



BEHAVIOR POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT —

The Rock Island Public Library is a shared community space that is safe, welcoming, and accessible for everyone. We ask all visitors to partner with us in upholding the following guidelines:

- **Be Safe:** Keep aisles and walkways clear. Doing so ensures safe movement for everyone. Please walk while in the Library. Wheeled items (such as bikes, skateboards, wagons, etc.) must be kept outside.
- **Be Respectful:** Help us maintain a welcoming shared environment. Please use a volume that allows other visitors to focus. Ensure your presence supports a healthy and comfortable space for everyone.
- **Be Responsible:** Participate actively in the Library space. Please remain awake and aware of your personal belongings. Share furniture and equipment so everyone has access.

Library workers are expected to be respectful towards all visitors, and they should be extended the same respect in return.

In order to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for reading, learning, and other Library activities, the Rock Island Public Library expects all visitors, including children and teens, to abide by our policies and procedures.

Refusal to cooperate with Library staff may result in a formal warning, as well as the restriction or termination of Library privileges. Individuals who refuse to leave after requested to do so by Library staff may be banned from the Library.

Note that Library staff may:

- Inspect the property of any visitor who enters or leaves the Library grounds.
- Ask patrons to present their Library card or another form of identification.

PROCEDURES —

The Board of Trustees of the Rock Island Public Library authorizes all Library staff to issue any or all of the following at their discretion:

- **Warning:** Patrons will be granted the opportunity to adjust inappropriate behavior, and may be given a formal warning. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the patron may be asked to leave Library grounds for the rest of the day.

Threats, harassment, and all illegal behaviors will result in an immediate ban or trespass, depending on the behavior.

- **Banned:** Patrons who are unwilling or unable to maintain safety guidelines may be banned from the Library. The length of the ban will reflect both the severity behavior and the frequency of behavioral issues with the patron involved. Repeated bans will increase in duration and may escalate to a trespass.
- **Trespass:** Trespassing requires police intervention and bans the patron for 1 year. Patrons who violate their trespass will immediately be referred to police if they enter Library grounds. Furthermore, the Library may file charges of Criminal Trespass.

Threats, harassment, and all illegal behaviors may result in an immediate trespass.

- **Emergency Response:** Library staff may call 911 without any additional approval whenever they witness or experience threats, harassment, violence, any illegal activity, or any medical situation.
- **Incident Report:** Library staff shall write or contribute to a formal incident report for every behavioral or medical issue they witness or experience. [See RIPL's Incident Report Policy for more information.]

REGULATIONS —

Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library, or that disturbs Library visitors or staff, is not permitted. **Please cooperate with Library staff to maintain a peaceful environment and follow guidance when provided.**

For your safety and the safety of others, please remain awake and aware of your surroundings while in the Library.

To ensure a healthy shared space, please attend to personal hygiene. Doing so prevents health hazards and allergic reactions in others.

Staff will inform patrons if behavior is disruptive. We ask that patrons adjust their behavior so we can all share the space. Continued disruption may result in a request to leave the Library.

Prohibited Conduct:

1. Harassing or threatening behavior of any kind.
2. Using obscene, **inappropriate**, or abusive language or gestures.
3. Violation of any local, state, or federal law as it pertains to the Library:
 - a. **Possession or brandishing of a weapon, except by law enforcement officers.**

- b. Smoking or vaping, either in the Library or within 15 feet of any Library entrance, exit, and ventilation area. **The use of all other tobacco and nicotine products is likewise prohibited on Library grounds by Illinois state law.**
 - c. Consumption or possession of alcohol on Library grounds, or being under the influence of alcohol.
 - d. Consumption or possession of a controlled substance on Library grounds, or being under the influence of a controlled substance, **including cannabis**
 - e. Vandalism or the deliberate destruction of Library materials, equipment, facilities, grounds, etc.
 - f. Theft, including of Library materials or the personal property of other persons.
 - g. Accessing internet sites that are prohibited by law **or inappropriate in a public setting.**
 - h. Trespassing on Library grounds
4. Engaging in sexual conduct, lewd behavior, **or using sexual language.**
 5. Making unreasonable use of the public restrooms, including for bathing, **personal grooming,** or laundering clothes.
 6. Bringing Library property into restrooms.
 7. **Missing or inappropriate clothing. Examples of inappropriate clothing include transparent tops, swimsuits, roller blades, etc., or any article of clothing that violates Rule 2. All visitors must remain fully clothed while on Library grounds. Shoes may not be removed.**
 8. Use of the Library grounds for unintended purposes, such as rollerblading, skateboarding, loud music, etc.
 9. **Bringing bicycles, scooters, wagons, etc., into the Library building, or left blocking building egress. All such items found in the Library will be removed.**
 10. Solicitation of funds.
 11. Petitioning, campaigning, interviewing, or surveying patrons or staff in a manner that is disruptive to Library activities or done without consent.
 12. Obstructing aisles, stairways, or workspaces/reading areas with personal belongings, including when charging personal devices. This includes actions that block access or exits to the Library premises or create safety hazards.
 13. **Bringing animals into the Library, except by written Library permission or the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.**
 14. Use of the children's spaces, including their designated restrooms, when not accompanying a child or by librarian permission.
 15. Patron use of staff areas without staff supervision.

