

## PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY

Approved February 23, 2005

The Braswell Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees has established certain standards of acceptable behavior on Library property in order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use of equipment and the resources and services of the Library, promotes the safety of the general public and the Library staff, and protects the building, furniture, equipment, and materials of the Library.

In general, any activity that is illegal, threatening or interferes with the rights or safety of Library patrons or staff, which disrupts the normal functioning of the Library, or which could result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others or damage to the facilities, equipment, or materials of the Library is considered disruptive and unacceptable behavior and may result in suspension of the privilege to use the Library or go upon the premises of the Library for a specified period of time.

The Library Director and other staff members to whom s/he delegates this authority shall have the responsibility for enforcement of discipline within the Library. The Library Director or delegated staff will determine when behavior is inappropriate in the Library according to these policies established by the Board of Trustees. Violations of these policies may result in banishment from the Library for a specified period of time or permanently or restriction of Library privileges.

The children's department is reserved for use by children, their parents or guardians, and adults interested in children's literature.

For the comfort and safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff, and the protection of Library property, the following actions are prohibited on Library property:

1. Violation of any local, state, or federal law or ordinance on Library premises, including, but not limited to, the following:

Assault, battery, affray, communicating threats or stalking;

- Indecent exposure (North Carolina General Statute § 14-190.9);
- Peeping (North Carolina General Statute § 14-202);
- Disorderly conduct (North Carolina General Statute § 14-288.4 or 14-132), including but not limited to fighting, using abusive or obscene language or gestures likely to provoke violent retaliation leading to a breach of the peace, refusing to vacate the premises when asked to do so, obstructing the entrance or exit or interfering with the freedom of movement of Library patrons or staff upon Library premises, making rude noise, or committing a nuisance; Noise and Disorderly Behavior is defined as but not limited to the following: Disorderly behavior of any kind, including loud conversations, excessive noise, or any type

of harassment (through threats, abuse, and/or physical harm) of other patrons or library staff. Any patron violating this policy will be asked to leave the library.

- Larceny (North Carolina General Statute § 14-72);
  - Robbery (North Carolina General Statute § 14-87, -87.1);
  - Trespassing (North Carolina General Statute § 14-159, et. seq);
  - Injury to Real Property (North Carolina General Statute § 14-127); This includes misuse of Library Furniture and Facilities. In order to maintain clean and attractive library facilities it is forbidden to misuse library furniture or to deface walls and restrooms. Such acts may be construed as vandalism.
  
  - Injury to Personal Property (North Carolina General Statute § 14-160);
  - Defacing Public Building (North Carolina General Statute § 14-132);
  
  - Carrying a concealed weapon or dangerous weapon (North Carolina General Statute § 14-269, -277.2), except by law enforcement officers or private security personnel hired by the Library; Guns, knives, and other dangerous weapons may not be carried into or displayed in the library
  
  - Intoxicated and Disruptive Conduct (North Carolina General Statute § 14-444); Consumption or exchange of alcoholic beverages or drugs is prohibited on library property. Patrons who come to the library under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.
  - Prostitution or Loitering for Prostitution (North Carolina General Statute § 14-204, -204.1);
  - Gambling (North Carolina General Statute § 14-292);
  - Panhandling (Rocky Mount City Code of Ordinances § 14-13);
  - Violation of any controlled substances laws set forth under North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 90;
2. The use of alcohol on Library premises unless specifically approved by the Board of Trustees for special events;
  3. Any behavior that endangers the safety or health of others, such as fighting, throwing objects, boisterous behavior, or in any way harassing Library patrons or staff
  4. Use of threatening or abusive language or gestures at or in the presence of Library patrons or staff, such as language or gestures that convey a sexually explicit message or are conveyed in a coarse or crude manner and any language that threatens or verbally abuses another individual;
  5. Talking loudly or creating excessive noise which disturbs or could disturb other patrons; radios or other types of personal musical devices or entertainment devices, such as televisions, or games, may not be used without earphones or in any manner which disturbs or may disturb other patrons; cellular phones must be turned off or used in silent or vibrate mode only;

