



Approved by the Board of Trustees
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GREENVILLE COUNTY (SC) LIBRARY SYSTEM CODE OF CONDUCT

The Greenville County Library System ("Library System") strives to provide and maintain inviting facilities and grounds where everyone feels welcomed and valued. The Library Board of Trustees has established behavioral regulations to promote orderly conduct and to help protect Library System staff, visitors, and property. The *Code of Conduct* applies to all Library System grounds and locations.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the Library System; however, Library System staff are authorized to stop prohibited behaviors and shall enforce the *Code of Conduct* in a fair and reasonable manner.

Failure to comply with the *Code of Conduct* may result in the restriction of an individual's Library System privileges and/or exclusion from Library System property. Appeals regarding restrictions and exclusions may be submitted in writing to the Library System Executive Director. Decisions of the Executive Director may be appealed in writing to the Library Board.

An individual receiving a *Trespass Warning Notice* who wishes to appeal the notice must submit a request for a hearing to the Library Board within five (5) business days of receiving the written notice per the SC Code of Laws 16-11-625(A)(2)(c).

Examples of behaviors prohibited throughout the Library System include, but are not limited to:

Violations involving disruptive, unruly, inappropriate, or annoying behavior, or violation of Library System policy, such as:

1. Failing to heed direction from staff regarding *Code of Conduct* violations, occupancy limits, emergency situations, limits on group attendance at Library System events, or use of Library System services and resources.
2. Entering or attempting to enter nonpublic areas.
3. Consuming food or drink outside of designated areas. Water in sealable containers is allowed in all areas unless otherwise indicated; all other food and beverage containers must be sealed and kept out of sight. Baby bottles and sippy cups are allowed for infants and children.
4. Leaving personal belongings unattended. Not discarding unwanted items in trash receptacles.
5. Leaving animals unattended on the grounds or bringing animals into a Library facility, except for service animals¹ or animals used in Library System programming. Service animals must be under the handler's control at all times.
6. Obstructing entrances, exits, aisles, and/or passageways, or interfering in any way with the free movement of others. This includes bringing into a Library System facility any large or cumbersome items such as bicycles, bedrolls, luggage, etc.
7. Noisy disruptions, including, but not limited to, talking loudly, screaming, or banging on furnishings. Electronic devices must be silenced or audible only to the user.
8. Distributing or posting printed material that is inconsistent with the Library System's *Exhibits, Displays, and Community Information Files Policy*, *Display of Library Materials and Information Policy*, or the *Meeting Spaces Use Policy*.
9. Bathing, shaving, or lingering in public restrooms.

10. Misusing or monopolizing Library System equipment, materials, spaces, or property.
11. Offensive odor caused by lack of personal hygiene or soiled clothing.
12. Removing, altering, rearranging, or relocating furnishings and/or equipment.
13. Selling and/or soliciting services, money, or products.
14. Skateboarding or skating.
15. Sleeping.
16. Smoking, using tobacco products, or vaping.
17. Rummaging through or removing items from trash receptacles.
18. Presenting false information to obtain Library System services.
19. Persistent staring at others, following others around, or unwelcome physical contact.
20. Linger in any area without apparent purpose. Adults may not linger in a teen or children's area when unaccompanied by a teenager or child.
21. Not wearing shoes and/or clothing covering the upper and lower body. Children who are in strollers, crawling, or being carried are exempt from the requirement to wear shoes.

Violations involving situations with children, such as:

22. Allowing children under age four (4) to use a Library System computer without the hands-on supervision of someone at least age 15.
23. Failing to pick up youth under age 18 at or before the closing time of a Library System facility.
24. Leaving children under age 11 unattended or in the care of someone who is too young. Caregivers must be at least age 15 and stay in the immediate vicinity of the child.

Violations involving the displaying of material inconsistent with the Library System's *Internet Use Policy*:

25. Displaying or viewing material inconsistent with the Library System's *Internet Use Policy*.

Violations of State, Federal, or local laws, or potentially violent situations, such as:

26. Prolonged display of physical affection or engaging in sexual advances or activity of any kind.
27. Defacing, damaging, stealing, or soiling property belonging to the Library System, patrons, or staff.
28. Possessing a weapon or other item deemed by Library System staff to be potentially dangerous to others.
29. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol or an illegal substance.
30. Use of physical force, language, or gestures perceived as intimidating, threatening, menacing, profane, or aggressive.

¹ Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, Section 35.104).