

Truth or Consequences Public Library



Library Hours

Monday - Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to noon

Library Code of Conduct

Individuals on library property, or individuals whose actions affect others on library property, are expected to behave in ways that show respect for themselves, for other library users, and for the staff and property of the Library.

Individuals should not engage in behavior that is illegal or that may constitute a danger to themselves or others, or which threatens or damages library property.

The Library will seek such assistance as is necessary and reasonable from authorized personnel in seeing that appropriate behavior is maintained. This may include assistance from law enforcement officers.

To make clear the behavior expected of persons on library property and the consequences of their behavior, the Library will maintain guidelines that state the policy and contain current procedures relating to personal conduct.

Violators of the Library Code of Conduct may be refused entry to the library for periods of 3 days (first offense); 1 week (second offense); or 30 days (third and subsequent offenses). Violation of the No-entry Order may result in prosecution under the criminal trespass ordinance.

Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging in disruptive behavior such as shouting, persistent loud talking or other deliberate noise making, fighting, running, throwing objects, etc.
2. Using a cell phone in a manner that disturbs other library users. Cell phones should be placed on vibrate or silent mode. Please have the courtesy to take phone calls outside or in a private room.
3. Littering, damaging, or vandalizing library facilities, equipment, or materials.
4. Removing materials from the library without properly checking them out.
5. Harassing other library users or staff, through physical, sexual, or verbal abuse, including the use of offensive language.
6. Prolonged kissing, inappropriate touching of a sexual nature, or other overtly sexual conduct.
7. Bringing food or beverages into the library, except by previous special arrangement.
8. Smoking or other tobacco use inside library facilities.
9. Possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
10. Using library facilities for anything other than their intended purposes -- for example, using the restrooms for bathing.
11. Blocking or obstructing any library entrance, exit, aisle, driveway, ramp, or path, sitting or lying on the floor in aisles or passageways is prohibited, except in designated areas.
12. Selling or soliciting, except as allowed by city ordinance.
13. Being inside the library outside of operating hours without authorization.
14. Any act subject to prosecution under Federal, State, or local law.

If a library user chooses not to follow the "Library Code of Conduct," the following can be expected:

1. A reminder will be given to the library patron that the behavior is unacceptable.
2. If the patron chooses to continue unacceptable behavior, he or she will be asked to leave the library premises.
3. If the patron refuses to leave, the police may be called for assistance. In instances involving malicious destruction of property, physical violence threatened or executed, abusive language directed at library staff or other patrons, or of alcohol or illegal drug use, law enforcement may be called with no warning given.

Guidelines for children visiting the public library:

T or C Public Library welcomes and encourages the use of the library by children and their parents. Library staff is concerned with the safety and welfare of children on library premises, but cannot assume the role of parent or caregiver. For these reasons, the guidelines contained herein have been developed to benefit children using library facilities.

Children under age eight:

A parent or caregiver must accompany any child under the age of eight years. For children 0-4, the parent must remain with the child at all times. For all children under eight the parent or caregiver must keep the child within their sight.

If taking the place of a parent, a caregiver must be at least fifteen years old, and must have with them emergency contact information for the child they are attending. They are encouraged to have similar information for themselves.

If a child under the age of eight is found unattended, or violates the Code of Conduct, the parent or caregiver will be informed and asked to take responsibility for the child and his or her actions.

For all children -- during library hours

Children ages eight and up may use the library on their own; however, library facilities are not meant to be used in lieu of childcare.

If a child wishes to leave the library, library staff cannot legally detain him or her.

Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other library users. If an unattended child is requested to leave the premises, he or she will be encouraged to call a parent or guardian and inform them of the situation.

For all children -- after library hours

It is assumed that children will not be left at the library after hours; however, it is sometimes unavoidable that: 1) libraries must close due to unusual weather or emergency situations, or, 2) parents/caregivers cannot be on time to collect a child.

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for children left at the library. In such circumstances, the children will be given the opportunity to contact parents/caregivers, and will be encouraged to remain with Officers of the Truth or Consequences Police Department while waiting for their parents/caregivers to pick them up.

For All Children -- Special Conditions

It may be necessary to notify appropriate law enforcement or childcare protective authorities if: 1) an unattended child is being disruptive, or 2) a child is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm.