

Library Behavior Policy



In order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for library users and staff, the Waco-McLennan County Library adopts the following policy regarding patron conduct and responsibility. The Library is open to the public without regard to race, age, gender, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disabilities. People entering the library are expected to respect the rights of other patrons. Shirts, pants, and shoes are required. Any behavior that is disruptive to library use is prohibited.

For the comfort and safety of our patrons and staff and the protection of library property, the following are not permitted in the library:

- Any activity in violation of federal, state, or local law
- Disorderly or disruptive conduct
- Using threatening or abusive language or behavior
- Using alcohol or illegal drugs
- Using tobacco products and smoking (including electronic cigarettes)
- Sleeping or loitering
- Eating or drinking
- Solicitation of any type, panhandling or distributing food, drinks, or pamphlets
- Unattended bags
- Animals, except for service animals or those used for library programs

Library staff may revoke borrowing privileges and/or deny library privileges to patrons violating this policy. Any person who is asked to leave a library or library property and refuses to do so shall be considered a trespasser and may be subject to citation or arrest by a police officer.

A patron whose privileges have been denied by library staff may appeal to the Library Director within seven days from the date that the patron's privileges were denied and show cause why library privileges should not be denied. The Director shall hear and decide such an appeal within seven days.

In the event of a denial of privileges, a patron may appeal the decision of the Library Director to the Library Commission. This appeal must be made within thirty days of the decision. The Commission will notify the patron to appear at their next regularly scheduled meeting and show cause why library privileges should not be denied. The Commission shall deem failure to appear as agreement with the Library Director's decision. The Commission shall decide on an appeal within thirty days of the meeting.

The Library Director has the authority to establish guidelines and procedures as necessary to carry out this policy and ensure the safety of patrons and staff.