

## **POLICY ON PATRON BEHAVIOR**

The Spirit Lake Public Library will provide a safe, comfortable environment that is conducive to the use of library materials either by individuals or small groups.

Patrons using the library are expected to behave in a way that is appropriate to the library's purpose.

Therefore, the following kinds of behavior are prohibited:

1. Any behavior that is illegal. All federal, state, and local laws and ordinances must be obeyed while on Library property.
2. Any behavior that endangers oneself or others.
3. Any behavior that is disruptive of the library environment, including conversation that is above an acceptable noise level or is disturbing to other patrons or using profane or obscene language.
4. Any behavior that is abusive of other patrons, staff members, or library property.
5. Indecent exposure, use of pornography, or engaging in acts of a sexual nature will result in notification of the police and expulsion from library property.
6. Use of a personal electronic device at a level audible to others,
7. Use of a personal electronic device to record or photograph library patrons or staff without consent of subject being recorded or a member of library staff.
8. Soliciting, panhandling, campaigning, petitioning, fundraising or selling, unless authorized by the library director.
9. Animals, except service animals (Iowa Code 216c.11), are not permitted in the Library.
10. Weapons

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

The library encourages visits by young children. Library staff will not assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children in the library. Therefore, it is library policy that all children under age 5 must be accompanied by a parent or designated responsible person while in the library.

## **GUIDELINES**

The primary responsibility for enforcing this patron behavior policy rests on the staff member in charge of the library when an incident occurs. However, all staff members have responsibility for enforcing the policy. When deemed necessary to enforce Library rules, the police will be called for assistance.

1. Staff members are to use their best professional judgment when enforcing this policy. Response to any incident should occur as soon as possible after the incident begins.
2. The goals of staff action will be to curtail a patron's inappropriate behavior, and to encourage the patron to behave appropriately in the library.
3. In cases where a patron continues to behave in an inappropriate manner after the staff has warned the patron that such behavior is inappropriate, the staff member in charge is authorized to tell the patron to leave, and to call the police if the patron refuses.
4. The Library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, briefcases, packs, etc. for Library materials. The Library is not responsible for personal property left unattended.

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