

Appropriate Use of the Library Policy on Code of Conduct

Mission: The Chambers County Library System, utilizing a knowledgeable staff trained in current library trends, will attempt, within its financial means, to collect, organize, make accessible, and distribute library materials to meet the informational needs of individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds, to facilitate informal self-education, to encourage positive recreation and constructive use of leisure time, and to act as a supplemental resource in the formal education of the children and young people in the community.

Chambers County Library System Commitment: The Chambers County Library System is supported by the taxes of the people of Chambers County who expect each of our facilities to be clean and comfortable. The Library is intended to be used by the community for various reasons. To this end, the Library has established rules to help protect the rights of Library customers, staff and volunteers, and to help preserve and protect the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

Most behavior that is unacceptable on Library property will result in an initial verbal warning to stop the behavior. Failure to stop the behavior will result in being asked to leave the Library until the behavior is corrected. When deemed necessary, the Chambers County Sheriff's Office will be called.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR:

- **Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library** – Children under age 10 should not be left unsupervised and must be accompanied by a parent or responsible person age 17 or older. Children who are stranded will be referred to the Chambers County Sheriff's Office.
- **Bringing animals into the Library** – Service animals and animals for Library events are the only animals allowed inside the Library.
- **No consumption of outside food allowed in the Library** – Covered drinks are allowed.
- **Bare feet, bathing suits, or clothing that does not cover both upper and lower torso is prohibited in the Library at all times.**
- **Wearing indecent or vulgar apparel is prohibited.**
- **Leaving personal belongings unattended. The Chambers County Library System is NOT responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced personal items. By leaving items unattended, you run the risk of theft.**
- **Disturbing or annoying others using the Library** – Any behavior that disrupts the normal use of Library services or property by staff or other customers, including but not limited to:
 - **Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources,**
Texas Penal Code 42.03

- **Disorderly conduct**, Texas Penal Code 42.01
- Fighting, Texas Penal Code 42.01 (a) (6)
- **Harassment of Library staff or customers**
- **Sexual Harassment of Library staff or customers**
- **Strong Odor** -- Odor that is offensive to a person of normal sensibilities, caused by either poor personal hygiene or excessive use of perfume or cologne
- **Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs**, Texas Penal Code 49.02 – Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited on Library property.
- **Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment**, Texas Penal Code 28.03; 28.04
- **Misuse of Restrooms** – Restrooms are to be utilized for their intended use.
- **Smoking in the Library**, Texas Penal Code 48.01
- **Soliciting or panhandling**
- **Using obscene language**, Texas Penal Code 42.01
- **Entering unauthorized areas**

In most situations, a customer evicted from the Library may appeal the eviction. However, a customer who commits criminal acts on Library property may be permanently evicted from all Library locations and such evictions will not be subject to appeal.

LISTED BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF SUCH ACTIONS:

- **Physically attack or threaten to attack another person**
- **Making bomb threats against Library property, or from Library property**, Texas Penal Code 42.06
- **Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons**, Texas Penal Code 46.02
- **Child abuse**, Texas Family Code 261
- **Indecent exposure**, Texas Penal Code 21.08
- **Public Lewdness**, Texas Penal Code 21.07
- **Theft of Library, staff, or customer property**, Texas Penal Code 31.03
- **Voyeurism and peeping**, Texas Penal Code 42.01 (a) (11) (c)
- **Destruction of Library property**
- **Criminal Trespass**, Texas Penal Code 30.05

Chambers County Library System Advisory Board

August, 2003
 Amended: August 12, 2008
 Amended: May 12, 2009
 Amended: November 12, 2013
 Amended: May 12, 2015
 Amended: November 13, 2018