

PATRON RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT



Appropriate conduct in the Library assures a secure and congenial environment. Library patrons and employees have the right to be treated with civility, courtesy and respect, at all times. Patrons also have the right to the undisturbed use of Library materials and services.

CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to:

Loud conversations in person or on cell phones, loud and disruptive ring tones from a cell phone, boisterous behavior or language, horseplay, verbal or physical harassment, running or fighting.

Loitering or blocking access to any part of the Library; this includes obstructing Library aisles or doors with wagons or strollers. Wagons shall be designated to be parked outside. Strollers should be left outside or in the designated area. Currently the designated area is by the back sink/closet area. Wagons and strollers are left at the owner's risk. The library will not be responsible for any damage or theft of wagons or strollers.

Misuse of the public internet computer stations or laptops that violate the Internet Policy (see separate *Computer/Internet Policy*).

Using tables or chairs beyond their intended capacity.

Eating and covered beverages are permitted but not near computers.

Bicycles in any part of the Library building; bicycle racks are provided outside the library.

Roller skates or skate boards cannot be used in the building.

Campaigning, petitioning, soliciting or selling of products or services, unless they are part of a library sponsored event

Smoking is only allowed on the public sidewalk away from the front entrance of the building.

Use of Library telephones without specific permission from Library staff.

Offensive bodily hygiene which constitutes a nuisance to other patrons or to staff.

Violations of federal or state laws or local ordinances including theft, mutilation or vandalism of Library property; being under the influence of or possessing alcohol or an unlawful substance; possessing guns, knives or other weapons. These are criminal offenses, subject to prosecution.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

The Brandon Public Library encourages visits by young children and it is our desire to make this important visit both memorable and enjoyable for the child. Library staff is not expected to assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children in the library.

Therefore, it is library policy that all children under age six must be accompanied by a parent or designated responsible person while in the library. Also, if the young child is attending a library program, we require the parent/responsible person to remain in the library throughout the program.

DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN

Children of all ages are encouraged to use the library for homework, recreational reading, and program attendance. The library staff realizes that the library will be noisier at busy times and that children by nature can cause more commotion. However, children (whether with parents or not) who are being continually disruptive will be given a warning that he/she must settle down or will be asked to leave the library. If after a second warning the child continues to be disruptive, he/she will be asked to leave the library for the remainder of the day. If the child needs to contact a parent, they may do so and then wait with a staff person until the parent arrives.

ENFORCEMENT

The Library Board authorizes the director and staff to enforce rules of conduct in the Library. Like all Library policies, the enforcement is nondiscriminatory and based on the severity of a violation.

1. A patron who violates the Library Rules of Conduct receives up to two verbal warnings.
2. When committing a third violation, the patron is asked to leave the Library for the remainder of the day.
3. Additional violations result in barring the patron from the Library for an extended time period. Its length is determined by the Library director. The Library director notifies the patron or parent/guardian of a minor in writing of the decision.
4. Continuing violations result in suspending Library borrowing privileges as well as physical Library access. The time period is determined by the Library director, who also notifies the patron or parent/guardian of a minor in writing of the decision.

Occasionally, the director or staff encounter conduct violations that are criminal in nature or endanger the patron involved, other Library patrons, or staff. In these

situations, Library personnel override usual enforcement procedures. Appropriate actions may include, but are not limited to,

- immediate expulsion of a patron from the Library;
- contacting the Brandon-Fairwater Police department;
- inspecting bags, briefcases, backpacks and other items of concealment;
- asking to see the patron's Library card or other source of identification.

APPEAL

See Appeal Process (separate policy)

THANK YOU FOR OBSERVING THE LIBRARY RULES OF CONDUCT

Board Approved: 09/02/2014

Amended: 09/04/2014