

Wabash Carnegie Public Library

Patron Behavior Policy

Purpose:

Wabash Carnegie Public Library has established this Behavior Policy to ensure that library facilities are safe, welcoming and provide equitable access to materials and services for all library users. Appropriate library conduct includes activities such as reading, studying, properly using library materials or computers and other similar conduct normally associated with a public library.

Overview and Definitions:

No individual may engage in inappropriate conduct on the premises of Wabash Carnegie Public Library, or when using library facilities, or when participating in library programs. Patrons shall be engaged in normal activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, or using library materials or equipment may be asked to leave the building.

Inappropriate conduct includes any individual or group activity which is unreasonably disturbing to other individuals lawfully using library facilities, materials and/or premises or is otherwise inconsistent with activities such as reading, studying, properly using library materials and other similar conduct normally associated with use of a public library.

When possible, staff will first inform individuals about the applicable policies before taking stronger measures to enforce those policies.

Inappropriate Behavior, shall include, without limitation by enumeration, the following conduct or behaviors

- Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or a violation of City or County ordinances.
- Possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or using any dangerous weapon upon library premises or using or threatening the use of any other object in such a manner that it may be considered a weapon.
- Engaging in any physically intimidating or assaultive behavior. Making any threats of violence or unlawful activities. The Library has a policy of zero tolerance for threats and acts of violence. Any person engaging in such behaviors will be immediately ejected from the Library.
- Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance.
- Trespassing by entering or remaining on library premises after having been notified by an authorized individual not to do so, and entering or remaining on the library premises during the period in which an individual has been banned from the premises.

- Refusing to follow the reasonable directions of library staff to include, failing to take shelter in an emergency as directed by staff.
- Engaging in any behavior that a reasonable person would find to be disruptive, harassing, or threatening in nature to library users or staff including stalking, prolonged staring at or following another with the intent to annoy or intentionally behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to annoy or disturb other patrons.
- Leaving children under the age of 7 unattended on Library premises.
 - (See Addendum Concerning the Behavior and Supervision of Minors and Children’s Areas of the Library)
- Engaging in any sexual contact, activities or conduct.
- Selling, soliciting, surveying, distributing written materials, panhandling or canvassing for any political, charitable or religious purposes inside a library building, doorway or vestibule without prior authorization of the Library Director or designee.
- Smoking, vaping or other use of tobacco products.
- Eating while using library computers or in spaces designated as free from food.
- Sleeping, napping or dozing in or on library premises.
- Engaging in excessive or disruptive conversations, talking loudly, using personal electronic equipment at such a volume or making ongoing noise that is unreasonably disturbing to other library users.
- Not wearing shoes or shirt within the library.
- Entering or remaining upon library premises with a personal hygiene so offensive that it constitutes a nuisance to others.
- Moving furniture without the express consent of the library staff or use of furniture in any manner that may damage the furniture, to include placing feet on the furniture.
- Using library materials, furniture, equipment or facilities in any manner inconsistent with the customary use thereof or the theft or intentional damaging of library materials, furniture, equipment or facilities.
- Bringing in more than 2 bags. No bag may be brought into the Library facilities that exceeds the following dimensions: 26"x14"x14".
- Blocking of aisles with personal items or leaving such items unattended on library premises at any time. Items may be removed from the library premises if they reasonably appear to be abandoned or have been left unattended for 30 minutes or more.
- Interfering with the safe and free passage of library staff or patrons on the premises, including but not limited to the placement of objects in hallways, aisles, flooring or elsewhere in a manner that impedes the free passage of such persons about the library.
- Bringing any animal into the library except service animals.
- Entering non-public areas of the library without permission.
- Improperly using library restrooms or facilities for purposes such as bathing, shaving or changing clothes.
- Taking library materials into rest rooms.
- Engaging in any other activities that are inconsistent with those activities normally associated with the use of public library facilities that include reading, studying, and using library materials.
- Violating the library’s rules for acceptable use of the internet and library public computers. A user accepts these rules before accessing the Internet through library equipment. Copies of these rules will be made available by staff upon request.

Addendum Concerning the Behavior and Supervision of Minors and Children's Areas of the Library

Wabash Carnegie Public Library welcomes children and teens to use the library.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child's safety and behavior while in the Library whether the parent/caregiver is present or not. Library employees cannot function as caregivers or babysitters. The Library is not equipped—and it is not the Library's role—to provide long-or short-term childcare. The Library assumes neither responsibility nor liability for the actions, care, supervision or safety of minors.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or an older responsible individual must accompany children under age seven when they are using the Library. This responsible individual must supervise, guide and control the behavior of their charge or charges at all times.

When a child is unattended or under-attended/ignored and

- the behavior of the child is disruptive or inappropriate (or)
- the child appears to be a danger to herself or himself or others (or)
- the child appears to be threatened by others (or)
- the child appears to be ill or upset (or)
- the child has not been met by a parent or caregiver at least 15 minutes before closing.

Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be located, staff will contact the Wabash Police Department. In the event of an emergency, staff will call 911.

Inappropriate Use of Children's Spaces/Youth Services: Adults are permitted in children's areas of WCPL when accompanied by a child or if the adult is actively reading, studying and using library materials from the children's area collections. Any adult not in compliance with this provision will be asked to use other areas of the library. If the individual does not comply with staff direction or repeatedly violates this policy, the individual may be banned from the Library.

Staff Response to Infractions:

Violation of these rules is misconduct that can result in expulsion from the library and forfeiture of library privileges. Minor violations of these rules will first result in library staff attempting to inform or warn individuals about the policies before enforcing such policies. If an individual continues to violate these policies, staff may order them to leave for the day. However, any conduct that threatens the life or safety of any person or that is damaging to library property, equipment or facilities may result in immediate expulsion from the library premises. Library staff are authorized to contact the Wabash Police Department to respond to such situations. Repeat misconduct or severe offenses (even if a single isolated event) may result in individuals being banned from the library from a week to a year. Staff will follow the established procedures below. Staff may call the police for severe or illegal behavior or when an individual refuses to leave when told by staff to do so.