

POLICY TITLE: CODE OF BEHAVIOR

ADOPTION\LAST REVISION: Approved 7/12/2005, Reviewed 10-14-14

A. PURPOSE

Patrons of the Marshfield Public Library have the right to use Library materials and services without being unduly disturbed or impeded by others. Patrons and staff have the right to a secure and congenial environment.

It is the visitor's responsibility to maintain necessary and proper behavior standards in order to protect his/her individual rights and the rights and privileges of others. If a visitor creates a public nuisance, that visitor may be restricted from the library and from the use of library facilities. Those who are unwilling to leave or do not leave within a reasonable amount of time, after being instructed to do so by the staff, will be subject to the law.

B. LEGAL REFERENCE

Wisconsin State Statute 43.52 (2) states: "Every public library shall be free for the use of the inhabitants of the municipality by which it is established and maintained, subject to such reasonable regulations as the library board prescribes in order to render its use most beneficial to the greatest number. The library board may exclude from the use of the public library all persons who willfully violate such regulations."

Wisconsin State Statute 943.61 and Marshfield Municipal Code 10.943.61 deal with the theft or damage of library materials.

C. RULES

- Any behavior that disrupts or hinders public use of the Library is prohibited on Library property. This includes, but is not limited to, loud or boisterous behavior, verbal or physical harassment, drunkenness, running, and fighting.
- Seating at Library tables, carrels and chairs is limited to the number of persons for whom the furniture was designed.

Smoking, rolling cigarettes, using electronic cigarettes ("vaping"), or chewing tobacco is not permitted in the Library.

- Bicycles are not permitted in any Library public area or entryway. Rollerskating and skateboarding are not permitted in the Library. Wagons, strollers and bicycles may not be left obstructing a corridor, hallway, aisle, entry or exit.
- Latex balloons are not permitted in the library at any time, because of their potential to cause severe allergic reactions in some people.

- Selling products or services, or soliciting donations, is not permitted in the Library, except as part of a Library-sponsored program.
- Taking surveys, circulating petitions, distributing leaflets, and other similar activities are permitted in the Library only when authorized by the Library Administration.
- Animals, except those used to aid persons with disabilities, are not permitted in the Library, except as part of a Library-sponsored program. Animals may not be left unattended on Library property.
- Parents or other legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their minor children in the Library.
- The violation of federal or state laws or local ordinances will not be permitted on Library property. Theft, vandalism, and mutilation of library property are criminal offenses and may be prosecuted. The Library reserves the right to inspect all bags, briefcases, backpacks, and other such items when the staff has reason to believe this rule has been violated. The Library is not responsible for personal belongings left unattended.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on Library property.
- Failure to comply with these rules may result in the loss of Library use privileges.