

ITEM NUMBER: 7.57 a-b
CHAPTER 8: Administrative
Management
Policy
CODE: Policy
COMPUTER ID: AMPRO-57

Title: Behavior in the Library Policy
Effective Date: 2-2002
Authorized By: Library Director
Date of Last Revision: 4-2022

BEHAVIOR IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

Purpose:

Marathon County Public Library has established this “Behavior in the Library” Policy to ensure that library facilities are safe, welcoming environments, and provide equitable access to materials and services for all library users.

Overview:

No individual may engage in inappropriate conduct on the premises of Marathon County Public Library or when participating in library programs. Staff will use their discretion and may ask patrons displaying inappropriate conduct to leave library property.

Minor violations of these rules will first result in library staff attempting to educate or warn individuals about policies and enforcement. Repeated misconduct or severe offenses (even in a single isolated event) may result in individuals being banned from the Library for up to one year. Threats of violence or violent behavior may result in a lifetime ban.

Examples of Inappropriate Conduct Not Allowed in the Library:

Basic rules of behavior, including:

- leaving a child under age 8 unattended (Unattended Customer Policy, 7.59 a-d)
- not wearing appropriate clothing as defined by state and local ordinances, including attire mandated by public health agencies
- smoking, including the use of chewing tobacco and vaping; all items such as cigarettes, vape pens or chewing tobacco containers must remain out of sight while inside the library building and on building grounds (Marathon County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 9.05)
- entering nonpublic (staff) areas of the library

ITEM NUMBER: 7.57 b

- using the restroom inappropriately (No changing of clothing, washing, shaving or other grooming activities or taking library materials into the restroom)
- no animals, except service animals, per Marathon County Public Library Policy 7.62 a-c (Animals in the Library)
- entering the library with bodily hygiene that is noticeable by others and causes a disruption
- possessing, selling, distributing, displaying or using any dangerous weapon as that term is defined in Wis. Stats. Sec. 939.22(10) upon entering library premises or using or threatening the use of any other object in such a manner that it may be considered a weapon
- use of alcohol or drugs on library property, or exhibiting signs of being in an altered state upon entering the library
- any disruptive behavior, including physical or verbal intimidation of others
- any activity that can be construed as sexual in nature.

Basic rules of behavior, including:

- not following staff's reasonable directions
- soliciting
- sleeping
- not keeping the peace within the library
- damaging or moving library property, including furniture and other fixtures
- violating the library's rules for acceptable use of the internet and library public computers (Computer and Internet Access and Use, 11.21 a-d)
 - A user accepts these rules before accessing the Internet through a library computer. These rules include viewing pornography on either personal or library owned device.
- viewing of child pornography will result in banning and a referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency (Marathon County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 9.04 Internet Access and Use).

Law enforcement may be called by library staff at any time staff feels it is necessary. Library staff are authorized to contact law enforcement in response to any inappropriate conduct or in the event an individual refuses to leave the library when expelled. Law enforcement may also be used to deliver banning forms to patrons, especially if law enforcement is called to remove a patron due to a violation of any of the above situations.

For the banning procedure see: "Banning Procedure 7.57A a-c"