

PEARISBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Code of Conduct

The **Library Code of Conduct** aims to protect the rights of library patrons and staff to enjoy a safe space conducive to the effective use of library facilities, materials, resources, and services. These rules are posted for the comfort and protection of all.

Instances of irresponsible use of the library and grounds include, but are not limited to:

- **Any illegal activity- including stealing, damaging, or altering any library property.**
Examples: Cursing; making obscene gestures; threatening personal safety of patrons or staff; transmitting threatening, or abusive language or images, chronic sleeping; any conduct that alarms or harasses another patron or staff; any adult unaccompanied by a child in the children's area who is not engaged in library activity.
- **Disruptive, drunken, or threatening behavior that may jeopardize the personal safety of patrons, staff or facilities.**
Examples: Cursing; making obscene gestures; threatening personal safety of patrons or staff; transmitting threatening, or abusive language or images, chronic sleeping; any conduct that alarms or harasses another patron or staff; any adult unaccompanied by a child in the children's area who is not engaged in library activity.
- **Acts of sexual misconduct or stalking.**
Examples: Indecent exposure; offensive touching; sexual harassment; displaying pornography; stalking or staring; any conduct that alarms, annoys or harasses another patron or staff.
- **Unacceptable personal hygiene.**
Examples: Body odors; not appropriately clothed (shirt and shoes required)
- **Possession of a weapon or exhibiting any item in a threatening manner**
Examples: Carrying guns, knives, or any weapons, except as permitted by law
- **Consumption of alcohol, intoxicants, or tobacco in the library or on library grounds.**
- **Bringing animals into the building other than properly identified service animals, or animals used in library programs.**
- **Soliciting money, donations, signatures, or other activities that request assistance from the public**
- **Entering before or after open hours; using the library when banned**
- **Photographing other users of the library without their permission and permission of library staff**
- **Performing any illegal act or conduct in violation of federal, state or local law, ordinance, or regulation**

Patrons are expected to:

- Use a valid library card to check out library materials before removing them from the building
- Use library parking areas, sidewalks and lawns properly and safely. Vehicles parked improperly are subject to being towed at owner's expense.
- Promptly leave the building at closing time or in an emergency
- Attend to personal belongings. The library is not responsible for personal belongings left in or on library property.
- Supervise their children in the library and in using the internet.

The Library Code of Conduct will be enforced by staff and/or local law enforcement. Patron identification, including name, address, and telephone number may be requested. Any patron not abiding by the policies of the library will be required to leave the library premises and may forfeit their library privileges. Actions that violate local, state, or federal law will be prosecuted.