

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY
Library User Code of Conduct
Revised and Approved 3-19-2015

The ARL Regional Board has established standards of acceptable behavior on Library property in order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use of 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; which could result in physical, emotional, or mental injury to oneself or others; or which could damage the facilities, equipment, or materials of the Library, is considered disruptive and unacceptable behavior. Violations of this policy may result in suspension of Library privileges, banning from Library property, or in certain cases legal prosecution. Library staff have wide latitude in determining what behavior is considered disruptive.

Acceptable behavior includes but is not limited to abiding by the following rules:

1. Violation of any local, state, or federal law or ordinance on library premises is prohibited.
2. No alcohol or illegal drugs may be brought into the library or onto library grounds, nor may persons under the influence of either enter the library.
3. No weapons of any type are allowed in the library except those carried by law enforcement officials.
4. No pets are allowed in the library. Only assistance animals may be brought into the library by library users.
5. Harassment of any sort is prohibited. Harassment is defined as deliberate and/or repeated behavior that is not welcome and creates a hostile or frightening environment, including but not limited to staring, uninvited conversation, or touching. Threatening or abusive language or gestures are prohibited.
6. Disruptive behavior is not allowed, including but not limited to any behavior that endangers the safety of self or others or is loud or noisy. Parents or caregivers are responsible for providing proper supervision of minor children and for insuring that they are not disruptive to others.
7. The improper use of public restrooms is prohibited.

8. Personal hygiene shall conform to the standard of the community for public places. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to cause a nuisance to others shall be required to leave the building. Patrons are expected to wear appropriate clothing while using library facilities, including shirt and shoes.
9. The use of all forms of tobacco including e-cigarettes is prohibited in the library or on library property, including the library parking lot, except in a closed vehicle.
10. Sleeping is not permitted in the library.
11. Intentional damage and/or defacement of materials, furnishings, equipment or premises, or attempts at theft are prohibited, will result in the revocation of library privileges and/or banning, and may result in prosecution according to **North Carolina Statute 14-398**.
12. Solicitation of any sort is prohibited. Solicitation is defined as selling, asking for donations, or approaching a person to request a petition be signed. With the permission of the County Librarian, non-library-related surveys which are in no way connected to sales may be made available to the public as long as no active solicitation to take the survey is made.
13. Food and beverages are allowed only in designated areas of the library. No food or beverages are allowed in the vicinity of any computers or equipment. Beverages must be in securely-lidded containers. Hot, fragrant, or messy foods are not allowed.

All library users are required to abide by this policy. If a patron is advised of the policy but refuses to abide by it, or if the offense is severe enough, **library staff has the authority to exclude violators and may summon police if necessary**. Repeat offenders may be banned from the library.