



## Rules of Behavior for Patrons

The Natchitoches Parish Library is a public agency supported by the taxes of the citizens of the parish and they have the right to expect an atmosphere conducive to study, reading, and the legitimate use of library materials and services. To foster such an environment, patrons shall act in a considerate and appropriate manner.

No individual may engage in inappropriate conduct on the premises of the Natchitoches Parish 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. Normal activities may include reading, studying, using library resources including technology, and/or attending or participating in a library program, or any other legally protected activity.

When possible, except in situations where the health or safety of Library staff and/or library patrons is threatened, staff will first inform individuals about the applicable policies before taking stronger measures to enforce those policies. Illegal activities such as threats, violence, and theft on library property are strictly prohibited and will result in an immediate barring and possible arrest.

"If a patron's behavior is such that others are unable to enjoy the library, they may be asked to leave. If they refuse, parents or police may be notified." (Statement adopted by the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Control.)

Inappropriate conduct includes any individual or group activity which is unreasonably disturbing to other individuals using library facilities, or resources, as well as behaviors deemed inappropriate as outlined below.

1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or a violation of applicable city, parish, state, or federal law.
2. Eating and drinking unless part of a planned program or in designated areas.
3. Fighting, throwing of objects, boisterous behavior, or obscene language.
4. Making threats or violence or other unlawful activities.
5. Solicitation, begging, panhandling, gambling, or loitering.
6. 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 expelled from the premises.
7. Engaging in disruptive conversations, talking loudly, using personal electronic devices at such a volume, or making an ongoing noise that is unreasonably disturbing to other library patrons or staff.
8. 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, floors, doorways, stairways, elevators, entryways, sidewalks, or elsewhere which impedes the free passage of others.
9. Engaging in any behavior that a reasonable person would find to be disruptive, harassing, or threatening in nature to library staff and other patrons including stalking, or behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to disturb others and their use of the library or interfere with normal operations of the library. These behaviors may be in person, but also include over the phone, through online communications, and virtual environments.
10. Refusing to follow reasonable directions of library staff.
11. Entering non-public areas of the library without permission.
12. Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of library patrons or staff.
13. Engaging in any sexual contact, activities or conduct, including kissing and the viewing of pornography.
14. Possessing, selling, distributing, or consuming any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance.
15. Indecent exposure and voyeurism (peeping).
16. Bathing, shaving, or washing clothes in library restrooms.
17. Not sitting properly in chairs with feet on the floor, one person per chair.
18. Sleeping, napping, or dozing in library facilities.
19. Not accompanying or adequately supervising children 8 and younger. *See unattended child policy.*
20. Leaving children on library property at closing time.
21. Not being fully clothed while in the library, including shoes, shirts, and pants/skirts/shorts.
22. Moving furniture without the express consent of library staff or using furniture in any manner that may damage the furniture, to include placing feet on the furniture.
23. Running, exercising, and lying on the floor unless part of a planned program.
24. Use of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices (smoking, vaping, chewing tobacco, snuff) in the library or within 25 feet of library entrances.
25. Illegal, unauthorized, unethical, pornographic, or obscene use or violations of copyright on library computers.
26. Manipulation of internal hardware and/or software on library computers.
27. Bringing any animal into the library, excluding service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Persons who do not comply with the rules of the library system shall not be allowed to remain in the library building or on the library grounds.