

# West Palm Beach Public Library Behavior Policy

To ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all users of the West Palm Beach Public Library, the following Behavior Policy is adopted. Any person who violates these rules or engages in any activity prohibited by law will be asked to leave the library and library privileges may be suspended or permanently revoked. Those refusing to leave the premises will be subject to arrest under Trespass Laws, Chapter 810, Florida Statutes.

**The library is a public building where the well-being and safety of unattended children is a serious concern. Therefore, library staff will not assume the responsibility for the care or supervision of unattended children.**

The following are examples of conduct not allowed on library property.

## Level 1 Violation

Persons whose conduct constitutes a Level 1 violation may have their library privileges and rights to enter the library suspended for up to one month.

1. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times inside the library.
2. Disruptive or unsafe behavior such as loud talking, loud audio equipment, use of profanity, running, throwing things, pushing, or shoving is prohibited.
3. Adults not requiring immediate access to youth materials shall be required to relocate to other areas of the library. Youth services areas (such as the Children's Dept. and the Teen Area) are intended for use by youth (ages 0 to 18 years) and their parents and/or caregivers.
4. Leaving children aged 7 and under unattended at the library. A guardian over the age of 14 or a parent must remain in close physical proximity at all times.
5. Creating physical obstructions of aisles, stairs, or corridors.
6. Distributing literature, gathering signatures, soliciting contributions, or conducting surveys inside the library is prohibited.
7. Neglect of bodily hygiene to the point where it is offensive and constitutes a nuisance to others.
8. Smoking, chewing or tobacco use in library facilities.
9. Sleeping.
10. Cell phone use in areas not designated. You may use your cell phones on the second floor **ONLY**.
11. Eating other than in the designated areas. Lidded drinks are allowed throughout the building.
12. Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage or any other personal items unattended. These items are subject to immediate confiscation.
13. Sleeping bags, bedrolls, large boxes, shopping carts, and large backpacks inside the library.
14. Animals are prohibited; except for service animals for the disabled.
15. Commercial solicitation or selling of any product in the library building, not including meeting rooms rented at the commercial rate.
16. Failure to follow established loan procedures or other authorization before taking library property or materials outside of the building.
17. Patrons not leaving the library at designated closing times.
18. Tethering animals near the entrance to the library.

## Level 2 Violation

Persons whose conduct constitutes a Level 2 violation may have their library privileges and rights to enter the library suspended for up to one year.

1. Verbal harassment or threats to other patrons or library staff.
2. Using library restrooms for bathing or shampooing, doing laundry, or changing clothes.
3. Using library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures, or building in a manner inconsistent with customary use; or in a destructive, abusive, or potentially damaging manner.
4. Possession of any weapon including firearms and knives inside library, except for certified law enforcement officers and persons with a valid State of Florida concealed Weapons Permit.
5. Entering the library or library grounds during a period of exclusion.
6. Possession, being under the influence of, or using alcohol or controlled substances on library premises.
7. Violation of the library's Internet Use Policy.
8. Repeated Level 1 violations.

**See reverse side for a continuation of the West Palm Beach Public Library Behavior Policy.**

### Level 3 Violation

Persons whose conduct constitutes a Level 3 violation may have their library privileges and rights to enter the library permanently revoked.

1. Physical harassment or threats to other patrons or library staff -- or fighting.
2. Abuse of minor children, as defined by Florida Statutes, 39.01(2).
3. Intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing property in library facilities or on library grounds including library materials, furniture, equipment or property including computer hardware, software, and printers.
4. Offensive touching and obscene acts such as sex acts, and indecent exposure.
5. Trespassing in non-public or restricted use areas of the library.
6. Engaging in any other behavior which would constitute a felony under applicable state law.
7. Aggressive solicitation or panhandling within the library.
8. Triggering any emergency alarm or attempting to exit the library building through any door marked "emergency exit only".
9. Possession of any anti-shoplifting device or inventory control countermeasure.
10. Repeated Level 2 violations.

The Library Behavior Policy may be enforced by any Library Staff member, City Center Security Officer, or West Palm Beach Police Officer.

**Failure to comply with the Library's established Behavior Policy may result in suspension from the library for one month, one year, permanently, and/or arrest.**