

## GREENVILLE COUNTY (SC) LIBRARY SYSTEM CODE OF CONDUCT

The Greenville County Library System ("Library") strives to provide and maintain inviting facilities where individuals feel welcomed and valued. To promote orderly conduct and to help protect Library staff, visitors, and property, the Library Board of Trustees has established behavior regulations.

Library visitors and staff, regardless of age, are subject to the Library's Code of Conduct. Behavioral regulations will be enforced by Library staff in a fair and reasonable manner. Parents and caregivers, not Library staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the Library. However, Library staff and/or law enforcement officers are authorized to stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

Failure to comply with the Library's Code of Conduct may result in an individual's restriction/termination of Library privileges, exclusion from Library property for the remainder of the day to permanent exclusion and/or arrest/prosecution. Appeals may be directed in writing to the Library 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's Board of Trustees within five (5) business days of receiving the written notice per the SC Code of Laws 16-11-625(A)(2)(c).

Disruptive, unruly, inappropriate or annoying behavior; violations of Federal, State or local laws; and violations of Library policy are prohibited. Examples of prohibited activities and behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Adults lingering in the teen or children's area when unaccompanied by a teenager or child.
2. Attempting to enter nonpublic areas.
3. Bringing animals, other than service animals, into a Library facility without staff approval.<sup>1</sup>
4. Bringing into the building any large or cumbersome items, such as bicycles, bedrolls, luggage, etc.
5. Caregivers allowing children under age four (4) to use a Library computer without the hands-on supervision of someone at least 15 years of age.
6. Caregivers failing to pick up children or youth under age 18 at a Library facility before its closing time.
7. Caregivers leaving children under 11 years of age unattended or in the care of someone less than 15 years old. Caregivers must remain in the same area of a Library as the child being cared for.
8. Consuming food or beverages outside an approved or designated area with exception of water in sealable containers. Baby bottles and sippy cups are allowed for infants and toddlers. Other food and beverage containers must be kept out of sight.
9. Creating an obstruction for others entering or exiting a Library facility.
10. Creating disruptive noises such as loud talking, screaming or banging on Library furnishings.
11. Displaying material inconsistent with *Internet Use Policy* standards.
12. Distributing or posting printed material/literature that has not been approved by Library Administration.
13. Engaging in sexual activity of any kind.
14. Entering a Library facility without footwear and a shirt, pants, or other covering of the upper and lower body. Carried children are exempt from the footwear requirement.

15. Failing to heed direction from Library staff regarding program attendance limits.
16. Failing to heed direction from Library staff regarding potential Code of Conduct violations, emergency situations or other Library business.
17. Failing to silence all electronic devices. All sound produced by electronic devices must be silenced or audible only to the user.
18. Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any property belonging to the Library, patrons or staff.
19. Interfering in any way with the free movement of others.
20. Misusing public restrooms. Bathing, shaving, or lingering is prohibited.
21. Monopolizing Library equipment, materials, or facilities.
22. Offensive odor caused by lack of personal hygiene or excessive use of perfume or cologne.
23. Persistent staring at others or following others around.
24. Possessing a weapon or other item deemed by Library staff to be potentially dangerous to others.
25. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substance.
26. Prolonged display of physical affection.
27. Removing, altering, relocating, or misusing Library furnishings.
28. Selling and/or soliciting for services, money, or products.
29. Skateboarding or skating.
30. Sleeping.
31. Smoking, using tobacco products or vaping.
32. Threatening or committing acts of physical violence.
33. Using obscene or abusive language or engaging in obscene, intimidating, or threatening behaviors.
34. Using profanity or derogatory, insulting, or humiliating language towards other Library visitors or staff.
35. Using photographic, video, or other recording devices without Library staff approval.

Individuals who engage in unlawful conduct are subject to the following sections of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

SC 16-3-600	Assault.
SC 16-3-1700	Harassment and Stalking.
SC 16-13-330	Stealing or damaging works of literature or objects of art.
SC 16-13-331	Unauthorized removal or concealment of library property.
SC 16-13-340	Failure to return books, newspapers, magazines and the like borrowed from library and other institutions.
SC 16-11-520	Malicious injury to real property.
SC 16-11-620	Entering premises after warning or refusing to leave on request.
SC 16-15-130	Indecent exposure.
SC 16-15-90	Prostitution, lewdness, etc.
SC 16-23-420	Carrying or displaying firearms in public buildings.
SC 16-11-550	Threatening to kill, injure, or intimidate individual or damage or destroy property.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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 36.104)