

Gold Coast Public Library

Policy on Conduct in the Library

The Gold Coast Public Library is dedicated to providing friendly, courteous and respectful service, and a safe, enjoyable, clean and comfortable environment for all Library users. The Library's behavior rules are intended to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff members, preserve the Library's materials, facilities and property, and provide for the Library's secure and efficient operation.

Library patrons may only engage in activity that is associated with typical appropriate public library use and which respects the rights of others using the Library as well as the Library employees' performance of their duties. In order to ensure a safe and appropriate atmosphere in the Library for the benefit of our patrons and staff, please take notice of the following examples of behaviors that are not acceptable. This list is not exhaustive.

- Causing, threatening to cause or attempting to cause physical injury to the person or property of another, physical damage to equipment or other Library materials, including, without limitation, damaging, altering, marring or defacing library books, materials, equipment, or displays.
- Misusing, stealing, willfully or negligently destroying or damaging any Library property, inside or outside of the building including, without limitation, equipment or computer resources.
- Refusing to comply with reasonable directives of the Library Director or other Library personnel. All Library users shall promptly obey the reasonable requests of Library staff.
- Any excessive, loud or distracting sounds that interfere with patron use of the Library or the staff's operation of the Library. Disrupting library functions, programs, or special events.
- Engaging in conduct that is disorderly and/or disruptive such that it interferes with patron use of the Library or the staff's operation of the Library.

- Engaging in conduct that is not associated with the typical appropriate use of a public library (such as reading, studying, or using Library materials) whether inside or outside of the Library building.
- Use of obscene, abusive, harassing, threatening, violence-inducing or violent language or actions. This includes, without limitation, excessive staring at or following of other Library patrons or staff.
- Indecent exposure, inappropriate touching and/or engaging in sexual conduct/activity.
- Interfering with the free movement of anyone within the Library.
- Soliciting or selling of any kind, distributing and/or posting literature, campaigning, canvassing, or poll taking for any reason in the building or grounds of the Library, without the prior approval of the Library director.
- Use of Library telephones without prior approval from Library staff.
- We ask that cellular phone conversations be brief, quiet phone calls that do not unreasonably disrupt others may be permitted at the discretion of the staff, based on the circumstances present at the time.
- Distribution, use, consumption or being under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, hallucinogens or illegal drugs.
- Bringing animals into the Library, other than authorized service animals.
- Removal of any Library property from the buildings or grounds without authorization through established lending procedures.
- Bringing unauthorized weapons onto Library premises.
- Smoking (including, without limitation, e-cigarettes and vaporizers) is prohibited in all public areas, as is generating an open flame on Library premises.
- Improperly using Library restrooms (e.g., without limitation, to bathe, shave, wash hair, wash or change clothing.)

- Not wearing appropriate attire. Examples include, without limitation, not wearing a shirt, shoes or equivalent body or foot covering.
- Possessing bodily hygiene odor so offensive as to create interference with the use of the Library by other patrons or the performance of duties by Library staff.
- Adult patrons who are not engaged in Library activities which require materials from the Children's area shall be asked to relocate to other parts of the Library.
- The Library is not responsible for the care and/or supervision of children. Patrons and their children are expected to comply with Library policies including, without limitation, the **Policy on Unattended Children**.
- Lying down or sleeping including, without limitation, the appearance of sleeping on or in the Library's grounds such as, without limitation, in the restrooms or on any floor, table, or seat in the Library, and/or blocking aisles, exits, or entrances by sitting or lying down in them.
- Conduct in violation of Federal, State, local or Library law, rule, regulation, policy or procedure.
- Corporal punishment is any act of physical force upon a person for the purpose of punishing that person. Corporal punishment of anyone by any Library employee is strictly forbidden. However, in situations where alternative procedures and methods that do not involve the use of physical force cannot reasonably be used, reasonable physical force may be used to:
 1. Protect oneself or another person from physical injury.
 2. Protect the property of the Library or others.

In addition, Library staff will contact law enforcement or other appropriate authorities when, in their discretion, such assistance is needed to address disruptive individuals.

A copy of the policy on Conduct in the Library is available on the Library's website. In addition, all Library policies are available in the Library Director's Office.

Library patrons who wish to request a reasonable modification of these Guidelines based on individual health, disability or other unique circumstances, may contact the Library Director by asking at the front desk, or by calling the library at 516-759-8300.

For everyone's safety and protection, and to ensure the proper use of the Library's facilities, materials, and equipment, the Gold Coast Public Library reserves the right to inspect, as in accordance with law, an individual's belongings including without limitation, purses, backpacks, bags, parcels, shopping bags, briefcases and other items.

Violations of this policy may result in removal from the Library, loss of Library privileges, expulsion from the Library, criminal prosecution and/or other appropriate action. The Library may contact local law enforcement when it deems appropriate to do so. This includes, without limitation, activity that may constitute trespassing under Article 140 of the Penal Law.

Adopted December 19th, 2018