

STATEMENT ON LIBRARY USER BEHAVIOR

Revised Version: September 26, 2011

The Administration and the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County are responsible for determining the rules of behavior necessary to protect all library users' right of access to library facilities and materials, to ensure the safety of users and staff, and to protect library resources and facilities from damage or loss. All citizens who come to the library have the right to use the library's facilities, materials and resources in reasonable safety and security and reasonably free of disruption and distraction caused by the inappropriate behavior of other library users. The purpose of the Statement on Library User Behavior is to protect the rights of both users and staff and to provide a safe, comfortable and convenient library environment. Members of the library staff have the right to exclude from the use of the library any individual who violates these rules.

In most cases, one verbal warning will be issued to any person or group that violates the rules. A second violation will result in expulsion from the library and its grounds. However, no warning is required if, in the judgment of library staff, the behavior in question (a) violates federal, state, county or municipal laws, or (b) poses an immediate threat to the safety or well-being of other library users or staff.

Library employees are authorized to enforce these rules. The library reserves the right to revoke or restrict library privileges of any patron for behavior contrary to these rules and regulations. In cases where voluntary compliance is not adhered to, the police may be called for assistance.

1. Any misconduct that disturbs library users or staff, or that hinders others from using the library or library materials is prohibited. Such misconduct includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Loud talking.
 - b. Use of headphones at a level of volume audible to others.
 - c. Public displays of affection.
 - d. Harassment, either verbal or physical. Harassment may include initiating unwanted conversations with other individuals or employees, impeding access to the building or an area of the building, etc.
 - e. Any behavior which violates any provision of Sections 2909, 2911, 2913, 2917 or 2923 of the Revised Code of Ohio (vandalism, criminal trespass, theft, disorderly conduct, possessing criminal tools).

2. Any misconduct which is potentially harmful to library users, staff, facilities or resources is prohibited. Such misconduct includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Running, pushing, hitting, wrestling, etc. (even if it's "only kidding around")
 - b. Playing on the elevator
 - c. Abuse of library furniture, equipment or materials (e.g., throwing materials, sitting on tables, sitting with more than one person per chair, etc.,)
 - d. Unauthorized use of food or drink in the library.
 - e. Smoking or any other use of tobacco products in the library building, vestibules, or any

ramps, sidewalks, or walkways leading to or immediately adjacent to the public entrances.

- 3.** Selling for profit or solicitation for charitable purposes is prohibited on library property. The only exceptions are activities sponsored or co-sponsored by the library.
- 4.** The distribution of leaflets on library property is prohibited. Community organizations may submit literature to the administration for approval to display it in approved areas of the library. Taking surveys, asking individuals or staff members to sign petitions, or similar activities are prohibited in the library. The only exceptions are activities sponsored or co-sponsored by the library.
- 5.** The library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, briefcases, packs, etc., for library materials.
- 6.** The library reserves the right to limit the number of individuals who may sit together.
- 7.** Appropriate attire, including shoes and shirts, must be worn at all times in the library.