



Standards of Library Behavior



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The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is committed to providing a secure and supportive environment for use of its resources and services. To achieve this, the Library has established standards of behavior.

To consistently enforce these standards of behavior, The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has established policies outlining specific violations and consequences for inappropriate behavior on Library premises.

The *Standards of Library Behavior* is a three-part policy designed to:

- Protect the rights and safety of Library patrons
- Protect the rights and safety of Library employees
- Protect and preserve the resources, facilities and property of the Library.

Definition & Scope

The *Standards of Library Behavior* applies to all persons using Library facilities, interior and exterior, controlled and operated by The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Such facilities and grounds are hereafter referred to as “premises.” Persons who violate this policy may be asked to leave the premises and may be barred from all Library premises for the periods listed on the charts inside this brochure.

VIOLATIONS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

Violation of any Ohio Revised Codes may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Statute of Limitations for violation of any Ohio Revised Code is for a 12-month period from the first offense.

Persons who violate these policies will be asked to leave the premises and will be barred from all Library premises for the periods listed below.

VIOLATION	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
1 Any violation of the Ohio Revised Code.	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years

Statute of Limitations for Library Policy or Behavioral Violations is for a 12-month period from the 1st offense.

LIBRARY POLICY VIOLATIONS

Persons who violate these policies will be asked to leave the premises and will be barred from all Library premises for the periods listed below.

VIOLATION	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
1 Panhandling	Warning	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
2 Non-compliance of the Library's <i>Internet Use Policy</i> . See http://www.cincinnati.library.org/info/policy.asp	Warning	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
3 Improper use or destruction of Library resources, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing, shaving, washing of hair and clothing in Library restrooms • Using Library equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings inconsistent with their intended use • Any use which is likely to cause personal injury or injury to others 	Warning	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year

BEHAVIORAL VIOLATIONS

Persons who violate these policies will be asked to leave the premises and will be barred from all Library premises for the periods listed below.

VIOLATION	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
1 Conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library including, but not limited to loud voices, or use of personal electronic equipment (pagers, stereos, televisions, cellular devices, etc.) at a volume that disturbs others.	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
2 Petitioning and distributing non-Library approved materials on Library premises.	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
3 Bringing animals inside the Library with the exception of service animals or as allowed at a Library approved event.	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
4 Consumption of food or drink in the Library except in designated areas.	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Day	1 Week	2 Weeks
5 Interfering with access, egress or use of Library facilities or resources by placement of objects or by use of wheeled devices including, but not limited to, shopping carts, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades or moving equipment (exceptions include wheelchairs, walkers, strollers with child).	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
6 Posing a threat to the safety of persons or property through possession of excessive personal items, luggage and bags; the combined volume of all personal luggage and bags is not to exceed 5 cubic feet.	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem
7 Sleeping in or on Library premises.	Warning/ Leave building to correct problem	1 Day	1 Week	2 Weeks
8 Entering the Library wearing swimsuits, no shoes, or no shirt.	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem
9 Offensive and pervasive odor; visible presence of pests on person, belongings or Library materials.	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem	Leave building to correct problem

Failure to abide by the Standards of Library Behavior in accordance with the time limitations set forth in this policy may be viewed as criminal trespassing and violators may be prosecuted. Persons convicted of damaging Library property will be held liable for full restitution.