

BP 8030 PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Behavior standards are provided to encourage a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for all patrons. The following guidelines for patron conduct are essential to ensure respect for individuals who use this public facility.

Patrons are encouraged to utilize the Hammond Public Library's resources and services to address their informational concerns. Our mission is to provide free and equal access to information, knowledge, and independent learning. We encourage our patrons to utilize this facility as a place of study and inquiry, and welcome their participation in Library programs.

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the rules for public behavior in the Library; that are necessary to protect the rights of individuals to use Library property, materials, and services. These guidelines are established to protect the rights of Library employees and volunteers to conduct Library business without interference; to preserve Library materials and facilities from harm; and to ensure the safety of Library patrons, employees, and volunteers. Adults and children are expected to adhere to the Library's Patron Behavior Policy.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver should accompany children while they are using the Library.

Due to an abundance of large personal items and packages brought into the Library, and to the need of patrons to retrieve these items in an emergency situation, the Measuring Container has been created. Its purpose is to ensure that safety-exiting precautions, in the event of an emergency are followed expeditiously. Any items that exceeds the capacity of the Measuring Container will be prohibited.

INCIDENTS OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

Behavior problems are defined as any disruptive actions that interfere with the rights of others to enjoy the Library's resources and services, or interfere with the work of Library employees.

DISORDER

The Library reserves the right to eject or refuse further admission (until such time as they meet with the Board of Trustees) to those individuals who display inappropriate behavior, threatening behavior, or actions or behavior that may violate the rights of the staff or Library users, or create disorder on Library property, including any of the following:

- Any situation in which the actions of a person present an imminent danger to the life or safety of others on Library property, or
- Any situation in which a person is observed in an attempt to steal Library property or that of another Library user or employee, or to maliciously destroy Library property, or
- Any situation in which a person willfully and purposefully disturbs the staff or other Library users or whose behavior is in any way disruptive to the legitimate use of Library facilities by others, or

- Any situation in which a person's behavior is threatening, damaging, harmful, or inappropriate to the use of a Library building facility or outside grounds for the purposes for which it is legally constituted.

DEFINITIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children
- Loitering (not utilizing the Library for intended library purposes)
- Sleeping
- Smoking
- Eating and drinking except where permitted
- Gambling
- Begging/panhandling
- Voyeurism
- Unwanted sexual advances
- Public indecency
- Failing to wear shoes and clothing which substantially covers the torso; Wearing inappropriate, suggestive or excessively revealing clothing that is disruptive and interferes with staff and others' use of the Library will be asked to leave the premises
- Exhibiting a pervasive odor that unreasonably interferes with staff and others' use of the Library
- Molestation
- Solicitation for unlawful purposes
- Using obscene language/high volume (loud) disruptive conversations
- Using threatening or abusive language
- Fighting
- Carrying a weapon (other than a lawfully allowed firearm)
- Public intoxication
- Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs
- Vandalism
- Misuse of Library computer resources
- Violating any Federal , State or Local laws, codes, or ordinances

THREATENING BEHAVIOR

Threatening behavior includes an expressed or an implied threat to interfere with an individual's health or safety, or with the property of the Library, or property belonging to others on Library premises, which causes a reasonable apprehension or fear that such harm or injury is about to occur. Examples of threatening behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Direct or indirect threats of harm or injury
- Words or gestures which create a reasonable fear of harm or injury
- Prolonged or frequent shouting which creates a reasonable fear of harm or injury
- Failure to comply with posted pandemic guidelines such as wearing protective face masks and social distancing

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Intentional display of firearms during any public meetings held in the Library including Library Board meetings is prohibited.

VIOLATORS

Individuals who violate these policies may be ejected from the Library premises and may be subject to suspension of Library privileges, or when appropriate, may be subject to arrest. Repeated violators and/or those who refuse to leave the premises for violation of behavioral policies will be subject to arrest and prosecution of the Indiana criminal trespass laws. Records of violators are maintained by the Library.

Policies and rules regarding inappropriate behavior are prominently posted in public area in the Library building.

COMPUTER USE STANDARDS

Acceptable practice standards for use of computer resources and equipment are posted on the Library's web page (<http://www.hammond.lib.in.us/assets/board-policies.pdf>). This document is also accessible at the Information Services desk and Youth Services desk for public review.

See Also:

AR 5701 GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMPUTING RESOURCES

AR 5703 CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET

AR 5707 WIRELESS ACCESS

AR 9501 PATRON VIOLATION PROCEDURES

BP 4112 PANDEMIC POLICY

BP 5307 INTERNET SAFETY AND COMPUTING RESOURCES POLICY