



### **Acceptable Behavior Policy**

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the comfort of and protection of the rights of all those using and working in the Eager Free Public Library. Library staff will enforce this code in a courteous but firm manner. Unacceptable behavior is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Loud talking or other loud noise
2. Disrupting library functions or programs
3. Annoying other patrons
4. Running
5. Physical threats or abuse
6. Abusive or foul language
7. Abuse or misuse of library furnishings, equipment or materials
8. Congregating in or around entrances or stairways, inside or out
9. Interfering with another library patron's use of the library through extremely poor personal hygiene
10. Commission of any illegal act, including, but not limited to, theft, assault, arson, indecent exposure or disorderly conduct.
11. Failure to pay fines or proper library costs when due
12. Use or possession of alcohol or mood-altering drugs on library property
13. Carrying weapons of any type

The following are also not permitted in the library:

1. Solicitation
2. Smoking
3. Eating
4. Drinking from an uncovered beverage
5. Loitering
6. Bringing animals or pets into the library, except to assist a person with a disability
7. Entering or remaining in the library without a shirt or shoes
8. Entering or remaining in the library outside of the established hours of operation

It is the patron's responsibility to maintain necessary and proper behavior standards in order to protect their individual rights and the rights and privileges of other patrons. Library staff will warn patrons twice of unacceptable behavior. If behavior continues after the second warning, the patron will be asked to leave library property. Parents may be contacted at the discretion of library staff. If necessary, the police may also be contacted. For serious and excessive infractions,

a patron's library privileges may be suspended. If a suspension of more than one week occurs, the patron will be notified in writing provided that their identity is known.

### **Unattended Children**

In order to avoid the disruption of normal library operations and services and for the safety and protection of young patrons, children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended in the library. A child is unattended if they are in the library without immediate and close supervision by a responsible party. If a staff member finds an unattended child, under the age of 9, the following steps will be taken at the discretion of the Library Director or designated staff person:

- The staff member will determine if the parent is in the library. If so, the staff member and child will attempt to locate the parent.
- If the parent is not in the library, the staff member will attempt to contact the parent at home or work using information provided by the child, the patron database, or the telephone directory. If contacted, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately.
- If the parent cannot be located, or if a contacted parent has not picked up their child within an hour of being called, the staff member will contact the Police.

Children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended for any length of time. This does not include children participating in library-sponsored programs. Children age 9 and up may be at the library on their own, provided their behavior is not disruptive.

Under no circumstances will a staff member ever take a child out of the library or give a child a ride home. The library in no way assumes any responsibility for any child left unattended in the library. All library patrons are subject to regular library rules concerning disruptive behavior.

### **Theft of Library Materials**

According to section 943.61 (4) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, an adult employee of the library who has probable cause for believing that a person has committed a theft of library materials in his or her presence may detain the person in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time to deliver the person to a police officer, or to the person's parent or guardian in the case of a minor. The detained person shall be promptly informed of the purpose for the detention and be permitted to make phone calls, but shall not be interrogated or searched against his or her will before the arrival of a police officer who may conduct a lawful interrogation of the accused person. Compliance with this subsection entitles the employee effecting the detention to the same defense in any action as is available to a police officer making an arrest in the line of duty.

Revised and adopted by the Eager Free Public Library Board of Trustees on May 25, 2021.