

Patron Code of Conduct

Adopted: June 14, 2007 (formerly Problem Behavior Manual?)

Amended: October 8, 2009, November 12, 2009, July 14, 2011, November 12, 2015, April 18, 2019; June 20, 2019

Welcome to the Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library. The library's goal is to provide the best possible service to library patrons in an inviting environment. You can help by following these rules:

1. Children 11 years and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible person 14 years of age or older.
2. Children 12 years and older may use the library unattended by an adult, subject to all library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.
3. The following are not permitted on library property:
 - Weapons (except as permitted by federal or state law)
 - Sleeping
 - Loitering
 - Possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances
 - Abusive, loud, intimidating, profane or obscene language
 - Begging
 - Solicitation, distribution of promotional material, or sales without prior permission of the Library Director
 - Eating except in approved areas
 - Uncovered beverage containers except in approved areas
 - Any form of sexual misconduct, including exposure, offensive touching, and sexual harassment of other patrons or staff
 - Smoking and the use of tobacco products
 - Rearrangement of library furnishings and materials without prior permission
 - Use of library furnishings, equipment and facilities in a manner for which they are not intended or designed
 - Bringing animals into the library (except for service animals and any animal associated with a previously approved library program)
4. Use of Library computing resources (including WiFi) to display or disseminate sexually explicit or sexually suggestive (obscene/pornographic) material on library property is prohibited.
5. Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol are not permitted on library property.
6. Theft, damage, or destruction of library property is a crime and will be prosecuted. Any person who defaces or damages library property shall be required to leave the premises.
7. Unattended bags may be secured by staff and disposed of if not claimed.

8. Shirts and shoes are required while on library property. Any person who poses a health or sanitary risk or whose bodily hygiene constitutes a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the premises.

9. Any activity that is an infraction or crime under local ordinance, state or federal law is not permitted.

10. Inappropriate behavior which harasses, annoys or intimidates other library users or staff is not permitted. Examples of such activity include but are not limited to: noisy, boisterous, or threatening activities, unnecessary staring, following another person, playing audio equipment so that others can hear it; singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues, or any other manner which reasonably can be expected to disturb other persons.

11. Interference with library employees in the performance of their duties is prohibited. This includes engaging in inappropriate conversation or behavior, sexual advances, and physical and/or verbal harassment.

12. Violation of these rules of conduct may result in removal from the premises and/or loss of library privileges.