

Patron Conduct Ordinance

The Wood River Public Library is dedicated to providing access to knowledge and information through reading, writing, and quiet contemplation, providing patrons the right to use materials and services without being disturbed or impeded, and providing patrons and employees a secure and comfortable environment. The Public Library Act provides the Board of Library Trustees with the general power to carry out the spirit and intent of the Act in establishing and maintaining the library and providing library services and the specific power to “exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed.”

The Board of Library Trustees of the Wood River Public Library establishes its conduct ordinance as follows:

Section 1.

A patron who engages in any activity which materially disrupts the use of library facilities, collections, or services by patrons or materially disrupts the ability of the staff to perform its duties shall cease such activity immediately upon request by library personnel. See "Rules for Acceptable Library Use" for a list of prohibited activities.

Section 2.

If a minor is engaging in prohibited behavior, the parent or guardian will be notified in certain circumstances.

Section 3.

If, following a request, the patron fails or refuses to comply or responds to the request in an abusive fashion, he or she will be required to leave the library premises immediately for the balance of that calendar day. If he or she fails to leave, the police will be summoned and he/she will be banned from the library for a period of one calendar year. Engaging in certain prohibited activities will result in immediate request to leave the premises and/or notification of police.

Section 4.

Library personnel will record instances in which patrons are required to leave the library in a ledger maintained by the library for that purpose. Upon the third recorded instance in which an adult patron is required to leave the library premises, the Director shall bar the patron from use of library premises for a period of one calendar year. Engaging in certain prohibited activities will result directly in a permanent ban from Library premises. Parents or guardians of minors will be notified in writing after the third recorded instance in which a minor is required to leave the library and advised of the consequences of any further recorded instances. If a minor is asked to leave the premises three times during a thirty-day period, they will be banned from the library for the period of thirty calendar days.

Section 5.

In the event a patron barred from the use of the library attempts entry to the library during any such period of exclusion, the police will be summoned and informed of the prior action.

Section 6.

In the event a barred patron returns after a period of exclusion and engages again in prohibited behavior, abusive conduct, or disruptive behavior, the Director and Board of Trustees shall, based on the nature of the offense, bar the patron for either one calendar year or permanently. Engaging in certain prohibited activities will result directly in a permanent ban from the Library premises.

Section 7.

Whenever possible, patrons with revoked privileges will be notified in writing. A patron whose privilege(s) has been limited or revoked may appeal the limitation or revocation of the privilege(s) by filing a written appeal with the Director within ten (10) days from the date of the issuance of the written revocation. The appeal will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees whose decision is final. Parents or guardians wishing to appeal the revocation of privileges for a minor may do so following the same procedure. The patron whose privilege(s) has been limited or revoked shall attend a meeting with the Director to review this Library Patron Behavior Policy before his or her privilege(s) may be reinstated. In the case of minors, a parent or guardian must be present at the meeting.

Section 8.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment and approval according to law and be in full force and effect thereafter. A copy shall be posted within three days of enactment at the library and the secretary shall maintain a certified copy in the official records of the library available for public inspection.

Rules for Acceptable Library Use

To insure that all patrons may have considerate use of the Wood River Public Library, and staff have a safe work environment, appropriate behavior is expected. Violation of any of the following rules will result in a warning and/or expulsion from Library property. Whenever necessary, police will be contacted. The Director and supervisory staff have authority to carry out all powers of this policy, and reserves the right to ask patrons engaging in any or all disruptive behavior(s) to cease.

The following acts are strictly prohibited:

1. Carrying firearms and dangerous weapons of any type (except by law enforcement officers).
2. Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
3. Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, inappropriate personal comments, sexual advances and obscene acts.
4. Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriate use of Library property in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment.
5. Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.

Any patron engaging in one or more of the above behaviors will be instructed to leave the Library immediately and may have his or her Library privileges suspended for a period of up to one (1) year, or permanently, depending on the severity of the violation. In addition, law enforcement may be called and appropriate legal action may follow.

Other Prohibited Actions while in the Library

1. Panhandling or soliciting library staff or patrons for money, products, or services inside the library or on library property.
2. Creating unreasonable noise levels including shouting, loud talking or disruptive conversation, allowing ringing cell phones or engaging in loud cell phone conversation.
3. Consuming food except in designated areas or at authorized Library functions.
4. Having open cups/containers of liquids near Library computers.
5. Taking Library materials into the restrooms.
6. Using incendiary devices, including candles, matches, and lighters inside the library.
7. Failing to be fully clothed (top, pants/skirt, and shoes) at all times.
8. Misusing restrooms, including laundering, shaving, hair cutting or trimming, bathing, and sexual activity.
9. Smoking, chewing, using E-cigarettes, and any other tobacco use in Library facilities, or within 15 feet of Library entrance.
10. Using wheeled devices in Library property or on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including skateboarding, roller-skating, bicycling, scooters, and shopping carts (exceptions i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers).
11. Lying down or sleeping in the restrooms or on any floor, couch, table, or seat in the Library, and by blocking aisles, exits, or entrances by sitting or lying down in them.
12. Offensive body odor due to poor personal hygiene, overpowering perfume, or cologne that causes a nuisance or interferes with other patron's use of the library.

Engaging in any of the above behaviors may result in one or more of the following consequences, depending on the severity of the violation:

- Initial warning, given copy of Rules for Acceptable Library Use.
- Library privileges suspended for one day.
- Library privileges suspended for thirty days to six months.
- Library privileges suspended for up to one year.

Whenever possible, patrons with revoked privileges will be notified in writing. A patron whose privilege(s) has been limited or revoked may appeal the limitation or revocation of the privilege(s) by filing a written appeal with the Director within ten (10) days from the date of the issuance of the written revocation. The appeal will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees whose decision is final. The patron whose privilege(s) has been limited or revoked shall attend a meeting with the Director to review this Library Patron Behavior Policy before his privilege(s) may be reinstated.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on July 31, 2014