6. Food or drink in the Library except by permission of the Library staff; Food, beverages and water are prohibited except in the library's meeting rooms and are allowed there only with permission. Food and drink may cause permanent stains ruining books, carpet, computers, and furniture. It can also attract insects and rodents and lead to mold and mildew. Bringing food and drink into the library can have the same results as vandalism.
7. Smoking on library premises, except in vehicle outside the Library building;
8. Attire which is inappropriate for public display. Shoes and shirts are always required;
9. Offensive personal hygiene which disrupts Library patrons or staff; Body Odor: If a person's body odor is so strong that it is offensive to staff and other patrons, he/she will be asked to leave the library until the situation is remedied. Generally, if a person can be smelled from 10 feet or more, he/she will be asked to leave. (Library staff should ask for a second opinion from another member of the staff before asking someone to leave.)
10. Excessive displays of affection, e.g. any sexual conduct or physical conduct deemed inappropriate for a public place; Sexual activity, solicitation, and harassment of staff and patrons in the library, library restrooms, or on library grounds are forbidden. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, staring, uninvited conversation, and touching.
11. Selling anything for personal gain or a charitable cause, soliciting charitable donations, or circulating petitions among other patrons and staff members on Library premises; Selling of any kind (except sales of public library material by library staff), soliciting for donations of any kind, distribution of literature not approved by the library administration, or accosting patrons for the purpose of obtaining signatures on petitions are not allowed within the library or in the parking lot.
12. Sitting, standing or lying on tables, putting feet on tables or chairs, sleeping, lying on the floor or at the entrance to the Library building or otherwise obstructing or interfering with the free movement of Library patrons and staff; The library is a place for reading, research and the pursuit of knowledge and it is open to the public for those purposes. Patrons who are using the library for purposes other than those for which the library was intended may be asked to leave. Patrons who are sleeping on Library premises will be given one warning and, if found sleeping on Library premises again, will be asked to leave the Library;
13. Cutting, tearing, defacing, mutilating or otherwise harming Library materials, such as books, periodicals, pamphlets, microforms, videos, tapes, compact discs or DVDs; such action may result in criminal prosecution and/or revocation of Library privileges;

14. Removing Library materials or equipment before check-out by the circulation department; such action constitutes larceny and shall result in prosecution and/or termination of check-out or other Library privileges;
15. Bringing animals of any kind on Library premises unless animals are serving as an aide animal or part of a Library-sponsored program;
16. Parking automobiles on Library premises when the owner is not using the Library; Automobiles parked illegally may be ticketed or towed away at the owner's expense.
17. Use of Library telephones unless authorized by Library personnel, e.g. emergency only;
18. Trespassing in nonpublic areas, being in the Library without permission of authorized staff during non-public hours, or camping on Library premises;
19. Using restrooms for bathing or shampooing, doing laundry, eating meals, or changing clothes, except for infants;
20. Littering on Library premises;
21. Bringing in garbage, articles with a foul odor, or articles which, alone or in their aggregate, impede the use of the Library by other patrons;
22. Neglecting to provide proper supervision for children under age sixteen; Whether they are attended or not, children will not be allowed to run freely through the library or play with computers and other equipment, except in the Children's Room. In the Children's Room, children must use the computers properly and will be admonished and/or stopped by staff if they are abusing the privilege.
23. Using wheeled devices on Library premises including but not limited to skateboards, roller-skates, scooters, bicycles and shopping carts, except as medically necessary, such as wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers.

#### PROHIBITED USES OF LIBRARY COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS:

Using Library computers or networks to access obscene images, illegal images, images of child pornography, or material harmful to minors or messages or files containing these images or materials;.

Using Library computers or networks to engage in unlawful activities or misrepresentation or to access or attempt to access any computer system, including those of the Library, without authorization, including hacking or using another Library customer's card;

Using Library computers or networks to unlawfully harass or threaten others or engage in defamation;

Using Library computers or networks to violate copyright or software license restrictions;

Changing or adding files to Library computers;

Failing to pay for material printed from Library printers;

Refusing to relinquish a computer or network resources when the period of time allowed has expired or when instructed to do so by Library staff.