

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. 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 for 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 of 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. Failure to appear shall be deemed by the Commission as agreement with the Library Director's decision. The Commission shall decide an appeal within thirty days of meeting.

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

Approved by the Waco-McLennan County Library Commission: March 22, 2006.
Amended and approved: March 23, 2016.