Poplar Creek Public Library District

Patron Code of Conduct

In order to provide resources and services to all people who visit the Poplar Creek Public Library District (PCPLD) in a manner that ensures both their safety and an atmosphere of courtesy, respect, and service excellence, the following Code of Conduct Policy has been established by the Board of Trustees. The rules and guidelines are for the protection of all who use the library. The library staff will enforce these guidelines in a consistent and impartial manner, without discrimination.

Violations of any of the following could result in removal from the library and/or a suspension of library privileges.

1. Any act or conduct in violation of federal, state, or local laws, ordinances or regulations, library rules or policies is prohibited in the library.
2. Patrons not using the library in a considerate manner may be asked to leave the library facility. Behavior which may disturb staff or patrons or interfere with their ability to use library facilities and collections is prohibited, including, but not limited to: loud, repetitive, abusive, obscene or threatening language; loud telephone conversations, singing, running, shoving, throwing things, fighting, physical or verbal harassment of staff or other patrons, any sexual misconduct including lewd or lascivious acts.
3. Smoking or e-cigarettes, sleeping, and pets are not permitted in library facilities.
4. Children may not be left unattended in the library. (See the Unattended Children policy.)
5. Drinking alcoholic beverages on library property or entering the library in a perceived or actual state of intoxication is prohibited.
6. Any manner of dress resulting in indecent exposure is prohibited. Shoes and shirt must be worn at all times in the library.
7. Defacing, marring, or damaging library materials, furnishings, equipment, facilities, or anything else inside the library or on library property is prohibited; unauthorized presence in staff-designated areas is prohibited.
8. Soliciting, petitioning, canvassing, or selling anywhere on Library property is prohibited.
9. Patrons emitting a strong pervasive odor, including odors caused by perfume, cologne, cigarettes, or smoke, that interferes with library user or staff comfort, shall be asked to leave the building.
10. Use of sporting equipment is not allowed on library property unless part of a planned program.

The following exceptions are allowed:

1. Consumption of non-alcoholic beverages in covered containers is permitted; open containers are not.
2. Dry and odorless food is allowed in designated areas of the library at the discretion of library staff.
3. Only service animals needed to assist a patron with a disability or a disorder are allowed in library facilities.
4. Exceptions to any of the above may be made by staff in support of library programming.

Illinois law authorizes the Board of Trustees to "exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed by the board." (Illinois Compiled Statutes, 75 ILCS 5/4-7(11)). Failure to abide by the Library Code of Conduct may result in loss of library privileges. Any patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees upon written request.

Situations involving patrons not abiding by these or other policies or guidelines will be handled at the discretion of the Library Director. The Library Director has the authority to ban a patron from the library for up to a year for repeated infringement of this policy. The Library Board of Trustees can extend this to a permanent ban. See the Library Banning Policy on the website.

Adopted by PCPLD: December 17, 2015; Updated January 19, 2017; January 18, 2018; January 16, 2020; January 20, 2022; March 16, 2023