

# **SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BEHAVIOR POLICY**

The Scott County Library System is supported by the taxes of the people of Scott County who expect each of our facilities to be clean, comfortable, and safe places for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings. The Library Board of Trustees has the authority under state law to establish reasonable rules and behavior guidelines for patron conduct while on Library property. Failure to comply with the following guidelines may result in loss of Library privileges and removal from Library premises.

## **UNACCEPTABLE USE**

Any behavior that is disruptive or disturbing to other Library patrons and staff, endangers the health and safety of the public and facility, or infringes on the provision of Library property.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Acts in violation of any local, state or federal law
- B. Behavior, verbal or physical, which threatens or endangers the safety of patrons, staff or volunteers.
- C. Behavior that disrupts in the provision of Library services
- D. Personal hygiene or behavior deemed offensive or inappropriate in a Library setting
- E. Deliberate destruction of Library property
- F. Deliberate use of the Library for unintended or inappropriate purposes, such as but not limited to:
  - Disruptive behavior, such as creating noise at a volume that is disruptive to staff and other patrons
  - Misuse or abuse of Library property
  - Verbal or physical harassment towards other patrons or staff
  - Use of restrooms for bathing or personal grooming
  - Failure to wear appropriate attire. Patrons must be fully clothed with shoes at all times
  - Gambling or panhandling
  - Smoking, chewing and other tobacco use on Library property
  - Distributing literature, gathering signatures, or soliciting contributions
  - Sleeping activity that interferes with public use of Library services or facilities
  - Littering

- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals, within Library property
- Operating, pushing, or riding wheeled devices on library premises. These restrictions do not apply to ADA assistive devices or baby strollers
- Consuming food in public areas of the Library
- Bringing alcoholic beverages on Library property. (Please note: Covered non- alcoholic beverages are allowed inside the Library but not around the computers).
- Physical acts of an intimate and/or inappropriate nature
- Unauthorized entrance into nonpublic areas
- Professional or unauthorized photography
- Allowing any child under the age of eight (8) years old to use the Library without direct supervision. (Please note: Children attending Library programs designed for independent activity is allowed).

## **ENFORCEMENT**

In most cases, patrons who are behaving inappropriately will be given one warning by Library staff and asked to behave in an appropriate manner. Patrons who refuse to behave more appropriately after one warning will be asked to leave Library property for the remainder of the day.

Repeated or serious violations, which include behaviors that are absolutely unacceptable, do not require a warning, but can result in the loss of privileges at all Scott County Library System locations for as long as the Library Director deems necessary.

In extreme cases where a patron is consistently disruptive every time he/she visits, the Library Director may ban a patron from Library property. Reinstatement of Library privileges will be authorized by the Library Board of Trustees.

In the cases in which a patron poses a clear danger to him/herself or to others, deliberately violates the law, or refuses to leave Library property after being asked to do so, police will be called immediately to handle the situation.

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
September 2014