

# Patron Code of Conduct

## Policy Statement

The Library's purpose is to provide a quiet, safe and supportive environment for all guests and staff engaged in Library activities. All members of the public are encouraged to read, study, and use Library materials, programs, and/or services. Library users may not engage in any act which disrupts or prevents the expected or intended use of the Library. All Library guests and employees should be free of any threat of harm, invasion of property, or gross indignity. The City of Pasadena, TX Library Board, has adopted this Patron Code of Conduct as reflected below to guarantee these rights for all persons.

## Notification and Potential Action

If you observe patron behavior that does not meet this Patron Code of Conduct, please contact a staff member. The Library staff may take the following action when patrons are in noncompliance with this Patron Code of Conduct:

- Give a verbal warning;
- Ask patrons to leave the premises;
- Deactivate and/or restrict patron's access to computers for periods of 24 hours to six months depending on the severity of the violation;
- Ban a patron from the Library 24 hours to six months depending on the severity of the violation; and/or
- Call the police.

**Prohibited behaviors under the Texas Penal Code.** The following are some behaviors prohibited by the Texas Penal Code, but is not an exhaustive list of all prohibited conduct:

- Recklessly damaging or destroying City materials or property, or the personal property of building (Texas Penal Code §§ 28.03, 28.04);
- Gambling in any form on City property (Texas Penal Code § 47.02);
- Making offensive gestures, cursing or using obscene, abusive, profane or threatening language (Texas Penal Code § 42.01);
- Engaging in acts of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to indecent exposure, sexual contact and sexual intercourse (Texas Penal Code §§ 21.07, 42.01);
- Stalking other customers or staff, including looking into an area, such as a restroom, that is designed to provide privacy to a person using the area (Texas Penal Code §§ 42.01, 42.072);
- Exhibiting signs of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances (Texas Penal Code § 49.02);
- Engaging in physical altercations including assaults and fighting (Texas Penal Code § 42.01).

- A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly camps in a public place without the effective consent of the officer or agency having the legal duty or authority to manage the public place (Texas Penal Code § 48.05).

**Other prohibited behaviors.** The following behaviors are prohibited if in the judgment of city staff, on a case-by-case basis, they disrupt the environment for other users or employees of the Library:

- Engaging in any activity prohibited by law;
- Bringing any animal, insect, or other living organisms into the Library, except service animals trained to assist disabled individuals;
- Interfering with library employees in the performance of their duties; including but not limited to inappropriate comments, sexual advances, or physical and/or verbal harassment;
- Making sounds that are loud or disruptive and clearly audible by other library user or staff member.
- Using the Library building or grounds for other than their intended purposes, including, but not limited to, loitering, sleeping, camping, changing clothes, bathing, washing clothes, preparing meals or food;
- Entering or remaining in the Library in bare feet, bathing suits, or clothing that does not cover both the upper and lower torso.
- Bicycles, shopping carts, or other large wheeled conveyances are not permitted inside library buildings. Wheelchairs and strollers are permitted for the transport of an adult or child. Skates, skateboards, and collapsible scooters must be carried while on library premises.;
- Unreasonably monopolizing Library space, seating, tables, computers, or any equipment to the exclusion of other patrons and staff;
- Possessing food and/or uncapped beverages in areas not designated for food;
- Littering;
- Soliciting, panhandling on the Library property;
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children or individuals requiring care;
- Physically blocking aisles, exits, or entrances, including sitting or lying down in them;
- Assembling more than two people around a computer if it creates a disturbance to others;
- Violating the Library's Internet Access Policy
- The use of incendiary devices such as candles, matches, and lighters;
- Having offensive body odor or personal hygiene that unreasonably interferes with other patrons' ability to use the Library;
- Disobeying the reasonable direction of a Library staff member;
- Engaging in any other activity that disturbs normal activities and/or the environment for other users or Library staff.

The above rules are not intended to be a complete list of violations, but are intended for guidance only. Library staff and/or local law enforcement officers are authorized to expel persons who, advised of the regulations above, fail to comply with them. Such personnel also reserve the right to take appropriate action(s) against any other behavior which can reasonably be deemed to be offensive to library patrons or staff.

Revised by the City of Pasadena, TX Library Board 12/14/2021