



Serving Appling, Bacon, Clinch, Pierce, and Ware Counties

## Board of Trustees Ethics Statement

*Approved by Regional Library Board of Trustees on August 4, 2014, revised May 6, 2019*

The Okefenokee Regional Library System Trustees are accountable for the resources of the system as well as to help ensure that the branch libraries provide the best possible service to their respective communities. Every Trustee makes a personal commitment to contribute the time and energy to faithfully carry out his/her duties and responsibilities effectively and with absolute truth, honor, and integrity.

Each trustee shall, to the best of their ability:

- Respect the opinions of their colleagues and not be critical or disrespectful when they disagree or oppose a viewpoint different than their own;
- Comply with with all the laws, rules, and regulations that apply to them and to the library;
- In the fulfilling of their trustee responsibilities, shall not be swayed by partisan interests, public pressure, or fear of criticism;
- Not engage in discrimination of any kind and shall uphold library patrons' rights to privacy in the use of library resources;
- Distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the library, acknowledging and supporting the formal position of the OKRLS Board even if they disagree;
- Respect the confidential nature of library business and not disclose such information to anyone;
- Be aware of and in compliance with Freedom of Information laws;
- Avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained as a result of their position or access to privileged library information, for either themselves or others.
- Immediately disqualify him/herself whenever the appearance of or a conflict of interest exists, or is perceived to exist;
- Not use their position to gain unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others from the library or from those who do business with the library;
- Refer concerns with library staff to the director, and concerns with the director to the OKRLS Board Chair and not interfere with the management responsibilities of the director and/or the supervision of library staff;
- Support the efforts of the OKRLS Board of Trustees in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

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*Signature of Trustee*

*Date*