

Patron Conduct Policy

Pearl River County Library System

Introduction

To provide a safe, welcoming environment, with equitable access to materials and services for all patrons, the Pearl River County Library System (PRCLS) Board of Trustees has adopted the following *Patron Conduct Policy*. Failure to observe the *Patron Conduct Policy* may result in the violator being restricted in use of library materials and resources or being banned from the use of the library for a period of one day, one week, one month, one year, or permanently. The library reserves the right to impose longer or additional bans, based on circumstances, such as the severity of the offense or the repetition of offenses. Restrictions or bans will be communicated to the patron verbally or in writing.

Prohibited Patron Conduct

The following activities, conduct, or behaviors are not permitted within the library, on its premises, or when participating in library programs:

- Engaging in any activity in violation of Federal, State, Local law, or library policy; using library property or resources to engage in such behavior.
- Failing to comply with a reasonable request by library staff.
- Using obscene or abusive profane language (written or oral), or using obscene or abusive gestures.
- Harassing library users or staff, either verbally or through actions. This includes verbal abuse; use of profanity or abusive language (oral or written); intimidation; stalking; following; sexual harassment; or prolonged staring that could reasonably be expected to annoy, disturb, or intimidate.
- Not wearing sufficient clothing (e.g. shoes, tops, bottoms) while in the library. Clothing must be properly fastened.
- Using tobacco products or alternative nicotine products (e.g. vaping) in the library or within twenty-five (25) feet of a library entrance.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Damaging, defacing, or misusing library materials or property. Damage to library titles or materials can lead to limited access to titles or materials.
- Interfering with another person's use of the library or with the library staff's performance of duties, (e.g. obstructing library entrances or blocking access to walkways, computers, or other library resources).

- Monopolizing library space, furniture, or equipment.
- Making unreasonable noise. This includes conversing above normal conversational levels, in person or on a cell phone. Volume from speakerphones, earphones, and other portable devices should be no greater than normal conversational levels.
- Bodily hygiene or scent that constitutes a nuisance to others.
- Making unreasonable personal hygiene use of the public restrooms and library property, including laundering clothes, shaving, and bathing.
- Taking library materials into the restrooms.
- Leaving personal items unattended. Library staff are not responsible for a patron's personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged on library premises. Items left unattended may be removed.
- Entering non-public areas of the library; being in the library or on library property outside of normal operating hours.
- Using recreational wheeled devices or equipment (e.g. skateboards, skates, scooters, bicycles).
- Bringing non-service animals into the library, except as permitted at a library approved event, or leaving an animal tethered and unattended on library premises.
- Eating or drinking outside designated areas. Drinks must have lids or otherwise secure tops. Light snacks and easily contained or wrapped foods are permissible. Food and drink are not allowed at computer stations, near library equipment, nor on top of low standing shelves and display cases. Please consult the *Meeting Room Policy* for regulations governing food and beverages in those areas.
- Selling goods or services; soliciting, petitioning, or canvassing.
- Posting or distributing unauthorized literature. Library approval must be obtained in advance.
- Leaving children or adults requiring supervision unsupervised or unattended.

This list is not inclusive. All incidents will be evaluated on a case-by-case. The PRCLS Board of Trustees have the final authority to temporarily or permanently revoke the library privileges of a user.

PRCLS administration reserves the right to amend these rules.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on December 5, 2023.