

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patron Conduct Policy

Statement of Policy

The Contra Costa County Public Library seeks to provide materials and services to the public in an environment that is safe, pleasant and conducive to comfortable library use. No one may engage in conduct that interferes with anyone else's ability or right to use and benefit from library facilities. (See below for types of unacceptable behavior.)

Anyone who engages in behavior that disrupts someone else's use of the library may be asked to leave the library.

Persons who engage in illegal activity, or any willful or repeated violations of this Patron Conduct Policy, or other posted library rules, are subject to being removed from the library facility and/or having their library privileges suspended. (See the Contra Costa County Public Library Suspension Policy.) Where authorized by Federal, State or local law, conduct violations may also result in arrest.

Enforcement of this Patron Conduct Policy will be by library staff and/or local police, as appropriate.

Need for the Policy

This Patron Conduct Policy is intended to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff and preserve and protect the library's materials, facilities and property.

Conduct Requirements

Patrons must be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library when in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, using library materials or equipment, or participating in a library program or activity will be required to leave the building.

The following behaviors are prohibited in the library:

- Behaviors that disturb the normal functioning of the library, including:
 - Refusing to follow the reasonable direction of library staff.
 - Engaging in illegal activities.
 - Being in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
 - Smoking, including the use of electronic or vapor cigarettes, inside the library facility or anywhere on library property.

- Creating loud noises that are disruptive to others, including loud talking and using electronic equipment set at a loud volume.
 - Causing strong pervasive odors that constitute a nuisance to others, including pervasive fragrances caused by perfume or other scented products.
 - Soliciting, panhandling, or gambling.
 - Failure to wear a shirt/top, pants/bottoms or shoes.
 - Engaging in any sexual activity or conduct.
 - Entering restricted and/or nonpublic areas of the library without permission.
 - Interfering with or disrupting library computer networks, library services, or library equipment.
 - Consuming food or beverages in the library, other than in designated areas.
 - Theft of library materials.
- Behaviors that disrupt the use of the library by others or create an unsafe environment, including:
 - Engaging in behavior that a reasonable person would find harassing, threatening, harmful or disruptive, including stalking, prolonged staring, or following another with the intent to annoy or disturb.
 - Harassing, threatening, assaulting, fighting, challenging to fight, or making verbal, written or implied threats of violence.
 - Bringing a weapon of any kind into the library or onto library property, including but not limited to, a gun, whether loaded or unloaded, a knife or a club.
 - Using harassing or insulting language, including profanity.
 - Engaging in horseplay or hazing.
 - Vandalizing library facilities, equipment, or materials.
 - Engaging in behaviors prohibited by other library policies.
- Inappropriate use of facilities or equipment, including:
 - Blocking entrances, exists, aisles, or walkways.
 - Using furniture or building facilities in ways that may cause damage or excessive or unreasonable wear, e.g., lying down, putting feet on chairs or walls, using more than one seat per person.
 - Using restrooms inappropriately, such as for shaving, bathing, laundering, or loitering.
 - Using library furniture or materials for anything other than its intended purpose.
 - Using electronic devices or other equipment in a way that disturbs other library users.
 - Leaving young children unattended anywhere in the library, including the children's area. (See the Contra Costa County Public Library Unattended Children Policy.)
 - Bringing any animals, except service animals or animals authorized by library staff, onto library property.
 - Running, riding skateboards, scooters, roller shoes, roller skates, roller blades, or similar devices inside library facilities or on library property.

- Bringing bicycles, unicycles, tricycles or other similar conveyances into library facilities, or leaving them at the entrance or exit to the library in a manner that inhibits entry or exit. (This restriction does not apply to wheelchairs or strollers or similar devices, provided they are used and stored in a manner that does not restrict public access.)
- Lying down or sleeping in a reclined position while in a library facility or on library grounds.
- Leaving personal belongings unattended.
- Using the Internet in ways that interfere with a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment for the public or library staff.
- Misusing library spaces that are designated for particular uses. . (See the Contra Costa County Public Library Children and Teen Areas Policy.)
- Such spaces vary by branch, but include:
 - Children's rooms, which are reserved for children under the age of 12 and their caregivers, and patrons using the children's collections at the discretion of library staff.
 - Teen rooms, which are reserved for patrons who are age 12 through 18, or patrons using the teen collection at the discretion of library staff.
 - Certain computers and study rooms that are designated for customers working individually and quietly.