

Library Code of Conduct

Henderson County Public Library patrons and staff have the right to expect a safe, comfortable environment that supports appropriate use of library services. Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, writing, studying, using library materials or equipment or other constitutionally protected use of the library facilities shall be required to leave. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Creating loud or disturbing noise, including noise by persons and electronic devices especially in designated quiet zones. Disruptive cell phone use is not permitted.
 - Possessing, consuming or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal controlled substances.
 - Sleeping or loitering.
 - Using tobacco, in any form, inside the library.
 - Drinking beverages in non secure containers or consuming non snack food, such as fast food or hot meals. No food or beverages permitted in computer areas.
 - Possessing any concealed or unauthorized weapon.
 - Distributing leaflets or postings of any sort without prior authorization from the Library administration.
 - Not wearing shirts or shoes in the library.
 - Violating local ordinances, state, and/or federal law.
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- Using library property or facilities for activities or behaviors for which it is not intended.
 - Moving library furniture or equipment from one location to another without prior permission.
 - Defacing, destroying or stealing any library property or the property of others.
 - Bringing animals into the building other than certified service animals.
 - Using library telephones or other equipment not designated for public use.
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- Acts of harassment such as, following, stalking, staring, and unwanted physical contact, verbal and nonverbal propositions, using obscene language, fighting, threatening or interfering with the free movement of others.
 - Disturbing or offending other library patrons.
 - Soliciting, advocating, proselytizing, canvassing library patrons.
 - Taking photographs inside the library without prior approval from the Library Director.
 - Leaving children aged 9 and under unattended. Children must be accompanied by a responsible party 17 years of age or older. Children under the age of 17 should not be left on library property after closing.

Violators of this policy or patrons not complying with staff decisions/directions regarding disruptive behavior are subject to removal from the library, and long-term loss of library privileges. Anyone refusing to leave the library premises when requested by library staff is subject to arrest and prosecution under trespass laws (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-134) of North Carolina.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 8/16/12