

PATRON BEHAVIOR

TFML Policy No. 7

Thomas Ford Memorial Library is dedicated to providing a quiet, safe and pleasant environment for patrons of all ages. The library is open to the public only for specific purposes: reading, studying, attending programs, using library materials and using library equipment. The library's goal is to facilitate acquisition of knowledge through reading, quiet contemplation and related activities. Therefore, the library must protect the rights of individuals who are in the library as well as the rights of staff members to conduct library business without disruption. This policy describes guidelines for behavior of patrons that will assure creation of an appropriate atmosphere to achieve the library's goals.

7.1 Goals

Quiet, non-disruptive behavior is expected from all library patrons. Behavior, which interferes with the peaceful and orderly management of the library, may result in expulsion from the library. Violators shall be denied use of the facilities for specified periods of time based on the severity of the violation as determined by the Library Director in consultation with the Library Board of Trustees. Any expulsion may be appealed to the Board of Library Trustees by requesting a hearing. Unacceptable behavior would include, but is not limited to the following.

7.10 Destruction of library materials

7.11 Use of the library for purposes other than those which meet its goals.

7.12 Loud use of cell phones or individually owned or library supplied audio equipment.

7.13 Use of wheeled vehicles or wheeled footwear inside the library except where such use is to afford a disabled person access to the library.

7.14 Physical, sexual or verbal abuse or attempts to intimidate or annoy other patrons or staff members by following or staring at them or by displaying material that is obscene or that contains child pornography on a computer screen (as per the Computer Utilization Policy which is available at the Reference Desk) so that their use or care of the library's materials or facilities is disrupted

7.15 Intoxication

7.16 Bringing any animal into the library except one assisting a disabled person or for library programming purposes.

7.17 Smoking or lighting matches, lighters or other flammables inside the library.

7.18 Entering areas designated for use only by library staff without permission.

7.19 Sounding the fire alarm without cause.

7. 191 Refusing to leave the building upon request at closing time, during an emergency or after causing a disruption by engaging in one of the above

listed behaviors or any other behavior which interferes with the peaceful and orderly management of the library.

7.192 Entering the library without a shirt or shoes or in attire intended to disrupt the activities taking place which are in keeping with the library's goals.

7.193 Exhibiting offensive bodily hygiene or attire that disrupts other patrons' or staff's use or care of library materials or facilities.

7.2 Children's Behavior

Additional considerations apply to the behavior of children in the library relative to age and supervision.

7.21 Children under the age of eight must be supervised by a parent or responsible adult. Supervision is defined as keeping the child(ren) in direct sight, staying in a range close enough so that quiet directives may be given as needed, and **actively** monitoring behavior. Children need adult attention and guidance to make library visits positive experiences for all. Adults who are supervising children shall use quiet voices and library manners when chatting with fellow adults or instructing their charge(s) so that others using the Library are not disturbed. Caregivers sent to the Library with children shall be informed by the children's parents as to what constitutes appropriate behavior/Library use.

7.22 Running, shouting, climbing and eating may be normal behavior for children outside of the library environment; however, they are disruptive in the library and not appropriate. These rules exist for all patrons to ensure a pleasant environment.

7.23 If a child under the age of eight (8) behaves inappropriately Library staff will suggest an appropriate alternate behavior; if the advice is not accepted the child will be seated in an area where he or she can be closely supervised while the parent or responsible adult is notified that they must come immediately to pick up the child.

7.24 Children ages 9 to 12 will be warned when behavior is not acceptable and an appropriate alternate behavior will be suggested. If the suggestion is ignored or rejected the offending individual will be required to leave the library. Parents will be notified.

7.25 Parents of a disruptive child will always be contacted when a disruptive child is told he or she must leave the library

References:

Illinois Statutes: Chap. 38, Article 16B Protection of Library materials

Kreimer v. Bureau of Police for the town of Morristown, 765 F. Supp. 181 (N.J. 1981)

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