

Standards of Acceptable Behavior

We welcome everyone to use the Vinita Public Library. This policy is designed to promote appropriate use of the library, both inside and on library premises including courtyard and parking lot, and to allow the Library to carry out its mission to encourage and support lifelong learning, provide public Internet access, provide welcoming physical places to meet and interact with others or to sit quietly and read and to have open and accessible virtual spaces that support networking and to provide services, programs and materials that enrich people's lives, foster a love of reading and provide access to information.

Children in the Library

The Vinita Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the Library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, the Library is not able to provide short- or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children. Unattended children are children of any age who are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible adult caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves or exhibit disruptive behavior may not be left unattended on Library premises. If disruptive behavior continues after one warning from library staff, the child will be asked to leave the library premises, whether accompanied or not.

Children who have not yet entered third grade must be closely supervised by an adult guardian during their visit to the Library unless children are attending a library sponsored program and their behavior does not become disruptive.

Library Premises

Use of the Library requires respect for others who are also enjoying the Library premises and services. Behavior becomes unacceptable when it interferes with other persons' use of the library, when it could result in injury to oneself or others, or when it could result in loss or damage to customer or library property. Engagement in such behavior may subject the individual(s) involved to the exclusion from library premises and, in some cases, to legal prosecution.

Behavior

Certain activities are inconsistent with the mission of the Library and will not be tolerated. Among these are the following:

- Disruptive behavior, such as running, threatening or harassing behavior, talking loudly, throwing objects.
- Stealing or vandalizing any property of the Library, staff, and/or patrons.
- The use of basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, baseballs, skateboards, bicycles, roller skates, or scooters on Library property.
- Soliciting of any kind including seeking or collecting signatures for a petition.

- Smoking or the use of other tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs in the Library or on the premises.
- Inappropriate or unsafe use of furniture including moving of furniture, exceeding recommended capacity of furniture, or sitting on tables.

Telephone and Cell Phone Use

Patrons shall not use the library telephones to make or receive personal phone calls except in cases of true emergency as determined by the library staff.

Cell phones and other portable communication devices are not to be used in the library. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate while in the library. Patrons shall move their cell phone use (both incoming and outgoing calls) outside the building. Patrons violating this policy may be asked to leave the library.

Library staff may approve limited exceptions to these rules at their discretion.

Food and Drink

Patrons may not bring food or drink into the library.

Loss of Privileges

A patron will have their borrowing and computer privileges suspended if they owe \$10.00 or more on their personal library account, or if their family unit owes \$10.00 or more in total, or if they have overdue materials checked out on their accounts.

Second incidents of disruptive behavior, or refusal to obey staff directions, will result in minimum 30 day suspension of library privileges including presence on library premises.

The Board of Directors of Vinita Public Library has established these guidelines to ensure as much as possible the fulfillment of its mission for the benefit of all patrons. If you would like to discuss your specific situation with the Library Director or a member of the Board of Directors, please feel free to contact them.