

KLAMATH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES OF BEHAVIOR

PURPOSE

The mission of the Klamath County Library Service District is to provide "open and equal access and guidance to information resources, literature, and ideas, for all county residents." The Library welcomes everyone in the community to use and enjoy its facilities and services. To protect each individual's access to information and library services, the Library Board has established the following Rules of Behavior. These rules serve to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff, and to preserve and protect the Library's materials, facilities, and properties.

While on library property, ask for help when you need it; let the staff know if the library does not have the item or service you want; and be courteous to other patrons and staff.

POLICIES

- a. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance is strictly prohibited.
- b. The use of any tobacco products and electronic cigarettes within library facilities or within 10 feet of entryways is not allowed. Using marijuana in public is prohibited by law.
- c. Eating and drinking non-alcoholic beverages inside the library is conditionally allowed. Consuming food that creates a nuisance because of odor, garbage, or spills is prohibited. Non-alcoholic beverages in closed containers and small amounts of snack foods are allowed. NO food or beverage consumption is allowed at computer stations, microfilm machines, or other electronic equipment and must be kept away from all paper library materials.
- d. Being in public under the influence of any controlled substance or intoxicating liquor is prohibited, as well as possessing, selling, distributing, or consuming any alcoholic beverage.
- e. Peddling, panhandling, or solicitation of merchandise/services in library facilities is prohibited. Chalking and distribution of literature within library perimeters is not permitted. Unauthorized posting, petitioning, or distributing of written materials or canvassing for political, charitable, or religious purposes inside library facilities including the doorway or vestibule of any library building or in a manner that unreasonably interferes with or impedes access to the Library is not permitted.
- f. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the library, disturbs library staff or other patrons is prohibited by law and library policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, directing a specific threat of physical harm against any individual, group of individuals, or any property; the use of abusive or threatening language or gestures; or conduct that creates unreasonable noise, including loud or boisterous physical behavior or talking.
Use of library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures, or buildings in a manner inconsistent with the customary use thereof, or in a destructive, abusive, or potentially damaging manner, or in a manner likely to cause personal injury to the user or other patrons is not permitted.

- g. Bringing animals inside library buildings, with the exception of service animals and those allowed at library-approved events, is prohibited. Animals may not be tethered and left unattended on any library premises.
- h. Library users may not bring bicycles into the Library or park bikes on ramps, in vestibules, or in any other place except designated bicycle racks. Using skateboards, rollerblades, roller skates, or other sports equipment in the Library or on library property is prohibited, although skateboards may be carried. Wheeled vehicle use, with the exceptions of strollers and mechanisms used by disabled persons, is prohibited inside library facilities.
- i. Bare feet and bare chests are not permitted in library facilities. All current laws pertaining to public decency apply.
- j. Library users are prohibited from sleeping excessively, camping, or loitering anywhere on library property. Furniture may not be rearranged for the purpose of sleeping. Bathing, shaving, and washing of hair, and other improper uses of public restrooms are prohibited. Patrons may not change clothes in any restroom common area.
- k. Library users with children in their care must ensure that children under the age of 10 are supervised by an adult. Leaving children 10 years old and under unattended by an adult, except during the time they are part of a structured, library-sanctioned activity, is prohibited. ***Unattended*** means a child 5 years and under who is not accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, or a child from 6 to 10 years without a responsible adult in the library building.
- l. Engaging in public indecency, offensive touching, or unlawful sexual conduct is prohibited on library property and will result in legal action.
- m. Persons may not vandalize, deface, damage, or destroy library buildings, materials, furniture, or equipment, or remove such property without permission. Patrons may not tamper with any fire or emergency systems.
- n. Possessing a weapon of any kind, except as allowed by State law, is not permitted. Persons may not bring firearms, other weapons, fireworks, or other dangerous devices/substances into library facilities.
- o. Strong odors from poor personal hygiene, fragrances, or body sprays, that disturb other library patrons or staff and interfere with library use and operation are not permitted.
- p. Speech must be kept at a volume that does not disturb other patrons. Using personal electronic equipment at a volume that disturbs others, including, but not limited to pagers, stereos, televisions, and cellular telephones, is not permitted. Please use headphones or earbuds with your personal electronic devices and use cell phones only in designated areas.
- q. Blocking or significantly limiting access to sidewalks, building entrances, library aisles, furniture, or materials, is not permitted. Do not bring into the library anything which creates an obstacle or takes up seating. Library users may not leave personal belongings unattended. The library is not responsible for damage or theft of personal property.

- r. The Library is not responsible for damage or theft of personal property left unattended.
- s. Do not enter or remain in unauthorized or closed areas of library facilities at any time. Users must leave the Library at closing, during emergencies or evacuations, or when requested to do so by library staff or public safety personnel.
- t. Do not film or photograph library users or employees without their knowledge and consent.
- u. Do not park vehicles on library property for purposes other than library use. Vehicles parked in violation of this rule may be towed at the owner's expense.
- v. Internet policy is provided in a separate section of this policy.

ENFORCEMENT

- * The Library Director or the Director's designee will implement these rules.
- * Unlawful activities will immediately be reported to a local law enforcement agency.
- * Those who violate Library Policies will be asked to stop such actions. If the behavior continues, they will be directed to leave the Library for the day. Refusal to leave the Library when properly directed may result in arrest for trespass.
- * A person who has repeatedly violated Library Policies may be denied permission to enter any and all service points for a specified time, from one week up to one year.
- * If, in the judgement of the Library Director, the person constitutes a threat to the safe operation and use of the Library, the person may be permanently excluded from all Library facilities and programs. Such a person will be entitled to telephone or off-site Library services.
- * If a child is left unattended in the Library, staff will attempt to locate the caregiver. If the caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, law enforcement will be notified.

APPEAL

People who have received a notice that restricts future access to the Library may request a hearing. The request must be in writing and filed with the Klamath County Library within 48 hours [excluding weekends] of receipt of the notice. The Library Director will schedule a hearing which shall not be more than one week after receipt of the request for hearing.

The hearing will be informal and the Library Director will consider testimony from the library staff involved in the incident, from the person requesting the hearing, and from any other witnesses to the incident. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Library Director may affirm, modify, or cause the notice to be canceled. A written copy of the decision will be delivered or mailed to the person that requested the hearing on the date issued.

This decision may be appealed to the County Board of Commissioners.