

GREENVILLE COUNTY (SC) LIBRARY SYSTEM CODE OF CONDUCT

The Greenville County Library System ("Library") 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 staff, visitors, and property.

Behavioral regulations shall be enforced by Library staff in a fair and reasonable manner. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the Library. Library staff, however, are authorized to stop prohibited behaviors.

Failure to comply with the Library's Code of Conduct may result in the restriction of an individual's Library privileges and/or exclusion from Library property. Appeals regarding restrictions and exclusions may be submitted 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, or inappropriate behavior; violations of Library policy; and violations of Federal, State, or local laws are prohibited. Examples of prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Adults lingering in a teen or children's area when unaccompanied by a teenager or child.
2. Entering or attempting to enter nonpublic areas.
3. Leaving animals unattended on Library grounds or bringing animals into a Library facility, except for service animals¹ or animals used in Library programming.
4. Bringing into a Library facility any large or cumbersome items, such as bicycles, bedrolls, luggage, etc.
5. Leaving personal belongings unattended in a Library facility or on Library grounds.
6. 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.
7. Caregivers failing to pick up youth under age 18 before or at the closing time of a Library facility.
8. 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 immediate vicinity of a Library facility as the child being cared for.
9. Consuming food or a beverage outside an approved or designated area with the exception of water in sealable containers. Other food and beverage containers must be sealed and kept out of sight. Baby bottles and sippy cups are allowed for infants and toddlers.
10. Obstructing entrances, exits, aisles, and/or passageways, or interfering in any way with the free movement of others.
11. Disruptions, including, but not limited to, loud talking, screaming, or banging on Library furnishings.
12. Displaying material inconsistent with the Library's *Internet Use Policy*.
13. Distributing or posting printed material that is inconsistent with the Library's *Exhibits, Displays, and Community Information Files Policy*.
14. Prolonged display of physical affection or engaging in sexual activity of any kind.
15. Being without shoes and/or clothing covering the upper and lower body. Children who are carried, crawling, or in a stroller are exempt from the requirement to wear shoes.

16. Failing to heed direction from Library staff regarding Code of Conduct violations, occupancy limits, emergency situations, limits on group attendance at Library events, or other Library business.
17. Failing to silence electronic devices. Sound produced by electronic devices must be silenced or audible only to the user.
18. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any property belonging to the Library, patrons, or staff.
19. Bathing, shaving, or lingering in public restrooms.
20. Misusing or monopolizing Library equipment, materials, or spaces.
21. Offensive odor caused by lack of personal hygiene.
22. Persistent staring at others or following others around.
23. Possessing a weapon or other item deemed by Library staff to be potentially dangerous to others.
24. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol or an illegal substance.
25. Removing, altering, or relocating Library furnishings and/or equipment.
26. Selling and/or soliciting for services, money, or products.
27. Skateboarding or skating.
28. Sleeping.
29. Smoking, using tobacco products, or vaping.
30. Threatening or committing acts of violence.
31. Using profane, obscene, intimidating, or aggressive language.
32. Engaging in obscene, intimidating, or threatening behaviors.
33. Unwelcome physical contact.
34. Presenting false information to obtain Library services.

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).