

CONDUCT POLICY FOR BRUNSWICK COUNTY LIBRARIES

The Brunswick County Library offers library services to all residents of, and visitors to, Brunswick County. Library staff are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all library patrons. The user guidelines below set expectations for all library users to ensure the safety, cleanliness, comfort, and accessibility of all Brunswick County Library spaces for all community members.

Illegal Activities

Illegal activities and behaviors, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, lewd behavior or indecent exposure, that are violations of federal, state, or local laws are prohibited on library property and at library events. Library patrons may not engage in behaviors, actions, or activities that violate any federal, state or local laws, as well as community ordinances and regulations. Weapons of any kind are forbidden on library property.

Personal Behavior and Conduct

All library patrons and staff, while on library premises, have the right to enjoy a library experience that is free from threat, harassment, and lewd or disruptive behavior. To ensure this, library patrons, while on library premises, shall not:

- Possess or consume alcohol or illegal substances
- Smoke, including e-cigarettes
- Enter the library with bare feet or bare torso
- Engage in sexual conduct or lewd behavior
- Cause a nuisance through offensive body odor due to poor personal hygiene, or overpowering perfume or cologne
- Solicit for funds or signatures, panhandle, sell goods, or gamble
- Make unreasonable or disruptive noise
- Leave bags and other personal belongings unattended
- Block access to aisles, doorways, stairways, walkways, ramps, or computers

- Loiter on library property after business hours
- Leave children under the age of 12 unattended
- Use profane, obscene, or abusive language

Service Animals

No animals or pets, other than service animals, are permitted inside library facilities unless approved by the appropriate facility staff as part of a library program.

Food/Beverages

Beverages must be in covered containers. Food can be eaten in designated areas as well as part of a library program or pre-approved event.

Furniture

Furniture may not be moved without permission from library staff. Library users must not abuse or damage furniture.

Policy Violations

Violators of this policy may be subject to a warning, removal from library property, and/or exclusion from library buildings and grounds and violators can lose library privileges. Criminal behavior will be prosecuted under the applicable law. Library staff follow a three-step process when addressing policy violations:

1. The user receives a verbal warning.
2. If the behavior continues after the verbal warning, the user is asked to leave the premises for the remainder of the day.
3. If the user refuses to leave the premises or if the behavior continues in subsequent visits, the user is trespassed from the premises for a period of 30 days, 90 days, 365 days, or permanently depending on the degree of infraction.

In the event of egregious policy violations, staff may skip the warning and daily ejection stages and proceed immediately to trespass.

Notices of trespass must be issued in the presence of local law enforcement.

Violation of the terms of trespass is defined as a Class 3 misdemeanor under North Carolina [G.S 14-159.13](#).

Trespassed users may appeal in writing to the Library Director.

Applicability

This policy applies to all library patrons and/or persons on library property. Disruptive behavior is determined at the sole discretion of library staff or security personnel.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all library staff to fully understand this policy to ensure fair and equitable application. It is the responsibility of the Library Director, with advisement from the Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees, to interpret, monitor and recommend updates to this policy. The Library Director is the final authority regarding the enforcement of this policy.

Effective May 27, 2025

Adopted by the Library Board, May 9, 2022

Reviewed and adopted by the Library Board May 27, 2025