

Conduct in Libraries Policy

The Libraries of the Cherokee Regional Library System are supported by the taxes of the people of Walker and Dade counties who expect each of our facilities to be clean, comfortable, and safe places for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings. To this end, the Library is responsible for establishing rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds. In addition, the Library has a strong commitment to intellectual freedom and to freedom of access to information.

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff and/or local police officers will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the Library's established rules, regulations, and policies could result in removal from the premises and exclusion from the Library.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of Library property, the following actions are only examples and are not all-inclusive of conduct not allowed on Library property:

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, Local or other applicable law, or Library policy.
- Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request.
- Carrying firearms and dangerous weapons of any type (except by law enforcement officers and subject to Georgia State Law.)
- Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.
- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other patrons, volunteers, or staff, including but not limited to use of profanity, stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching, and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.
- Soliciting or conducting surveys not authorized by the Library.
- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriately using Library property in Library facilities or on Library grounds, including computer hardware and software, printers, copiers, phones, and other equipment. Library outlets cannot be utilized to charge electronic devices for non-research purposes.
- Trespassing in nonpublic areas, being in the Library without permission of an authorized Library employee before or after Library operating hours.
- Fighting or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving, or throwing things.
- Creating disruptive noises, such as loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards.

- Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in a manner that disturbs others.
- Using restrooms for personal grooming such as bathing or shampooing, shaving, haircuts, doing laundry, or changing clothes. Taking library materials into restrooms.
- Loitering or panhandling inside the library or in parking lot or on library grounds.
- Smoking, chewing, and other tobacco use in Library facilities.
- Using the Library barefoot, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the Library environment.
- Consuming food in public areas of the Library other than meeting rooms unless pre-approved by library administration.
- Using wheeled devices in Library buildings or on Library grounds, including skateboarding, roller skating, bicycling, scooters, and shopping carts (except for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers). Bicycles are not allowed in the Library.
- Lying down or sleeping in the restrooms or on any floor, couch, table, or seat in the Library. Blocking aisles, exits, or entrances with personal possessions or by sitting or lying down in them. Leaving unattended items in the Library.
- Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children.
- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the Library, except as authorized by the Library Director.
- Distributing or posting printed materials or literature without prior approval by the Library.

Responding to Disruptive Conduct

In the event disruptive conduct occurs, the Cherokee Regional Library staff may take the following actions, as appropriate to the situation:

(a) Level I – Warning

Advise the violator that his/her conduct is unacceptable conduct and request that the person comply with library policy. Warn the person that if his/her behavior does not comply with library policy, he/she will be directed to leave the facility.

(b) Level II- Evicted for the day

If the person fails to comply with library policy after being warned, staff shall order the person to leave the building for the rest of the day. If a person does not obey an order to leave the building, staff shall request assistance from the local police department to remove the person from the building. A Level II eviction applies to warnings given the same day as the eviction.

(c) Level III-Suspension of library privileges for one week

Repeated incidents of disruptive behavior will result in a one-week suspension of library privileges. If a person is engaging in disruptive behavior and has already received a Level II suspension within the past 30 days, they will receive a one-week suspension of library privileges

d) Level IV-Suspension of library privileges for six months

If a person who has been readmitted to the library after being suspended for one week repeats disruptive behavior, this will result in a six-month suspension.

Certain behaviors, which are of a grievous nature, will result in immediate expulsion from the library, regardless of the patron's knowledge of our specific policy.

Responding to Disruptive Conduct of Minors

Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while on Library property. Children who are being disruptive will be asked by staff to behave. If the disruptive behavior continues, a staff member will issue the Level I - Warning to the parent/guardian. If no accompanying adult is in the library, the staff will make an attempt to locate a parent by telephone and require that an adult pick the child up immediately from the Library. Police may be called to provide assistance. More than one such occurrence, or the inability of the parent to provide immediate assistance, may result in suspension of Library privileges by the child and his or her parent(s) at the discretion of the Library Director.