

Part 2. Use of Facilities

2.1 Patron Behavior

Chestatee Regional Library System welcomes everyone to use the library. To ensure the safety and comfort of the library user's, patrons are expected to be respectful and courteous to library staff and patrons. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children **and children under the age of 11 may not be left alone in the library.** A staff member may intervene with a child in order to prevent injury or property damage. **Disruptive behaviors include but are not limited to the following:**

- Loud conversation or creating any noise disturbing to other patrons including listening to electronic devices without headphones
- Fighting, running or climbing
- Soliciting, petitioning, picketing, or distributing literature
- Using abusive or obscene language towards staff or other patrons
- Willful damage, misuse, or mistreatment of library property or facilities
- Loitering or sleeping
- Blocking or interfering with the free movement of individuals
- Bringing animals, other than service animals or animals used by presenters of library programs, into library buildings,
- Eating (other than snacks, such as those found in vending machines) should be confined to designated areas
- Using public restrooms for bathing or laundering clothes
- Not wearing shirt or shoes, with the exception of infants
- Using library parking lots to park vehicles when not using the library
- Using library parking lots for recreational purposes such as skateboarding or using other wheeled devices
- Using any tobacco or vaping product, including smokeless tobacco, inside the library buildings or within 25 feet of library entrances
- Not following the reasonable direction by staff
- Any act or conduct in violation of Federal, State, or local law, ordinance, or regulation
- Any act of conduct in violation of other Chestatee Regional Library policies

Patrons will be asked to leave the library if their bodily hygiene is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons.

Persons violating any of the above rules of behavior may, after warning by library personnel, be asked to leave the library premises. Persons who persist in violating these rules or who refuse to leave the library premises when requested will be subject to arrest and prosecution.

Where the behavior of an individual constitutes a continuing disruption, the patron may be suspended from the Chestatee Regional Library System for a period of time to be determined by the Library Director. In such cases, a written notice outlining the reason(s) for the suspension will be mailed to the patron, who will have ten days to respond in writing. When the patron files a written request for a hearing within the ten-day period, the matter will be referred to the Chestatee Regional Library Board of Trustees for a hearing and final decision. The board will respond to the written request within ten days after the board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Staff may call the appropriate Police or Sheriff's Department for assistance in any circumstances in which they feel such assistance is warranted.