

RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

BEHAVIOR POLICY

Policy Statement

The Riverdale Public Library District's Behavior Policy exists to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff, and to preserve the library's materials, facilities, and property.

The Library is governed by a Board of Trustees and the Illinois Library Law. These laws grant the Board the right to establish rules and regulations governing the public use of the library and to prohibit certain conduct within the library and on library property.

The Library is open to all members of the public. Patrons are expected to observe the rights of the patrons and staff members and to use the library for its intended purposes. Under the rules outlined in this policy, library staff will determine inappropriate behavior and actions and take immediate action, which may vary by severity and range from a warning to loss of library privileges.

While on library property, Patrons shall:

- a) Engage in activities associated with the use of the library. Patrons who are not reading, studying, engaging in quiet contemplation, using library materials, using library services, or participating in library-sponsored/hosted programs may be required to leave the building to allow us to better serve patrons who wish to do the above.
- b) Respect the rights of other patrons and staff.
- c) Not harass or annoy others through noisy or distracting behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, staring at patrons with the intent to disrupt, using audio devices at a volume to become distracting, speaking, humming, singing, or making other noises loud enough to disrupt others.
- d) Not use library staff to deliver messages to other patrons.

While on library property, Patrons shall not:

- a) Have in their possession weapons or illegal substances, or be under the visible influence of intoxicants.
- b) Perpetrate assault- make the attempt or express the ability to commit a violent injury on another person or to offer the perception of bodily harm using force or violent behavior toward another person.
- c) Attempt battery- actual, intentional, and unlawful touching or striking of another person against their will.
- d) Become verbally aggressive- use intimidation, threats, profanity, slurs, inappropriate language, or insults.
- e) Use tobacco, vape, or consume alcohol within the library. Smoking is not allowed within 15 feet of any library entrance by law.
- f) Rearrange Library furniture, equipment, or seating without express permission by library staff.
- g) Engage in any illegal activity while in the Library building or on Library grounds.
- h) Interfere with other patrons in the use of the Library or the Library staff in the performance of their duties.
- i) Engage in the destruction or vandalism of library property. Patrons may not deface or mar library property through permanent or semi-permanent means.

- j) Enter the library without a shirt or shoes. Patrons shall exhibit dress and grooming that is in accordance with health and safety regulations.
- k) Have offensive bodily hygiene to the point of disruption of services. Patrons must leave the building until their hygiene is addressed.
- l) Bring pets or animals into the library, excluding animals specifically trained and/or legally certified for support purposes.
- m) Allow children 9 and under to be in the library without a caregiver aged 14 years old or over.
- n) Climb, run, jump, or engage in other physical activities that may endanger themselves or other patrons and staff.
- o) Engage in excessive and/or lewd displays of affection
- p) Solicit, petition, or panhandle on library property without express permission of the library director.
- q) Enter any area which is marked as Staff-Only.

While on Library property, patrons shall follow these rules regarding personal property:

- a) Food is not allowed to be brought into the library and is not to be consumed inside the building except in the meeting room. Food consumption in the meeting room is permitted only with the express permission of library staff.
- b) Personal items must not block easy access or use of the library and must be watched or attended. Personal items left unattended for more than 1 hour will be claimed by the library. Lost items will be returned on request, provided that patrons can clearly prove the item in question belongs to them.

Any patron who does not abide by the above policies or any other policies of the Library will be warned by staff. If the inappropriate behavior continues after two warnings, staff will require the individual(s) to leave the library premises. When appropriate, local law enforcement authorities may be contacted. Serious or repeated violations of Library policy may result in the suspension/ban of Library privileges for a period determined by the Library Director based on the nature and severity of the violation.

Library suspensions for longer than 1 year must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Computer use violations are governed specifically by the policy for computer use. Notice for suspensions of library privileges will either be provided to patrons in person or via mail, if address is known. The reason for the suspension and the appeal process will be provided on said notice.

Library suspensions will include documentation and an incident report to support them. These will be provided to the Board for any library suspension for longer than one year and must be ratified if the ban is to be longer. These will also be provided if the patron wishes to appeal their suspension. The board will rule regarding bans that are challenged and may set stipulations for the patron to abide by for the use of library services.