Prohibited Items:

1. **Weapons of any kind, legal or otherwise, except by law enforcement officers.**
2. Carts, large bags, bags on wheels, hiking backpacks in excess of 24"x16"x10," excluding strollers. **Collections of bags may not, in total, exceed the above limit.**
3. Strollers, when not intended for use with babies and infants.
4. Any personal items that **appear infested by vermin or have a strong odor.**
5. **Bicycles, scooters, wagons, skates, skateboards, etc. Visitors with mobility impairments may use wheelchairs, walkers, and other appropriate mobility aids on Library grounds.**

6. Commercial photography or videography equipment, including professional cameras, tripods, lights, etc. [See RIPL's Photography & Video Policy for more information.]

Please note that some Library locations may have additional regulations.

Registered Sex Offenders:

The "Sex Offender Registration Act" (730 ILCS 150/1, et seq.) requires all persons adjudicated sexually dangerous who are later released, or found to be no longer sexually dangerous and discharged, to register with proper local law enforcement authorities so that their whereabouts are known by these authorities. This law also prohibits child sex offenders from residing within 500 feet of a school, park, playground, or other facility providing services exclusively to persons under the age of 18.

As public libraries do not provide services exclusively to persons under the age of 18, registered sex offenders in Illinois may enter and use a public library for all legal purposes.

Whenever a registered sex offender wishes to enter a Library facility, they must be aware of additional restrictions.

Registered sex offenders **may not**:

- Loiter on Library grounds, either indoors or outdoors
- Use the designated Youth Services areas of any Library property, or attend any Youth Services intended for minors
- Attend other Library programming whose audience can be reasonably expected to contain minors

Registered sex offenders **may**:

- Visit Library collection areas intended for adults
- Use a public computer, excluding those in designated Youth Services areas
- Request adult reference service, place holds on Library materials, check-out materials with a library card in good standing, or otherwise access Library information and services.
- Attend Library programming intended exclusively for adults

If a registered sex offender is also the documented parent or legal guardian of a minor, then they may accompany their ward into the Library's Youth Services areas or to Youth Services events, provided they remain together for the full duration of their visit.

Destruction & Vandalism:

The purposeful damaging, defacing, or destruction of library materials is prohibited by 720 ILCS 5/16 B. Library staff are required to investigate all claims, which may be reported to the police.

Furthermore, the Library will prosecute all cases of destruction, vandalism, or theft of Library materials to the fullest extent of the law.

Phone Use:

Visitors who are required to leave the Library and who do not have transportation home may be allowed to make a local phone call to secure said transportation.

Mobile phone use is allowed in Library spaces, provided the volume of the call does not interfere with regular Library operations and the content of the conversation is appropriate for public spaces.

Service Animals:

Trained service animals are allowed in on Library grounds under the Americans with Disabilities Act. These include only dogs and miniature horses. ADA service animals-in-training are considered service animals.

Library staff **may legally ask** the following questions regarding service animals:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Staff are **not allowed** to:

- Request any documentation for the service animal
- Ask that the service animal demonstrate its specific task(s)
- Inquire about the nature of the person's disability

Note that Emotional Support Animals (ESA) are not considered service animals under the ADA and are therefore not allowed in Library spaces.

Visitors in Staff Areas:

Visitors are not allowed in Library staff areas. However, family members of Library staff or visitors participating in official Library business may enter staff areas if accompanied a Library staff member.

For confidentiality reasons, no visitors are allowed in the Business Office Workroom.

Food & Drink:

Light snacks and covered drinks are allowed on Library grounds, but Library staff may prohibit any food or drink for cleanliness or allergy concerns. No food or drinks are allowed in the Local History Room.

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