

CODE OF CONDUCT

To provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere for staff and patrons that is conducive to the appropriate use of library facilities and resources, the following rules will be observed by all library patrons. Staff members are authorized to enforce this policy as needed. In cases in which it is deemed necessary to enforce library rules, the police will be called for assistance.

Any conduct that disturbs other patrons or the employees, that endangers the health and safety of staff or patrons, or that hinders the use of the library or library materials is prohibited.

In addition, the following activities are prohibited:

1. Eating and /or drinking at the public computers. Food and beverages may not be brought into the public computer areas. Beverages in covered containers and snacks are allowed in the adult spaces of the library and in designated areas in the youth services spaces. Patrons may not have food delivered to the library. Trash must be disposed of properly.
2. Smoking, vaping, smokeless tobacco, and possessing alcohol or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
3. Inappropriate attire, including not wearing shoes or shirts.
4. Panhandling or unauthorized canvassing or selling.
5. Loitering, sleeping, or blocking access to any part of the Library. Individuals who are lingering in the library with no clear purpose or who are not using library facilities for their intended purposes will be considered to be loitering.
6. Leaving children (ages 8 and under) unattended or unsupervised. Please see the policy regarding Unattended Children for details.
7. Bringing weapons or firearms on to the Library premises.
8. Refusing to comply with social distancing and other temporary health and safety measures and procedures established during a pandemic or other public health or safety situation.

Persons violating the above rules will be given a warning or, at the library staff's discretion, will be asked to leave immediately. If a patron's behavior is extremely disruptive, dangerous, or illegal, the police will be called. Included in disruptive behavior is abusive or threatening language, actions or behavior.

In order to enforce these policies and ensure the safety of staff and patrons, Library staff reserves the right to inspect all bags, briefcases, backpacks and similar items. Library staff may also ask a patron to show their library card or some other form of identification.

Repeat violators of the library rules of behavior may have their library privileges revoked or restricted. In such cases, staff should document time, date, person's name and description of the incident. Under Chapter 43.52 of WI State Statutes, the Library Board does have the right to revoke a person's rights to access to the library if the person has a history of disruptive behavior.

Approved by the St. Francis Library Board 12/13/23