

Library Rules of Conduct

Purpose

Mitchell Public Library is intended to be an inviting, comfortable, clean, and safe place for selecting materials, reading, studying, writing, using computers, and attending programs and meetings. Library users should conduct themselves in a manner that respects others. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of other library users or staff are prohibited.

These rules are meant to ensure that all library users may enjoy good service in pleasant surroundings. Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner.

Failure to comply with the library's established rules and policies could result in:

- restriction and/or termination of the use of library computers, checkout privileges, or other library privileges;
- removal from the premises;
- exclusion from the library for a period of time; or
- arrest/prosecution.

Policy

The following actions or behaviors are examples, but not a complete list, of conduct not allowed on library property:

- Possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- Using tobacco or vaping products.
- Verbally, physically, or sexually threatening or harassing other library users, volunteers, or staff. This includes stalking, lurking, bullying, obscene language, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of library materials, furniture, equipment, or other property.
- Fighting or challenging to fight, running, roughhousing, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
- Creating disruptive noise and/or disturbances which interfere with others' use of the library.
- Participating in group activities that are disruptive to the library environment.
- Sleeping (for longer than 30 minutes).
- Blocking aisles, exits, or entrances.
- Harassing or discriminating against other library users, volunteers, or staff based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, or any other protected class.
- Selling and/or soliciting for money or items or services, except as authorized by the Library Director.
- Trespassing in non-public areas, being in the library without permission of an authorized library employee before or after library operating hours, or camping on library grounds.
- Using restroom facilities for purposes other than for which they are intended.

- Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended. Library staff will not store items for library users. Unattended items are subject to immediate confiscation.
- Using skateboards or scooters in the library.
- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the library, except as authorized by the Library Director.
- Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local or other applicable law or library policy.
- Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request intended to preserve the orderly conduct of library operations.

Food and Beverages

Food and beverages in containers with lids are permitted in the library, except in the library archives or any other area that is posted as being prohibited.

Children in the Library

For the safety and comfort of children, parents or responsible caregivers must supervise their child/children while in the Library. The Library is not a substitute for child care services. Children using the Library on their own must also follow the Library Rules of Conduct. Children behaving inappropriately may be required to leave. When necessary, the Library will contact law enforcement to assist a child in need of adult supervision.

Library Children's Areas

Children's areas at Mitchell Public Library are intended for use by children, their parents or caregivers, and other adults accessing materials in the children's collection. Children's areas may not be used by adults as a general reading room. Adults unaccompanied by children and not actively using children's materials or resources may be asked to use other areas of the Library.