

Conduct Policy

The Harrisburg District Library is dedicated to providing access to knowledge and information through reading, writing and quiet contemplation, providing the right to use materials and services without being disturbed or impeded, and providing patrons and employees with a secure and comfortable environment. The Public Library Act provides the Board of Library Trustees with the general power to carry out the spirit and intent of the Act in establishing and maintaining the Library and providing library services, with the specific power to “exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed.”

The following are regulations that patrons are to adhere to:

1. No loud talking or boisterous behavior (running, excessive seat changing, etc.).
2. No food or drink may be consumed in the library (except with prior approval of the Library Board of Library Trustees).
3. No smoking.
4. No destruction, mutilation, or littering of library property.
5. No parking bicycles or other vehicles in a manner that blocks or hinders entry to the library.
6. No conduct which is disruptive to the operation of the library, or threatening to patrons, staff, or library property.
7. No skate boarding or unsupervised recreational activities on the library parking lot.
8. No cell phone use in the public areas of the library. If a call is received, the patron must step to the vestibule or outside.
9. No excessive personal items are allowed in the library. Excessive items are those that cannot be stowed under a standard study chair.
10. No unattended personal property on library premises. Unattended items may be confiscated at the discretion of the Library Director
11. No animals on library property except as required by persons with disabilities.
12. No use of library rest rooms for bathing, washing clothes, or any purpose for which rest rooms are not intended.
13. No prolonged sleeping on library property.

The Board of Library Trustees of the Harrisburg Public Library District establishes its conduct policy as follows:

Section 1

A patron who engages in any activity which materially disrupts the use of library facilities, collections or services by patrons or materially disrupts the ability of the staff to perform its duties shall cease such activity immediately upon request by library personnel.

Section 2

In such instances involving minors, identification will be requested and the incident may be reported the parent or guardian.

Section 3

If following a request, the patron fails or refuses to comply, or responds to the request in an abusive manner, he or she will be required to leave the library premises immediately for the balance of that day. If he or she fails to leave, the police will be summoned.

Section 4

Library personnel will record instances in which patrons are required to leave the library in a ledger maintained by the Library for that purpose. Upon the third recorded instance in which a patron is required to leave the library premises within a thirty-day period, the Director shall bar the patron from use of library premises for a period of thirty days. Parents or guardians of minors will be notified in writing after each instance in which a minor is required to leave the Library and advised of the consequences of any further recorded instances.

Section 5

Parents wishing to appeal such action may do so upon written request to the Board of Library Trustees.

Section 6

In the event a patron barred from the use of the Library attempts entry to the Library during any such period of exclusion, the police will be summoned and informed of the prior action.

Section 7

In the event the patron persists in abusive conduct or disruptive behavior following such a period of exclusion, the Director shall report to the Board of Library Trustees such conduct following prior exclusion and the Board will consider a long-term exclusion of that patron.

Section 8

This policy shall take effect immediately upon enactment and approval according to law and be in full force and effect thereafter; a copy shall be posted within three days of enactment at the Library and the secretary shall maintain a certified copy in the official records of the Library available for public inspection.

If a patron fails to comply with the established regulations, the library staff has the authority or right to tell that patron to leave the library. If that patron refuses to comply and continues to cause problems, the police can then be contacted to eject that patron from the library.