

Tipton County Public Library

Patron Behavior Policy

Primacy

This policy supersedes any prior policy or associated policies regarding general patron behavior or unattended children at the Tipton County Public Library.

Patron Safety

The Tipton County Public Library is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment conducive to the use and enjoyment of the library.

Patrons should 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, using library materials or using library resources may 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. So as not to disturb or disrupt other patrons, all patrons are responsible for their own behavior, the behavior of their children, their personal items, their personal hygiene, and the personal hygiene of their children.

Patron Conduct

The following rules apply to all patrons, regardless of age, 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 and privacy of staff and of other patrons and shall not behave in a 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 or staff.
- The Tipton County Public Library prohibits the intentional display of firearms during public meetings.
- All patrons, including children, are required to wear appropriate clothing (shirt, shoes, etc.) while on library property.

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- Smoking, using electronic smoking devices, or using tobacco products of any kind are not allowed on library property.
- Please see the library's Internet Use policy regarding the proper use of the library's computers and Internet resources.

Youth Safety

The Tipton County Public Library encourages parents and caregivers to visit the library with their children. However, the library is not intended or licensed to be a daycare, after school care facility, summer camp or babysitting service. Therefore, the library is not responsible for the care of unattended minors.

The Trustees have adopted the following guidelines to ensure the safety of patrons who are under the age of 18.

- Parents or other responsible persons are accountable for their children's behavior and safety while in the library. Adults with developmental disabilities or other impairments who may need to use children's resources should have a caregiver with them at all times.
- Children age 8 and under must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. Patrons who are age 15 and older, such as a babysitter, may supervise children under 8 if they remain with the children at all times. Library staff may call the local police for assistance if children age 8 and under are left unattended and a caregiver cannot be located in a reasonable amount of time.
- Children between the ages of 9 and 12 should be accompanied by an adult if the library stay exceeds two hours.
- If children are left alone at the library at closing time, library staff will attempt to reach the parent or guardian by phone. If library staff have not been able to reach a parent or guardian, library staff may call the local police for assistance.

Consequences

Violators of this policy will receive a warning. 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

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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 notification stating the specific library policy violated and specifying the length of the suspension. Appeal requests regarding suspensions may be made in writing to the library director within 10 business days of the beginning of the suspension. Further appeals may be made in writing to the library board within 30 days of the beginning of the suspension. The appeal will be heard per procedures determined by the board. The board's decision is final and binding.

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.