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Maryville Public Library Policy

Section D: PUBLIC ACCESS & SERVICES

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General Conduct Policy at the Library

Maryville Public Library is supported by the taxpayers of Maryville who can expect the library to be a clean, comfortable, safe, and welcoming place for reading, studying, and attending meetings or library and community sponsored activities. For the purpose of protecting the interests of all of our patrons, staff, and public property, the following behaviors are prohibited on library grounds.

PROHIBITIONS

1. Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, local, or other applicable law, or Library policy.
2. Entering or remaining in a Library facility before or after posted hours of service without staff permission, or entry into any staff work area not open to the public. Refusing to leave the building at or after the time of closing.
3. Theft, or attempted theft, damage or attempted damage of Library materials or property or the personal property of Library customers or staff. This can also include behavior that brings avoidable risk to library property and resources.
4. Disruptive or threatening behavior: This can include creating a disturbance in any manner that interferes with people's ability to use the library or the staff's ability to complete their duties. This can include creating loud noises, speaking in an abusive, threatening, profane, or harassing manner—including through electronic means.
5. Use of Library facilities for other than their intended purpose, including use of the facilities for long-term sleeping, bathing, washing clothes or utensils, or preparing meals or food.
6. Smoking, pursuant to the Municipal Code of Maryville, Sec. 235.020, or use of other tobacco or herbal smoke products on Library property. The term "tobacco products" include but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, electronic cigarettes, other substances or products emitting smoke or fumes.
7. Strong odors or fragrances that unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of the Library by other patrons.
8. Entry into the Library without minimal standards of clothing including but not limited to a shirt or other covering of the upper body and footwear.
9. The uninvited introduction of any animals, insects and other living organisms except well-behaved service animals, such as seeing-eye dogs.
10. Skateboarding, roller blading, bicycling or transportation on any other human-powered wheeled conveyance in the Library or at Library entrances. Exceptions are wheelchairs and their powered equivalents and strollers for infants and toddlers.
11. Personal belongings must be kept with customers at all times. Personal belongings must not take up excess space or impede access to services and materials. Unattended personal belongings will be collected, and an effort will be made to identify and contact the owner. If not claimed within a reasonable amount of time, items will be discarded.

12. Public display of explicit sexual material or child pornography as outlined in Missouri State Statute, Chapter 573, Pornography and Related Offenses, Section 573.060.
13. Soliciting, fundraising, campaigning, or conducting surveys not authorized by the Library.
14. Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff. This includes but is not limited to stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, sexual harassment, sexual solicitation, public masturbation, and acts of exposure. Verbal abuse also includes but is not limited to name-calling, disparaging remarks regarding a person's intelligence, appearance, or any legally protected characteristic such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, or religion.
15. Using or bringing controlled substances or alcohol onto Library property or otherwise exhibiting signs and symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
16. Possession of knives, firearms or other weapons, unless authorized by state law. Showing or using dangerous weapons in a manner that indicates an intent to harm.
17. Physical altercations including assault or violent acts.
18. Leaving children unattended or neglecting to provide proper supervision of children.
19. Littering.
20. Consuming food or beverages in areas of the Library outside of those designated for that purpose. Exceptions include water in closed containers as permitted by authorized library employees, drinking fountain use, baby bottles, nursing, refreshments served at Library events, or with authorization of the Director). Any patron carrying a food or drink item will be asked to take it outside or it will be held for them until they are ready to leave.
21. Use of children's area for other than its intended purpose, which is the benefit and use of children and their accompanying adult supervisors.
22. Taking photographs, audio or video filming individuals in the library without the permission of the Director.
23. Refusal to remove, upon entering a Library facility, any article of clothing (such as dark sunglasses, hat, hood, or scarf) which covers the face and conceals the identity, unless such article of clothing is worn for religious purposes.
24. Being present in library offices or other non-public areas without permission, unless accompanied by a library staff member, or pursuant to a prior arrangement with the Director or designated staff.
25. Failing to follow the Library's Internet Use Policy (D:500)
26. Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the Library Director.