be mailed to the individual.

If the patron is a minor, an attempt will be made to contact the parent or legal guardian. If no contact is possible, a copy of the ban notice must be sent to the parent or legal guardian.

A copy of all Ban Notice forms with all documentation will be given to the Library Director within 24 hours of the banning action. The Director has the power to affirm, modify, or revoke any suspension or banning.

If any person who has been issued a Ban Notice enters the Garrett Public Library before the return date listed on the Ban Notice, he or she will be asked to leave. Refusal to comply with the Ban Notice may result in contact with law enforcement.

Appeal Procedure:

Any person who is issued a ban notice may appeal the ban. A request for appeal must be made in writing to the Library Director. The Director will review the ban and the appeal and determine the status of the ban. If the Director upholds the ban a second appeal may be made to the Library Board. The request for appeal must be sent in writing to the Library Board President. The appeal will be heard at a regular Library Board meeting. The Library Board will vote on the status of the ban.

Approved by the Garret Public Library Board of Trustees on October 14, 2014.