

## **Chambers County Library System Policies on Code of Conduct and Unattended/Disruptive Children**

The Chambers County Library System is a public facility, and requires a certain standard of behavior from those using the library branches and services. Library customers who do not abide by these standards will be asked to leave the premises. Failure to do so could develop into an incident in which the Sheriff's Department will be contacted.

### **General Decorum**

The following items are prohibited within the library property:

Any form of conduct that disrupts public library service, endangers the public, or library property. This includes: fighting, running, unreasonable noise, loitering, or soliciting.

Harassing patrons or library personnel; using loud, profane, vulgar, or abusive language

Using furniture inappropriately, i.e., placing feet on tables or chairs, tilting back in chairs.

Wearing indecent or vulgar apparel, or recognized gang apparel; chronic appearance at the library with significant body odor.

Swimwear is not acceptable in the library. Appropriate attire is expected; shirts/pants/shorts/skirts/dresses and shoes required.

Chronic return of library materials that are infused with odors, stains, or permanent damages.

Using tobacco products; possession, use, or distribution of any type of controlled substance or drug except as permitted by law; intoxication by reason of alcohol, a controlled substance or drug, or a combination of these substances

Possessing, using, or displaying of a firearm or other weapon

Carrying or leading animals into the building, with the exception of service animals.

### **Disruptive/Disorderly/Unattended Children**

A child who is disruptive or disorderly will be taken by the staff to the parent. The parent should be informed as to the behavior and as to the fact that such continued behavior is subject to the family's removal from the building.

If the parent is unable to control the child, the family should be asked to leave. If the parent refuses this request, the Sheriff's Department should be contacted.

If a child is left unattended at the library, the child may become frightened or disruptive. If the parent cannot be located within the building, staff should attempt to identify the child and to contact the parent or adult responsible for the child. The child should remain with the staff member while this activity takes place.

If the parent cannot be located, the staff member should contact the Sheriff's Department to pick the child up. Under no circumstances should a staff member remove a child from the library personally.

**Formal Action**

Should patrons not conform to the standards of behavior as noted above, a certified letter will be sent either to the cardholder (if an adult) or to the parent of the minor in question, noting the issues and instituting a period of banishment from the library premises. This action will take place after a minimum of three (3) oral warnings, and will last for a period of three (3) months from the date of the letter. No appeal of this matter is available.

Chambers County Library Advisory Board  
August, 2003; Amended, August 12, 2008  
Amended May 12, 2009  
Amended November 12, 2013  
Amended May 12, 2015