

# BREMEN PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Approved by the Bremen Public Library Board of Trustees, October 31, 2022

## POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the library to offer a full range of services in a safe, welcoming, and equitable access environment. The BPL Board of Trustees recognizes its responsibility to maintain this environment. Any activity that interferes with the rights of other patrons to use the library that could result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others or could result in damage to the facilities, equipment, or materials is considered disruptive and unacceptable. The library reserves the right to require anyone who violates these rules of conduct to leave the premises and to restrict privileges for a specified period of time. Unlawful activities will be reported to the police.

## DISRUPTIVE AND PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

Disruptive and prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Personal hygiene that poses a health, safety, sanitary risk, or nuisance to other persons
- Abusive, profane, or obscene language
- Any form of sexual misconduct, including exposure, offensive or unwelcoming touching, and harassment
- Begging, gambling, panhandling, solicitation, or sales
- Bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and skating should be limited to sidewalks
- Blocking aisles, doorways or in any way interfering with free movement
- Boisterous activity including excessive noise, running, roughhousing, fighting, or throwing objects
- Bringing animals into the building, except service animals as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Bullying, intimidation
- Eating in the library, except at designated times or in designated rooms; all drinks must be covered
- Inappropriate apparel; persons without shoes and a shirt will not be allowed in the library
- Neglecting proper supervision of children

- Possession and/or display of weapons, except those allowed under Indiana State Law
- Refusing to comply with the reasonable requests of any member of the library staff
- Remaining in the library outside of services hours (unless given permission) or being in unauthorized areas
- Sleeping, except by young children under a parent or caregiver's supervision
- Using alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, illegal drugs, including being under the influence
- Vandalism, theft
- Violating any Federal, State, or Local laws, codes, or ordinances

## FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY

In the event that a patron violates any of the aforementioned items, a staff member will tell the individual that his or her behavior violates the Code of Conduct Policy and that it must stop. If the individual continues the behavior, the patron will be asked to leave the library. If the patron refuses to leave, the police will be called to remove the patron from the premises.

A patron may be banned from the library for a specific amount of time. In some cases, a violation of the conduct rules may result in legal prosecution. BPL staff is tasked with keeping a historical record of infractions to monitor repeat offenders.