



Patron Behavior and Library Use Policy

The Three Rivers Regional Library System strives to provide an atmosphere conducive to the appropriate use of library services and resources. Use of the library is intended for reading, studying, writing and listening to written or electronically transmitted materials and information. The public is required to comply with the library's use and behavior guidelines. All users and staff have the right to a safe and comfortable environment, as well as facilities and materials which are in good condition.

BEHAVIOR AND/OR ACTIONS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE DISRUPTIVE AND/OR UNSAFE ARE PROHIBITED ON LIBRARY PROPERTY. THESE MAY INCLUDE:

- Any loud, unreasonable, and/or disruptive noises created by persons, audio devices or mobile phones.
- Engaging in disorderly conduct, physical violence, such as fighting or challenging a fight, or using offensive language that is likely to provoke violence.
- Communication of threats.
- Sexual misconduct. Including indecent exposure, excessive displays of affection or unwelcome touching or sexual harassment toward staff or patrons.
- Repetitive noise making, such as tapping a pencil on the table, rapping fingers or knuckles; slamming books down; slapping the covers of books, etc.
- Running, jumping or climbing in the library.
- Extremely offensive personal hygiene, failure to wear appropriate clothing or the failure to secure clothes with buttons, zippers or other devices. Shirt and shoes are required while in the library.
- Bringing in large bundles or personal possessions (for example: items too large to fit under a study chair).
- Sleeping or laying your head on a table.
- Misusing or abusing furniture, such as placing your feet or legs on furniture.
- Bringing animals or pets in the library (except guide dogs for the physically impaired).
- Following a person around the library, staring at a person with intent to annoy, or persistently asking a person questions.
- Interfering with staff's performance of duties in the library or on library property. This includes engaging in conversation or behavior that monopolizes or forces the attention of staff for an inappropriate period of time, inappropriate personal comments, sexual advances or physical and/or verbal harassment.
- Distributing or posting printed material/literature that has not been approved by the library. Campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey-taking, pamphleteering and photographing are prohibited in the library.



- Panhandling, loitering inside the library, in the parking lot or on library grounds, or soliciting for money, items or services.
- Unattended children age 8 and under. Children age 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older) at all times in the library. See Unattended Children Policy.
- Leaving a child or young adult (up to the age of 17) on library property after closing time. See Unattended Children Policy.
- Misuse of restroom. Changing and /or washing of clothes and/or bathing in restrooms are not permitted.
- Carrying weapons of any type.
- Entering non-public areas such as staff workrooms, staff lounges, offices and storage areas.
- Skateboarding, rollerblading, or bicycling in the parking lot, grounds or around the perimeter of the building of the library property.
- Certain acts involving computer fraud or abuse of library system network computers or display of obscene and/or graphic materials on computer equipment (covered under the Georgia Computer Services Protection Act and punishable by fine, imprisonment or both).
- Willful concealment and/or unauthorized removal of library property are violations of Georgia Law. (GA Code 20-5-54)
- Bringing food or beverages into the library.
- Intoxication and/or use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances. (GA Code 16-12-2, 16-11-41). Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any outside entrance.
- Damage, Destruction, Theft or improper use of library property or facilities. (GA Code 20-5-52)

Violations of Policy:

Patrons who violate the library's Patron Behavior and Library Use Policy will be made aware of the violation. Patrons who do not correct the behavior, or that of the children under their supervision, will immediately be asked to leave library premises and will be prohibited from returning to the library location for a specific amount of time as determined by the Library Manager or their designee. Any person who disregards a request by a staff member to leave the building will be considered trespassing and will immediately be reported to the local law enforcement agency.

Repeated violations of, or a single egregious violation of, the Patron Behavior and Library Use Policy could result in suspension of library privileges and/or being permanently banned from the library.

Right of Appeal:



Patrons may appeal any decision in writing to the Library Director within 10 business days of the date of the decision. The appeal shall state why library privileges should be restored.

The Library Director or a designee will respond to the appeal in writing within 10 business days of the date the appeal was received.

Any person may appeal the Library Director's decision by sending an appeal in writing to the President of the Library Board within 10 business days.

The decision of the Library Board of Trustees is final.