

Haywood County Public Library

Disruptive Behavior Policy

The Disruptive Behavior Policy purpose:

- to protect the rights and safety of all library users
- to protect the rights and safety of staff members
- to preserve and protect the library's materials, facilities, and property

Everyone is welcome at the Haywood County Public Library. Resources are made available to all in an atmosphere of respect for knowledge, one another, community property, and resources.

The library will uphold all state, federal, local laws, and ordinances with regard to public behavior. Assistance from local law enforcement will be requested as needed.

To maintain the Library as a place where the community feels welcome, please observe:

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices; extensive cell phone conversations may be held outside. Ear buds are required when using audio on computers.

CHILDREN

Children under age ten (10) must be in close proximity of adult parent/guardian, not an older child. Adult use of the children's areas is limited to use by parents/caregivers acting on behalf of children/vulnerable individuals. If children are by themselves at closing time, and adults cannot be reached, law enforcement will be called.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Library users should refrain from disrupting library services of other visitors & staff. The following actions and forms of conduct are not permitted:

- using abusive, indecent, profane, loud/disruptive, vulgar language, gestures, or displays of vulgarity
- harassing, stalking, abusing, or interrupting free movement of another
- challenging to or initiating a fight, shoving, pushing, running, throwing things
- excessive public displays of affection
- engaging in sexual misconduct, such as voyeurism, exhibitionism, exposure
- violating others privacy in a public restroom
- using restrooms for bathing, shampooing, shaving, or washing clothes
- littering or defacing library materials, equipment, and/or property
- leaving personal items unattended such as backpacks, luggage, purses, etc. The library assumes no responsibility for lost/stolen items.

DRINKS/FOOD

Alcoholic drinks are prohibited; non-alcoholic covered drinks are permitted at tables. Drinks ARE NOT allowed at public computers. Food IS NOT permitted.

HYGIENE

Appropriate tops, bottoms, and footwear are required; wet clothing and disruptive attire are not permitted; shirts must be buttoned. Those with offensive odor will be asked to leave.

MONOPOLIZING LIBRARY SPACE

Blocking or impeding access to equipment, materials, and/or facilities by sleeping, dozing, napping, and/or lying down are not permitted.

PROPERTY

Do not: attempt to steal/deface/destroy/damage library materials, furnishings, facilities, or other's property; enter unauthorized workspaces; bring in items that take up excess space; leave packages/backpacks/luggage unattended; rearrange library furniture/equipment without approval.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, dogs recognized as service animals may accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the library. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, or the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. A person will be asked to remove the service animal if it is out of control and the handler doesn't take effective action to control it, or if it is not housebroken.

SMOKING/VAPING/TOBACCO PRODUCTS/ILLEGAL DRUGS

All libraries are tobacco-free. No tobacco products can be used in buildings, parking lots, or anywhere on library property. Prohibited: using tobacco, electronic cigarettes, being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs and/or selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.

SOLICITATION

Solicitation of any kind, including asking for money, is not permitted. Distribution or posting of notices in unauthorized areas is not permitted.

TRANSPORTATION

Skateboards, bicycles, scooters, and rollerblades are not allowed on library sidewalks or in the building. Skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades may not be used on parking lots and driveways.

TRESPASSING

Trespassing in restricted outside areas during closing hours, presence in the Library without permission of authorized staff outside operating hours, and/or sleeping and camping on library grounds is not permitted. The Haywood County "Grounds Use Ordinance" (Chapter 100 of the Code of Ordinances) must be complied with.

WEAPONS

No concealed or open carry weapons are allowed on library property. Discharging of weapons is prohibited. Pursuant to Chapter 96 of the Haywood County Ordinances and North Carolina law, no firearms or concealed weapons may be carried or displayed in any library building, grounds, or parking area.

Any person, without prior notice or warning, may be asked to leave or immediately removed from the Library if presence/conduct poses an immediate and imminent danger to any person or property. In addition, persons failing to comply with reasonable staff requests will be educated about the Disruptive Behavior Policy and may be immediately removed from the Library if unacceptable behaviors continue.

VIOLATION(S) OF THE ABOVE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

FIRST OFFENSE: EDUCATE

SECOND OFFENSE: WARN

THIRD OFFENSE: BAN; POLICE CALLED, LIBRARY PRIVILEGES SUSPENDED THREE MONTHS

SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE: LIBRARY PRIVILEGES SUSPENDED ONE YEAR

If library privileges are suspended and the suspension is ignored, prosecution for public trespass is likely.