

Statesboro Regional Public Libraries

User Behavior

***Approved by Statesboro Regional Public Libraries Board of Trustees
on November 29, 2018; effective April 4, 2019***

This policy supersedes all prior policies and practices relative to this subject.

Statesboro Regional Public Libraries is dedicated to providing an atmosphere that is both safe and conducive to using library materials, equipment, and services without library users or staff being disturbed, impeded, endangered, or threatened. Appropriate library conduct includes such activities as reading, studying, gathering information, and other similar conduct normally associated with a public library.

Library users of all ages, including children, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that respects the personal privacy, rights, and safety of others and allows all Library users and staff to accomplish their intended library tasks in a safe, pleasant, and orderly atmosphere.

Behavior that is *unacceptable* in the Library or on Library property includes but is not limited to the following:

Disruption of Library operations by activities such as: excessive noises, horseplay, running, abusive language, blocking movement, poor hygiene, or displaying public intimate affection;

Damage or inappropriate use of Library materials, facilities or property such as computers, books, furniture, restrooms, building exterior, or parking lot.

Users must have the approval from library staff to post or distribute materials or to enter nonpublic areas of the Library.

Solicitation of library users or staff for money, products, services, causes, or signatures for political, religious, or other petitions is prohibited.

Smoking is allowed only in designated areas.

Eating and drinking are prohibited in designated areas.

Only personal service animals are allowed on the premises, except animals that are part of Library programming.

This list is not meant to be all-inclusive and Library staff reserves the right to impose further restrictions or allowances as deemed necessary to maintain the pleasant operation of the Library for its users and staff.

Police may be called to intervene with criminal behaviors such as theft, assault, illegal drugs, alcohol, public drunkenness, gambling, vandalism, possession or use of unauthorized weapons, or willful misrepresentation of personal identity.

Consequences of disruptive behavior

Disruptive Children, Youth, or Dependent Persons

If the child/youth/dependent person is visiting the library WITH a caregiver:

- The child may be asked by Library staff to behave
- If the disruptive behavior continues, Library staff may inform the caregiver of the child's disruptive behavior
- If the caregiver refuses to cooperate or is unable to control the child's behavior, both caregiver and child may be asked to leave the Library.

If the child/youth/dependent person is visiting the Library WITHOUT a caregiver:

- The child may be asked by Library staff to behave
- If the disruptive behavior continues, Library staff may attempt to locate or contact a parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian is contacted, the parent/guardian will be informed of the Library's *User Behavior* policy, and, if necessary, be asked to pick up the child as soon as possible.

Frequent offenders of the User Behavior policy may have Library privileges suspended or may be banned from the Library for a period of time to be determined by the Library Director or responsible supervisor. The Library Director or responsible supervisor may attempt to notify such offenders and/or their legal guardians in writing of the terms of the suspension or ban.

Library staff may call the police to assist in locating the caregiver and/or to assume responsibility for the child or dependent person in need of attention. This decision is made at the discretion of the Library staff.

See also the Library's *Unattended Children, Youth, and Dependent Persons* policy.

Disruptive Adults

A disruptive adult may be informed by Library staff that his/her behavior is unacceptable according to the Library's *User Behavior* Policy and warned that if the behavior continues he/she may be asked to leave.

If the disruptive behavior continues, the person may be asked to leave the Library for the remainder of the day or longer.

Frequent offenders of the *User Behavior* policy may have Library privileges suspended or may be banned from the Library for a period of time to be determined by the Library Director or the responsible supervisor. The Library Director or the responsible supervisor, in the exercise of his or her discretion, may attempt to notify such offenders in writing of the terms of the suspension or ban.

If Library staff needs assistance in dealing with a disruptive user, the police may be called. This decision is made at the discretion of the Library staff.