

General Policy on Conduct

The Orange County Public Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens. The library has a responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. To ensure this environment, our library has devised guidelines for patron conduct which can be found in policies 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of behavior expected of adults. Parents, guardians or caregivers are responsible for the behavior of the children in their care while they are in the library.

General rules for the library system are:

Patrons and staff will be appropriately attired at all times which includes the wearing of shirts and shoes.

No smoking or use of tobacco products including e-cigarettes.

No food may be consumed in the public areas of the library except in the library meeting rooms. Covered beverages (e.g. water bottles with lids, covered cups with lids and straws such as those from McDonalds, coffee cups with lids) will be allowed in the libraries.

No illegal activities are permitted.

No children under age 9 may be left unattended by an adult in the library for any period of time (except when children over age 5 are attending a library program, then the adult may wait elsewhere in the library)

No animals other than those assisting the handicapped or law enforcement officials are permitted in the library except by special permission from the staff member in charge

Any conduct that disrupts the quiet atmosphere of the library or disturbs other patrons is prohibited.

Patrons are expected to use the facilities in an appropriate manner (not stand on furniture, deface materials, misuse equipment, etc.)

Failure to comply with the Library's established rules and regulations may result in expulsion from the facility for the day, for up to six months, or in arrest. Persons refusing to leave when asked are subject to arrest under Virginia trespass laws.

Staff guidance – Virginia is an open carry state for firearms and they are allowed in libraries. Concealed carry and other rules are specified in **VA Code § 18.2-308 and § 18.2-287.4**, so refer there for additional information. Brandishing a weapon is illegal per **§ 18.2-282**

(Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 1/98, amended 5/2000; 5/2006;4/2008, 3/2009;3/2011;3/2014; 8/21017; 1/2019)