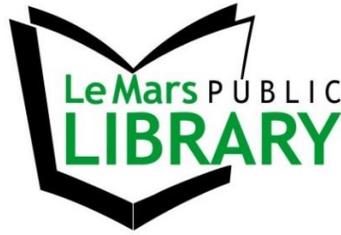


Disruptive Behavior Policy



PHILOSOPHY

Le Mars Public Library welcomes all visitors to the library. Patrons are expected to behave in an appropriate manner and respect and observe the rights of other users and staff members.

Behavior in the Library

The Le Mars Public Library is intended to be used for reading, computer work, studying, attending programs, borrowing library materials, attending meetings and other uses related to the same. Library users of all ages are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that protects the safety and comfort of all library visitors, volunteers, and staff members.

The following types of behavior ARE NOT allowed in the public library:

1. Any act, behavior or failure to act or behave which interferes with the safety and health of the public or staff members.
2. Interference with the library's right to maintain a clean, pleasant and safe facility.
3. Vandalism, defacing or destruction of library property.
4. Theft of library materials or the personal property of other users or staff members.
5. Violation of any local, state, or federal law within the library.
6. Use of tobacco/nicotine. It is the policy of the City of Le Mars to provide a work environment free from tobacco/nicotine. This includes all City-owned buildings, property, vehicles and equipment. Tobacco/nicotine use is prohibited to the general public as well as employees.
7. Running, yelling or screaming in the library building.
8. Physical & verbal abuse towards the public or any staff member.
9. Loitering or excessive sleeping in the library.
10. Carrying firearms or weapons prohibited by City Ordinance or State Statutes, except by law enforcement officials.
11. Using restrooms for personal hygiene activities such as bathing.
12. Entering the library barefooted, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene so as to be disruptive to the library environment.
13. Possessing, selling, distributing, or consuming any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, or drug paraphernalia, or behavior leading staff to believe that one is under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
14. Disruptive operation of a cell phone inside the library, i.e. loud ringing or talking.
15. Unauthorized selling, soliciting, or engaging in commercial activities.
16. Bringing animals into the library
17. Campaign, petition, interview or survey patrons or staff in a manner that is disruptive to library activities.

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Consequences of Disruptive Behavior

Any patron who violates these rules may be immediately asked to leave the building at the discretion of the staff member who is in charge. The patron may be banned from library property at the discretion of the library director, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense, the extent of damage and history of prior behavior. A minor library patron and his /her parents will be told of the reasons for the banning.

Any person who enters or remains on library premises after having been notified by an authorized individual not to do so, and any person who enters or remains on the library premises during the period in which he/she has been banned, will be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.

All library employees are authorized to enforce these policies and guidelines. Library staff will also acknowledge complaints by library patrons about the behavior of others, and will act accordingly to protect the rights of all users.