

Tipton County Public Library Patron Behavior Policy

The Tipton County Public Library is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment conducive to the use and enjoyment of the library by its patrons and in furtherance of the library's purpose of providing resources for lifelong learning, promoting reading enjoyment for residents of every age, and enhancing the cultural climate of Tipton County.

Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, attending library programs, or using library materials or library resources will be asked to leave the building.

The Trustees of the Tipton County Public Library have established the following standards of conduct to maintain a safe and pleasant environment and to protect the welfare and rights of all persons. Patrons are responsible for their behavior, the behavior of their children, and personal items.

The following rules apply within the library or anywhere on library property:

- Patrons shall not interfere with the use of the library by other persons, or interfere with library employees' performance of their duties.
- Patrons shall respect the rights of other patrons and shall not harass, annoy, or intimidate others through noisy, boisterous, or threatening activities; by unnecessary staring at another person; by following another person about the inside or outside of the building; by playing audio equipment so that others can hear it; by singing or talking loudly to others or in monologues; or by behaving in any other manner which reasonably can be expected to disturb other persons.
- Patrons shall not use library property or other property that has been brought into the library by the patron or another individual in a manner that creates a safety hazard for library patrons.
- The Tipton County Public Library prohibits the intentional display of firearms during public meetings.

While on library property, the following behaviors and/or actions are considered unacceptable:

- Abuse or vandalism of library property
- Abusive, offensive, or obscene language
- Bringing in animals other than guide dogs or other assistive animals or those animals to be presented in programs
- Fighting, running, or horseplay
- Carrying weapons, excluding legally permitted firearms
- Harassment of any kind
- Illegal activity of any kind
- Intoxication
- Loud conversation which is disturbing to others
- Obstruction of aisles or doorways
- Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Smoking on library property
- Solicitation of patrons or staff
- Unauthorized distribution or posting of flyers or leaflets
- Violation of library's Internet Policy
- Using personal electronic equipment, including cell phones that is audible to others
- Use of bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, or scooters in or on library property
- Abandoning, leaving, neglecting or not properly supervising children
- Improper use of restrooms, including but not limited to bathing, shaving, etc.
- Entering building without shirt, shoes, or appropriate dress
- Engaging in indecent or obscene conduct or making any indecent exposure of one's person
- Food or drinks in designated areas (not in Indiana Room or Computer Areas)

Violators will receive a warning and an opportunity to cease a behavior that violates this policy. Continued or repeat violations may result in suspension of library privileges for a duration commensurate with the severity of the offense, the patron's history of policy violations, and any other relevant factors. Patrons engaged in behaviors that pose a serious, imminent risk to health or safety may be immediately expelled from the library without prior warning and with or without the assistance of library security or local law enforcement.

When possible, patrons who have their library privileges suspended will be provided with written notification stating the specific library policy violated and specifying the length of the suspension. Appeal requests may be made in writing to the library director. Further appeals may be made in writing to the library board.

The Tipton County Public Library reserves the right to expel and/or restrict the library privileges of anyone who violates these standards of conduct. Unlawful activities will be reported to the police.