

LIBRARY BEHAVIOR POLICY

(Adopted on Oct. 1, 1990.

Revised on Nov. 4, 1991

July 7, 1997, reviewed 2011.)

VARIOUS BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Public Phone

As a courtesy to others, calls on the public phone adjacent to the public photocopier will be limited to 10 minutes.

Cell Phone Usage

As a courtesy to others, please activate your cell phone to a silent setting. If you make or receive a call, please go to the outer lobby area or the end of the community room hallway. (Adopted Nov. 5, 2001, Revised August 4, 2003; 2009).

Disruptive Conduct

Disruptive conduct is any behavior that disrupts the normal functioning of the library. This would include, but is not limited to, loud talking and laughing, fighting, throwing objects and boisterous behavior.

Loud talking and laughing: Because it is difficult to maintain a consistent noise or quiet level, and because sensitivity to noise varies from one person or group to another, the focus will be on whether one person or group is heard above the general noise level in the library at the particular time. People talking in louder tones than the general noise level will be asked to lower their voices. TWO WARNINGS AND OUT.

Fighting: Whether real or pretend, NO WARNING – OUT.

Throwing objects: This would include wadded-up papers, paper airplanes and other small objects. ONE WARNING AND OUT. With larger objects or anything that could cause injury, such as dropping a book over a shelf, NO WARNING – OUT.

Boisterous behavior: This would include running in and out, running up and down aisles, wandering from group to group making noise and annoying other patrons. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Obscene or Abusive Language

“Obscene” is defined as anything “grossly repugnant to the generally accepted notions of what is appropriate.” For purposes of our policy, obscenity may be defined as language or gestures that convey a sexually explicit message or describe intimate bodily functions in a coarse or crude manner. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

No staff member or patron should be subjected to verbal abuse, whether obscenity is involved or not. If the verbally abusing patron persists, notify staff, who will ask the patron to leave the library.

Solicitation

This includes selling anything, such as raffle tickets or candy, for personal gain or for a charitable cause, begging, panhandling or circulating petitions. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Eating and Drinking

These activities may be carried out in designated areas only and are not appropriate to the library as a whole. We require that all beverages have lids or tops to prevent accidents. Food and beverages are not allowed in children's department, Indiana Room, and the computer lab. ONE WARNING AND OUT. (Revised December 2005.)

TOBACCO-FREE

Mooresville Public Library is a tobacco-free campus. Tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or similar synthetic smoking or tobacco substitutes may not be used on library premises. (Revised February, 2015.)

Sleeping

Sleeping is not allowed in the library. This regulation pertains to the habitual sleepers or those who are noisy, sprawled out on furniture or generally disturbing other patrons. Staff will instruct sleeping patrons to stay awake. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Loitering

Loitering is defined as remaining or wandering in a public place without any apparent legitimate reason. Anyone who mills about or sits doing nothing for 10 or 15 minutes should be considered to be loitering. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Running and Playing

This is not only distracting to other patrons, but it can be hazardous, because accidents are more likely to occur. The degree to which this should be tolerated will depend on the age of the patron. Small children are most apt to be running and playing; they need to be guided into more appropriate use of the library. If their behavior is creating a problem, parents will be told. Older children who seem to view the library as a playground will be reminded that running and playing are not allowed. TWO WARNINGS AND OUT.

Adolescents and teenagers, particularly in gangs, pose a special problem. Their "running and playing" generally consists of charging up and down the aisles and moving from group to group, joking and laughing. If it is obvious that no attempt is being made to use library materials, they will be asked to do so or leave. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Pets

Animals of any kind are not allowed in the library, except for library pets, seeing-eye dogs, animals used by physically handicapped individuals, or pre-approved programs which include animal presentations. Anyone entering the library with an animal that does not fall within one of

these exceptions will be asked to leave. ONE WARNING AND OUT. (Revised August 4, 2003).

Safe Child Policy

The Library Board and staff of the Mooresville Public Library encourage children to come to the Library and explore all the resources available to them. However, the Library staff is also concerned about the welfare and safety of children in the library. Staff cannot assume the responsibility of *unattended, unsupervised, or unaccompanied* children when they are in the library. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be approached by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or become lost or injured. We are primarily concerned with *children's* safety, and we believe that our policy helps assures their well-being.

- The Mooresville Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left at library prior to opening.
- All children, ages 8 and younger, must be continuously supervised (within sight) by an adult or responsible caregiver, age 16 or over, unless the child is participating in a supervised library activity. Parents/caregivers must remain in the building during library programs and pick children up on time at the conclusion of the program. Parents/caregivers may not leave young children unattended in the children's department while using other areas of the library.
- All children, ages 9-12, must have a parent/caregiver, age 16 or over, in the building. This includes children participating in a library programs. Parents/ caregivers must remain in the building during library programs and pick children up on time at the conclusion of the program.
- Children who are 13 years of age and older may use the library independently, subject to the rules and policies concerning library behavior. Caregivers/parents remain responsible for their children even when the parent is not present in the building.
- The Mooresville Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left at the library at closing time. Children will be permitted to call home prior to closing. A parent/caregiver must pick up children within 15 minutes of closing or the Mooresville Police Department will be notified. Two library staff members will remain with children until the police arrive. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home.

(Amended February 7, 2005)

No Shoes or Shirt

Patrons are not permitted to be in the library without shoes or a shirt. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

Feet on Tables and Chairs

Placing feet, whether bare or shod, on tables and chairs is prohibited. ONE WARNING AND OUT.

ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR

Some behavior is illegal and should be handled in a different manner. Examples of illegal behavior include:

Assault: Intentionally or by reckless conduct causes injury to another person.

Criminal mischief: Intentionally damages the property of another (including vandalism and mutilation of library materials.)

Drunk and/or disorderly conduct: Causes public inconvenience by fighting, unreasonable noises, abusive, or obscene language or gestures, threatening behavior, or hazardous or physically offensive behavior.

Harassment: Threatens or annoys another person by physical contact or abusive or obscene language, or follows a person in or about a public place.

Public lewdness: Intentionally exposes the private or intimate parts of the body in a lewd manner in a public place.

Theft (larceny): Wrongfully takes, obtains or withholds the property of another.

Trespass Knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or upon the premises.

If you witness illegal behavior, report it immediately to staff, who will notify the police, when necessary.