

Plainville Public Library Behavior Policy

Purpose

The Plainville Public Library (the “Library”) welcomes everyone to use its collections, services, and facilities. As a department of the Town of Plainville, the Library is a public building open to people of all ages and abilities. The Library offers opportunities for reading, study, cultural activities, and access to information. Use of the facility and services of the Library is subject to its policies and procedures. This policy provides the standards of behavior which ensure a welcoming, safe, and secure environment and positive experience for all patrons.

Scope

This policy applies to Library staff, patrons and members of the public using the Library. The parking lot and grounds are considered an extension of the Library, and these rules apply to those areas as well.

Roles and Responsibilities

Respect for patrons and staff shall always prevail. Visitors are asked to respect the rights of other users and to cooperate with staff in maintaining a safe, comfortable, and reasonably quiet environment. Interfering with another person’s ability to use the Library or with the Library staff’s performance of their duties is not allowed.

Parents or caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children. This is in accordance with the Library’s [Unattended Children Policy](#), a copy of which shall be provided on request.

Procedures

1. **Identification:** Library staff may require a patron to show his/her library card or other suitable identification.
2. **Compliance with local ordinances and state laws:** Library staff will apply all local ordinances and state laws which govern behavior in public places; as well as those regarding defacement, damage or theft of library property, use of false identification to obtain a library card, or use of another person's library card without permission.
3. **Attire:** Library patrons are required to wear appropriate clothing including shoes and shirts.
4. **Adult access to Youth Services area:** Adults in the Youth Services sections of the building who are unaccompanied by a child or teen, and do not require immediate

access to materials from the children or teen collections, may be asked to relocate to another area of the Library.

5. Activities not allowed in the Library:

- a. Smoking or vaping.
- b. Possessing, or being under the influence of, alcohol or illegal substances.
- c. Eating or drinking near any computers. Beverages must be in a covered container such as a travel mug or water bottle.
- d. Disruptive behavior such as running, shouting, pushing, spitting, or biting.
- e. Sleeping.
- f. Inappropriately using computers or damaging computer equipment. Please see the full Internet Use Policy for more information, a copy of which shall be provided on request.
- g. Verbally harassing or physically threatening others.
- h. Using skateboards, roller blades, scooters, bicycles, footballs and other wheeled or non-wheeled sports equipment, inside or outside the Library. Bicycles must be parked at the rack and should be locked.
- i. Bringing animals into the Library, except for service animals or animals used as part of a library-sponsored program.
- j. Canvassing, petitioning, soliciting, selling, or distributing materials without prior approval of the Library.

Enforcement and Appeal

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Once warned, anyone who fails to comply with any of these rules may, at the discretion of the Library Director or her/his designee, be asked to leave the library premises, suffer the loss of library privileges, or be referred for prosecution of criminal offenses. Specifics regarding the suspension or revocation of library privileges and the appeal process can be found in the Library's [Circulation Policy](#), a copy of which shall be provided on request.

In the event of violation of local ordinance or state laws governing behavior in public places, staff may call the Police Department to enforce these laws and regulations when necessary.

Applicable State and Federal Laws

The Library Board is empowered to make these rules under Connecticut State Statute Title 11, Sec. 11-32 and to exclude from the Library any person who willfully violates these rules.

According to Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 53-21a, no child under age 12 may be left unaccompanied in the Library or on library property at any time. Please see the full [Unattended Children Policy](#) for more information.

Location

This policy is housed on the Plainville Public Library website:

<https://www.plainvillect.com/library/about-us>

A copy of this policy is maintained in the Library Director's office.

Approved by the Plainville Public Library Board of Trustees on October 11, 2022