

Stillwater Public Library, Patron Code of Conduct

The Stillwater Public Library (the “Library”) endeavors to provide an atmosphere conducive to its mission as a public library. To ensure that all patrons of the Library are able to enjoy the facilities to the fullest extent during its regularly scheduled hours, the Board of Trustees has adopted these rules and regulations concerning the library building, grounds and parking area. The Library has the right to amend the Code of Conduct at any time.

While on Library premises, all patrons shall conduct themselves so that they will not interfere, by their actions or speech, with the rights of other library users. Patrons shall engage in activities associated with the use of a public library. Patrons who are not engaged in reading, study, or the use of Library materials or services shall be required to leave the building.

Examples of Unacceptable Activities

The following are examples of behaviors that are not permitted because they interfere with the enjoyment and use of the Library by other customers, present a health or safety hazard, or are inconsistent with the Library’s mission:

- Engaging in loud, aggressive or threatening language or conduct; fighting or challenging another to a fight; using profane language or obscene behavior or engaging in harassing behavior of any kind.
- Loud talking, yelling, or making any other noise that reasonably can be expected to disturb other library users.
- Engaging in any kind of sexual activity or lewd behavior, or sexually harassing any person.
- Carrying weapons of any kind.
- Gambling.
- Using, distributing or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
- Eating, drinking, or using tobacco products in the library.
- Sleeping.
- Soliciting in the Library or on Library property or distributing and/or posting literature that has not been approved by the Library administration.
- Using audio equipment, with or without headphones, at a volume that is audible to others.
- Using mobile phones or devices to engage in conversation in areas designated as quiet zones. All such devices should be turned off or set so that they are inaudible to other patrons and library staff.
- Using bicycles, roller-blades, scooters, skateboards, or other sports equipment in the Library or on Library property. The parking lot is not for recreational use.

- Failing to supervise the behavior of one's children or the children in one's care. Children below the age of eight must be with a caregiver at all times.
- Bringing animals, other than properly identified service animals, into the Library without the prior permission of the Director.
- Entering or using the Library without being fully clothed, including footwear.
- Having bodily hygiene that is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons.
- Entering staff areas, or the improper use of areas in and around the Library building.
- Vandalizing, stealing, defacing or destroying any Library material, equipment, building component or other property. The Library reserves the right to inspect the contents of any bag, knapsack or briefcase that a patron wishes to bring into the Library or onto Library grounds, including the parking lot.
- Failing to charge out Library materials in accordance with established procedures.
- Failing to pay all fines imposed as a result of returning Library material late or damaged, or reporting it lost. Failure to pay these fines may result in suspension of borrowing privileges.
- Committing any act that would violate any Federal, State or local law, ordinance or regulation.
- Using any library resource, including the Library's public access computers and/or wi-fi network, to engage in illegal activity or to injure or harass another person.

Loss of Library Privileges

Any patron who violates this Code of Conduct may be restricted from the Library or from the use of the Library facilities on a temporary basis by the staff on duty at the time. Those who are unwilling to leave, or who do not leave within a reasonable amount of time after being instructed to do so by staff, may be subject to prosecution. Any patron who engages in a serious violation or in repeated violations of this policy may be restricted from the Library on a permanent basis at the discretion of the Library Director.

Any person whose privileges have been revoked under this policy may make a written appeal to the Library Board of Trustees.

Approved: August 8, 2017

Reviewed: 3/13/2018, 5/14/2019, 9/13/2022