



## Vandalism and Improper Behavior

We want to ensure a safe and peaceful environment for all of our patrons. Thus, in instances of vandalism or improper behavior by patrons whether inside the library or on the library grounds, the Library reserves the right to call in the proper authorities and/or have the patron ejected. Persons may be banned formally from entering the library in the future in cases of vandalism or repeated problem behavior.

For the following infractions:

Staff members will warn customers of improper conduct two times before ejecting them.

*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.*

Examples of problem behavior include, but are not limited to,

- Loud noises which are disruptive to others: talking, singing, playing audio or computer equipment or using telephones so that others can hear them
- Running, skateboarding or moving in a way dangerous to the patron or others.
- Climbing on or otherwise improperly using furniture or fixtures.
- Deliberately disorganizing library materials.
- Interfering with the employees' performance of their duties
- Smoking or use of e-cigarettes
- Eating or drinking in public areas of the library, excluding the meeting room.
- Harassing other patrons by staring at them or following them.
- Photographing, recording or shooting video of library customers without their written consent and consent of library staff. (see Policy 4.3a for further information)
- Misuse of the restrooms
- Strongly offensive body odor which results in complaints to staff.
- Selling items on library property except by permission of the staff member in charge. (Exceptions would include author book sales for programs sponsored by the library or a library support group such as the Friends or Library Foundation)
- Loitering (Examples include sleeping, not using any library services including Wi-Fi or materials)

For the infractions listed below:

**Customers engaging in the following behaviors or in any behavior prohibited by statute will be asked to leave immediately and the appropriate authorities will be contacted:**

- 1) Attempts to improperly use computer equipment or access computer files not available for public use
- 2) Defacing, destroying or damaging library property or other incidences of criminal mischief.
- 3) Use of obscene, suggestive, profane or abusive language which results in complaints.
- 4) Engaging in soliciting or panhandling.
- 5) Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and/or possessing drug paraphernalia.
- 6) Carrying or brandishing weapons (**except as permitted by VA Code § 18.2-308**)
- 7) Improper touching of any staff member or patron
- 8) Breaking any local, state or federal law
- 9) Stealing library materials

In the event of repeat occurrences: Patrons will be banned for a period of 1 month after the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense and banned for 6 months if a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense occurs.

(Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 6/98, amended 4/2000, 3/2003, 5/2006, 3/2011, 1/2019)