

PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Patrons are expected to engage in activities associated with the use of a public library and to respect the rights of other patrons and staff members while on library property. Any patron not abiding by the rules and regulations of the Worth Public Library District may be required by any staff member to leave the library building and grounds for the remainder of the day. Further action, including the suspension of library privileges for a specified period of time or legal action, may be taken if violations are serious or continued.

1. Patrons not reading, studying, using library materials, using a computer, or participating in a library program may be required to leave the building.
2. Patrons shall not harass or annoy others through noisy or boisterous activities, by staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person, by following another person about the building with the intent to annoy that person, by playing audio equipment so that others can hear it, by singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues, or by behaving in a manner which can reasonably be expected to annoy others.
3. Patrons shall not curse nor verbally abuse other library patrons or staff.
4. Patrons shall not consume food or beverages in the library except in the case of a library-sponsored activity.
5. Patrons shall not engage in any activity that violates Federal, State, or local ordinances, statutes, laws, rules, or regulations.
6. Patrons shall not interfere with the use of the library by other patrons nor interfere with library employees in the performance of their duties.
7. Patrons shall not mar nor deface library property including, but not limited to, books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, audiovisual materials, furnishings, equipment, walls, and computers.
8. Patrons shall not remove materials from the library unless they have been properly charged out at the circulation desk in accordance with library policies.
9. Patrons shall not steal nor knowingly possess stolen library materials or property.
10. Patrons shall not use skateboards, rollerblades, rollerskates, heelies or heelee type shoes, cleats and other similar equipment on library property.

11. Bicycles, scooters, and skateboards are not permitted in the library building and may not be left outside in areas that obstruct convenient and safe passage by others.
12. Patrons may not conduct raffles, solicit donations, circulate petitions, nor conduct interviews of any kind in the library or on library property. The only exceptions are activities undertaken by the library for library-related purposes.
13. Patrons may not sell or distribute goods or services in the library or around its entryways. Authors and performers speaking at or performing at a library-sponsored program are permitted to sell copies of their books, CD's or videos.
14. The Library's Meeting Room may not be used for paid tutoring sessions. One-on-one paid tutoring will be tolerated in open study and reading areas only if such activity does not disturb staff or library users and if those involved otherwise comply with all rules, guidelines and procedures governing behavior as set forth in this document. Paid tutors may not publish or distribute advertisements or letters indicating the library as their place of doing business or otherwise imply library sponsorship of their activities. The library does not sponsor, recommend, or assume liability or responsibility for the work and/or activities of tutors who use library space.
15. Patrons shall not sleep in the library.
16. Patrons may not possess or use alcohol or other controlled substances nor be impaired by the use of such substances on library property.
17. Patrons (with the exception of infants) who do not wear clothing on their upper and lower torso and shoes or other footwear on their feet shall be required to leave the building and may return when the problem is corrected.
18. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building and may return when the problem is corrected.
19. Patrons may not bring animals into the library. Animals trained to aid the blind or physically handicapped and animals present as part of a library-sponsored program are permitted.
20. Patrons shall not bring any weapon, material, or device into the library that may cause bodily harm to others or damage to property or materials.
21. Patrons are responsible for their own possessions brought into the library or on library property. Library staff are not permitted to watch or hold such items for any patron.

22. Patrons must turn off the ringers on their cell phones while in the library and should conduct their cell phone conversations outside the library building. Patrons may not use their cell phone to harass others by taking pictures or making audio or video recordings.
23. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children.
24. Children must be a minimum of nine [9] years of age to use the library unattended. See also Child Safety Policy.

Enforcement of Behavior Policy

Illinois statutes (75 ILCS 16/30-55.55) authorize the Library Board “to exclude from the use of the library any person who willfully violates the regulations prescribed by the Board.” Individuals or groups who exhibit or participate in prohibited behavior or disregard library rules and policies after receiving one warning will be required to leave the library for the rest of the day.

“The library” includes the library building, entrance areas and walkways, and the property that surrounds the building.

The Administrative Librarian or the Department Head in charge of the building is authorized to limit or suspend, for up to thirty [30] days, the library privileges of anyone whose unacceptable behavior is dangerous or severely disruptive, or becomes chronic in nature. A person or group may be denied the privilege of access to the library for a period longer than thirty [30] days for severe and/or repeated violations. A person or group whose library privileges have been denied or limited may appeal the decision to the Board by requesting a hearing. Any such request must be submitted in writing to

Worth Public Library Board of Trustees
6917 W. 111th St.
Worth, IL 60482

The hearing will be held at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Staff is authorized to use necessary and reasonable measures to enforce these policies. Staff have the right to:

- Impose time limits on the continuous use of library resources, including newspapers, magazines, or computers when others are waiting to use these resources.
- Require patrons to furnish commonly accepted forms of identification, such as drivers’ licenses and student ID cards.
- Limit the number of persons who may sit together at a single table or workstation, in an arrangement of lounge seating, or in a study room.

- Seek the help of Worth Police Department when staff deems this necessary or prudent. Police may be called if anyone fails to leave the library promptly when asked to do so by staff.

Approved November 13, 2001

Revised May 13, 2008

Revised February 8, 2011

President, Board of Trustees