

Library Behavior Policy

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson Co. Library System Public Library is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all community members can read, learn, and engage. To ensure that everyone can enjoy the library, all visitors are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner that supports the rights and safety of others and protects library resources and property. All Library users are expected to comply with the guidelines outlined in this policy; failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the Library. It will be up to the individual staff member, and the circumstances at hand, to determine if a warning or banning should be issued. The Police will be notified immediately if a user fails to leave the Library when asked by Library staff.

General Expectations

All patrons must:

- Treat others with courtesy, respect, and consideration.
- Use appropriate language and behavior at all times.
- Comply with all library staff directions and posted rules.
- Care for library materials, furnishings, and facilities.
- Follow all local, state, and federal laws while on library property.

Prohibited Behaviors

The following behaviors are not permitted in the library or on library grounds

- Disruptive, threatening, or abusive language or behavior.
- Harassment or intimidation of patrons or staff, including verbal, physical, or sexual harassment.
- Fighting, roughhousing, running, jumping, kicking, or physical aggression.
- Excessive noise, shouting, or loud use of electronic devices.
- Excessive bags (no more than two small bags).
- Items which are left or abandoned by Library users are subject to search to try and determine if the owner is in the Library. If the owner is not in the Library, the materials may be turned over to the Police Department. The Library is not responsible for any items or personal property left, lost, misplaced or stolen.
- Theft, vandalism, or destruction of library or personal property.
- Possession, use, or sale of alcohol, tobacco, vapes or illegal drugs.
- Sleeping or loitering in a way that interferes with library use.

- Having pervasive odors or visible presence of pests on self, personal belongings, or library materials
- Not wearing a shirt, shoes, pants or inappropriate clothing for library use. (*Examples include but not limited to: nightgowns, reveling clothing, offensive clothing or dirty clothing.*)
- Bringing animals into the library (except service animals as defined by law).
- Inappropriate use of library restrooms or facilities.
- Viewing or displaying obscene or offensive materials.
- Soliciting, panhandling, or distributing unauthorized materials.
- Use of skateboards, bicycles, or other wheeled devices inside the building.
- The moving of tables, chairs or other furniture is not permitted without approval from Library Staff.

Food and Drink

- Covered beverages and small snacks are allowed in designated areas.
- Meals or messy foods are not permitted near computers, books, or other library materials.
- Patrons must clean up after themselves.

Children and Youth

- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children at all times.
- The library is not a substitute for after-school or daycare supervision.

Enforcement of Policy

Library staff are authorized to:

- Approach and remind patrons of this policy.
- Ask patrons to modify their behavior or leave the premises if rules are violated.
- Suspend library privileges or issue bans for repeated or serious violations.
- Contact law enforcement if behavior poses a threat to safety or property.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in immediate removal from the library and suspension of library privileges.

Appeal Process

Patrons who have been suspended or banned from library use may submit a written appeal to the Library Director within 10 business days of notification. The Director will review the appeal and provide a written response within a reasonable time frame. The decision of the Director is final.