

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Every patron has a right to quality library service at the Northlake Public Library District. Each patron has a right to that service in an atmosphere that is calm, quiet, safe, and without disturbance from another patron. The staff of the Northlake Public Library District will adhere to the service orientation outlined in the ***Community Relations Guidelines (Personnel Policy, Appendix A)***. The staff has a right to provide services without fear of abuse or threatening behavior from Library patrons. Any behavior that interferes with Library service, endangers Library patrons or staff, or causes damage to Library property is not acceptable and will be corrected. The Library reserves the right to set necessary rules and regulations during extreme emergency situations.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Loud noises including but not limited to: offensive language, electronic devices, ringtones, conversations (all cell phones should be on silent while in the library)
- No conduct is permitted that may reasonably be expected to endanger the health and safety of Library users or employees or cause or threaten to cause damage to Library materials or facilities such as: moving furniture without permission, using tables/chairs as footstools, sitting on stairways, running, rough housing, etc.
- The Library reserves the right to limit the number of persons who may sit together at a single table, carrel, or computer.
- Soliciting of any kind on library property without permission.
- Taking photographs or videos of library users without their permission.
- Food and uncovered drinks are not allowed in the following designated areas:
 - Library computer areas
 - All drinks in the Youth Department must have lids
- Sleeping is not allowed in the following designated areas:
 - Library computer areas
 - Group Study Rooms and Meeting Room
- Patrons may not bring animals other than service animals into the library.
- Library users may not leave personal belongings unattended. The Library is not responsible for any loss of users' personal belongings. Personal belongings may not obstruct walkways or interfere with use of shared spaces.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Illegal behavior is behavior that is prohibited by law. Illegal behavior will not be tolerated on the Library premises and the Police will be called. Illegal behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Assault (verbal, physical, or sexual).
- Harassment (verbal, physical, sexual, or stalking)
- Engaging in sexual conduct, lewd acts, or indecent exposure
- Creating, viewing, sharing, or distributing child pornography
- Possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, smoking or vaping
- Theft, including deliberately removing library materials from the building without checking them out
- Vandalism
- Using false identification or using fictitious names or addresses.

- Using weapons such as explosives, firearms, knives, look-alike weapons, or any other objects that can reasonably be considered as weapons.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

The Library reserves the right to inspect the contents of personal belongings.

The Library reserves the right to impose time limits upon the continuous use of Library resources.

Any behavior that violates the Disruptive behavior Policy may result in cost recovery charges, suspension of library privileges, banning from the Library, and prosecution. Library staff are authorized to ask disruptive patrons to leave the library and to exclude them for a 24-hour period. Staff are also authorized to call the police at their discretion. Violations, both minor and serious, may also be investigated by library administrators who may ban violators for varying and longer periods of time depending upon the seriousness and/or frequency of the violation. Caregivers will be notified if the offender is a minor. After the exclusion period, patrons are welcomed back to the library. After a banning patrons will need to meet with the director to have privileges reinstated.

The Library may bring criminal charges against any persons suspected of criminal acts toward library staff or patrons, including theft or vandalism of Library property or materials or of any violations on Library property of federal, state, or local laws and ordinances.

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF NINE (9)

If a child under the age of 9 is causing a disturbance, a staff member should correct the child. If the disturbance continues, staff should remind the parent or responsible party caregiver of the Parental Responsibility Statement (see below). If this reminder is ignored, staff should ask the responsible party to remove the child from the library.

Parental Responsibility Statement

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while their children are in the Library. Children under the age of 9 must be within eyesight of a parent or responsible person of at least 12 years of age at all times while in the library. Children 9 and up are left on their own in the building at the parent's discretion. The library does not provide childcare, nor do we accept responsibility for children. (Please see the "Safety of Children in the Library" policy for complete details.)

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