

Dallas Public Library Code of Conduct

Dallas Public Library welcomes every member of the community to use and enjoy the Library's facilities, collections, programs, and services. In keeping with the Library's commitment to customer service and the provision of a safe and inviting atmosphere, the following guidelines set forth expected behavior from all customers. Library staff will enforce these guidelines in a consistent and impartial manner.

Library customers are expected to:

- Respect customers and staff
- Respect library property, equipment and materials
- Obey the law
- Comply with requests from staff

When those expectations are not met, it may become necessary to respond to errant behavior and to mitigate disruptions by temporarily or indefinitely suspending the library privileges of a customer, which includes access to activities, services, or facilities of the Dallas Public Library. The length of the suspension will be based upon the severity of the offense, and while it is the Library's goal to reinstate privileges as quickly as possible, library privileges will not be restored until Library staff is confident that incidents will not recur.

A. The Code of Conduct applies to all. It applies everywhere the Library provides service, whether on Library property, in the community, through our website or social media, and by phone or email. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers are responsible for their child's personal safety and behavior at all times.

B. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in expulsion from the Library with revocation of library privileges or in arrest and possibly prosecution.

C. The following observable behaviors and activities are not allowed:

UNSAFE OR DISRUPTIVE TO OTHERS

Any activity that unreasonably interferes with others' use and enjoyment of the library or with the functioning of library staff

Examples (including but not limited to):

- Interfering with library employees in the performance of their duties, including but not limited to: inappropriate personal comments, staring, sexual advances, or physical and/or verbal harassment
- Interfering with or blocking the free passage of staff or others
- Use of profane, obscene, or aggressive language and/or gestures and excessive displays of affection
- Activities or behaviors that may result in injury or harm to self or others
- Insufficient supervision of children
- Bringing animals into the library, except for service animals as defined by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Wearing inappropriate clothing including bare feet and no shirt
- Excessive noise
- Bodily hygiene or scent so strong as to constitute a nuisance to others

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES OR PROPERTY

Using library privileges, materials, equipment, fixtures, furniture, buildings or grounds in any manner other than intended

Examples (including but not limited to):

- Entering non-public areas in the library without authorization
- Using areas for any activities, other than their intended purpose
- Posting signs on library property without approval
- Activities or behavior that may result in damage to library property or property of others
- Consuming food or beverages around library computers or equipment.
- Leaving personal property unattended
- Sleeping
- Use of restrooms for bathing, shaving, or washing hair or clothes
- Sales or solicitation without prior approval
- Use of parking lot before or after hours of operation, parking in reserved spaces at Central, or for performing non-emergency automotive repairs or maintenance at any time.

ILLEGAL

Any observable behavior that is prohibited by law

Examples (including but not limited to):

- Intimidating, threatening or harassing behavior towards other customers or staff
- Theft
- Viewing or printing child pornography
- Displaying or distributing obscene material
- Engaging in acts of sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to, indecent exposure, sexual contact and sexual intercourse
- Engaging in physical altercations including assault and fighting
- Possession of illegal weapons of any type
- Use of tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, synthetic tobacco products or electronic (smokeless, or their equivalent) or cigarettes in library buildings or within 15 feet of any entrance
- Use, display, or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Gambling in any form on City property

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH STAFF

Ignoring requests or disobeying the direction of a library staff member

Examples (including but not limited to):

- Failing to exit at closing or during an evacuation

