

Patron Behavior Policy

(Adopted by the Board: July 2002; revised November 2008, May 2011, April 2016)

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library is dedicated and committed to providing an environment conducive to reading, studying and information gathering, as well as providing a safe, calm and enjoyable experience for all patrons. Library patrons have the right to use library services, facilities and materials without being disturbed or impeded by other library users. This policy pertains to children, young adults, and adults. At all times, parents, guardians or caretakers are solely responsible for the actions of their children and adults needing care while on library premises. Children under the age of 9 and adults needing care cannot be in the library without the supervision of a parent, guardian, or caretaker at least 18 years of age. Library staff cannot, and will not, serve as caretakers. Library staff cannot protect, monitor, or be held responsible for unattended children, adults needing care, or personal belongings. Any failure by a parent, guardian or caretaker to fulfill this responsibility may result in a denial of library privileges.

To this end, while it is difficult to outline each and every circumstance under which a patron's conduct would be found to be unacceptable, a general rule is that any conduct which disrupts the library is prohibited.

While on library property, the following behaviors and/or actions are UNACCEPTABLE:

- Bringing weapons onto library property, or threatening to do so. *
- Damaging, misusing, monopolizing or vandalizing library facilities, equipment or materials.
- Removing library materials without properly checking them out.
- Abandoning, leaving or neglecting children or otherwise violating the library's Safe Child Policy.
- Harassing other library users or library staff. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, excessive conversation, unwelcome advances, verbal, physical or sexual abuse, and violence or threats of violence.
- Possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal controlled substances.
- Using tobacco products, having food or drink in restricted areas, or indulging in habitual sleeping.
- Serving food in the public service areas.
- Using radios, televisions or CD/tape players audible to others.
- Selling, soliciting or panhandling (approaching patrons or staff members with items for sale or pleas for donations).
- Distributing or posting printed materials or literature without prior Director approval.
- Using bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades or scooters in the library.
- Blocking any entrance, aisle or exit.

- Bringing in any animals except service dogs without prior Director approval.
- Bringing in bulky items, including but not limited to, sleeping bags, suitcases or large duffle bags.
- Using restrooms improperly, including but not limited to, bathing or shaving.
- Being in the library before or after business hours without the written permission of the library Director or his/her designee.
- Being a nuisance to others with offensive bodily hygiene.
- Entering office/workroom areas unless invited by a staff member or with prior written permission of the Director.
- Indulging in a disturbance of the peace by loud or aggressive behavior, running, profanity, indecent or obscene language or gesture, or abusive language.
- Engaging in any indecent or obscene conduct or making any indecent exposure of one's person.
- Engaging in acts which are subject to prosecution under criminal codes of law.
- Loitering, either in the library building or on library property
- Wearing inappropriate clothing in the library, such as bathing suits or cleated shoes, or not wearing shoes or a shirt.

If a library user chooses not to follow the library's Patron Behavior Policy, the user will be asked to correct the unacceptable behavior. If the behavior continues, the user will be asked to leave the library. Law enforcement may be called if the user refuses to leave.

**** Legal possession of firearms is governed by Indiana law and is not additionally regulated by this policy.***