

Patron Behavior

The Library District has written this policy statement to inform customers about acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, and to help branch coordinators and volunteers know how to respond to unacceptable behaviors. The policy should be posted at each branch.

Library Standards of Acceptable Behavior

LIBRARY STANDARDS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

[LIBRARY NAME], A BRANCH OF COCHISE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

[Library Name] Library is supported by the taxes of the citizens of Cochise County and has the right to maintain its facility in a clean, pleasant and safe manner. The library is to be used as a place to read, choose books and other library materials, use computers and the photocopy machine, attend library programs, and request information from library staff.

Occasionally, a library visitor engages in behavior that is unacceptable or dangerous to other patrons, library staff, or volunteers. Unacceptable behavior is defined as any behavior that constitutes a crime, impinges on the rights of others, could result in injury to oneself or others, or could result in damage to or loss of library property. The following listed behaviors are considered by the library to constitute unacceptable behavior. It is the policy of the library to ask people to modify unacceptable behavior or to leave the library premises. In the case of a suspected criminal offense, or refusal to modify unacceptable behavior, the County Sheriff will be contacted.

Criminal behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

- Theft
- Vandalism to library property (including facilities, equipment or materials)
- Entering the library with anything that could be considered to be a weapon (a weapon is defined as anything that can be used to cause injury and includes but is not limited to, guns, knives, explosive devices, clubs or caustic chemicals)
- Physical or verbal fighting (this behavior may be considered to constitute assault or disorderly conduct depending on the severity)
- Use of library computers or internet in any way that violates Arizona or federal laws.
- Exhibitionism or flashing of a sexual nature
- Gambling

Other unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

- Using offensive or abusive language, violent or seriously disrupting behavior, or making unreasonable noise
- Consuming food or drink except for water from capped bottles, except by staff/volunteers
- Intoxication of any kind
- Use of tobacco products of any kind
- Use of radios, tape or CD players, or other noise-emitting electronic devices without the use of headphones
- Leaving children younger than seven at the library without appropriate supervision (appropriate supervision means controlling any behavior by young children that could disrupt other library patrons or staff)
- Disciplining children in the library in a manner that injures the child or disrupts others
- Use of cell phones
- Soliciting

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