



# CHEROKEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Patron Conduct and Behavior Policy

The Cherokee County Public Library Board of Trustees has established certain standards of acceptable behavior on library property in order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use and enjoyment of the resources and services of the library. These rules of conduct protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and preserve and protect the Library's building, furniture, equipment, and materials. Any activity that interferes with the rights of other patrons to use the library, disrupts the normal functioning of the library, could result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others, or could result in damage to the facilities, equipment, or materials is considered disruptive and unacceptable behavior.

Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. The Library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in disruptive behavior to leave the premises, the right to restrict privileges for a specified period of time, and the right to ban the individual from the library for a specified period of time or permanently. In most cases, a staff member will notify the individual that he or she is in violation of the standards of conduct with a verbal warning. Unlawful activities will be reported immediately to the police.

### **Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to the following:**

- Failing to comply with any reasonable Library staff request
- Any violation of federal or state laws or local ordinances. Theft, vandalism and mutilation of the library's property are criminal offenses and may be prosecuted. The library reserves the right to inspect bags, briefcases, backpacks, and other such items when the staff has reason to believe this rule has been violated.
- Running and rowdiness, shouting, loud talking, or making any noise disturbing to others, fighting or hitting. Engaging in any physically intimidating or assaultive behavior. Making any threats of violence or unlawful activities. The Library has a policy of zero tolerance for threats and acts of violence. Any person engaging in such behaviors will be immediately ejected from the Library.
- Possession of firearms, weapons or of objects which might be used as weapons (e.g., sharp objects, coat hangers, metal files, or pins)
- Physical, verbal or non-verbal harassment or abuse, including, but not limited to, stalking, staring, lurking, or offensive touching,
- Leaving children under the age of 12 unattended (See CCPL Safe Child Policy)
- Profane and obscene language or images directed toward patrons or staff
- Indecent exposure, inappropriate public displays of affection, sexual activity
- Using a cell phone, pager, or other audible device in a way that disturbs others
- Bathing, shaving, and washing clothes in restrooms
- Sleeping or loitering in the library or on library grounds
- Use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances
- Unauthorized removal or concealment of library material or equipment (SC Code of Laws 16-13-330 to 16-13-370)
- Abuse of Library equipment, furniture, and materials. Including, but is not limited to, placing feet on tables and chairs, standing on or sprawling on furniture, mutilating or defacing books or periodicals, and mistreating equipment or computers. (See the CCPL Internet Use Policy)
- Entering non-public areas of the library without permission
- Soliciting, pan-handling or political activity
- Improper attire. Shoes and shirts must be worn in the library building
- Exhibiting bodily hygiene so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to others
- Roller blades, skateboards or any unauthorized wheeled equipment used in or on library property. Bicycles may not be brought into the library, but should be parked outside in provided racks.
- Consuming food in public areas of the Library other than meeting rooms unless pre-approved by Library administration. *Beverages in closed containers are permitted (No beverages, closed or otherwise are permitted at the computers)*
- Blocking aisles or doorways or in any way interfering with the free movement of any other persons
- Bringing animals into the library, except for registered service animals for the disabled or animals featured in special library events.

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by security and other authorized personnel. The Library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the Library. The library is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Please do not leave valuable or personal belongings unattended.

Library staff may, for good cause, related to any apparent breach of these rules and regulations request a patron to provide proper identification. No illegal activity or behavior is permitted. Police will be called immediately if staff observes activity in violation of Federal, State, Local or other applicable law.