

The Nobles County Library welcomes everyone and strives to make your library visit a productive and enjoyable experience for all. Therefore, the Library Board of Trustees has established a Code of Conduct for library visitors. These rules are set in place to protect the right of library patrons to enjoy a safe environment, conducive to the use and enjoyment of library materials and services. The library staff will enforce this code of conduct courteously but firmly. We ask your cooperation in maintaining a pleasant, accommodating atmosphere. See the Code of Conduct policy below.

Code of Conduct Policy:

The Board of Trustees has established this Code of Conduct in order to make using the library a pleasant and productive experience. The Board and staff enthusiastically support the library's role as a public institution open to all people. We strive to offer high quality service, free of bias and favoritism. These rules and guidelines are for the protection of all who use the Nobles County Library.

The following are required of everyone using the library:

- Civility and respect for the rights and feelings of others.
- Adherence to library policies, procedures, rules, and guidelines.
- Cooperation with reasonable requests by library employees and volunteers.

The rules of the Code of Conduct Policy are as follows:

1. Inappropriate behavior includes any activity that disturbs others, interferes with library operations, damages the building or its furnishings, causes harm to other patrons or self, as well as rudeness, profanity, or any other behavior generally considered unacceptable in a public place. This includes abusive behavior directed at library staff members or volunteers. Persons who exhibit inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the library.
2. Theft/Damage to property Minnesota Statute 609.541 Protection of Library Property reads: "A person who intentionally, and without permission from library personnel damages any books, maps, pictures, manuscripts, films, or other property of any public library or library belonging to the state or to any political subdivision is guilty of a petty misdemeanor."

3. Patrons must adhere to the Nobles County Library's Unattended Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy. Young children and vulnerable adults should be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver who is a responsible person.
4. No weapons of any kind are permitted in the Nobles County Library.
5. Patrons must adhere to the Nobles County Library's Internet and Computer Use Policy.
6. Cell phone use is not permitted in the library. Cell phones should be placed on silent or vibrate mode.
7. Beverage containers must have a lid. Food is allowed only in the front lobby by the elevator on the main floor. Food and drinks provided by the library or their designated representatives are permitted during library-sanctioned events. See the Food and Drink Policy.
8. Appropriate clothing is required while in the library. This means shirts and shoes must be worn in the library. Attire that is considered to constitute a nuisance to other library patrons and staff is prohibited.
9. Emitting offensive odors or scents from self, personal belongings, or food items is prohibited.
10. Noise levels: The Board of Trustees and library staff are committed to providing an atmosphere where people of all ages may come to read, browse, do research, study, or engaging in library sponsored activities. This policy does not prohibit quiet conversation between customers and/or staff members or conversations required to carry on library programs or business. The Library Staff may require a patron to leave the premises, may call the police or ultimately bar a patron from the Library for noncompliance with this code of conduct.
11. No animals are allowed in the library with the exception of service animals or animals brought in for programs.
12. No tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs are permitted in the Nobles County Library.
13. All bicycles must be placed in the bike rack before entering the library. Skateboard use is not permitted on library property.
14. Leaving unattended personal items in the building: the Library assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or unattended personal items. Unattended or suspicious items may be removed from the premises without notice. All bags, containers, and other articles are subject to inspection.

Library staff reserve the right to determine whether behavior is inappropriate. Possible disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, loss of privileges, temporary expulsion, permanent expulsion or if there is an apparent immediate threat to the safety of patrons, staff or property or a patron refuses to comply, law enforcement will be called.

LP-120 Policy History:

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Current version adopted:

Next Review: 09/2023