

# GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BEHAVIOR POLICY

## **Purpose of the Policy**

To protect the rights and safety of patrons, volunteers and library staff members.

To preserve and protect the library's materials, facilities and property.

## **Unacceptable Behavior**

The library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in unacceptable behavior to leave the premises, the right to restrict privileges for a specified period of time, the right to ban the individual from the library for a specified period of time or permanently. Patrons who violate these guidelines will receive notice they are in violation and will be asked to leave the library at staff's discretion.

Unacceptable behavior is defined as any patron behavior that interferes with the normal operation of the library, or which unreasonably interferes with another patron's ability to use the library. Unacceptable behavior is not permitted.

Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Excessive noise. If one person or group is heard above the general noise level in the building at a particular time, this person or group will be asked to lower their voices.
- Loud or boisterous behavior. Includes running, horsing around, playing on the access ramp or in stairwells, and annoying other patrons.
- Physical threats or abuse.
- Abusive, profane, offensive language, or gestures.
- Food and beverages at computer workstations.
- Intoxication from alcohol and/or drugs.
- Excessive public displays of affection, including exhibitionism/flashing.
- Habitual sleepers, noisy sleepers and those who are sprawled on furniture or the floor in a manner disturbing to others will not be tolerated. Patrons who simply doze for a short time will ordinarily be left alone.
- Abuse or misuse of library furnishings, materials, or equipment. Includes placing feet on tables and chairs, standing on furniture, mutilating or defacing books or magazines, and mistreating equipment or computers.
- Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters must not be ridden anywhere in the library building.
- Congregating in or around entrances or stairways, inside or out.
- Loitering, including refusal to leave promptly at closing.
- Any behavior which unreasonably interferes with other patron's use of the library.

## **Unattended Children**

Children are welcome in the library and we are concerned about their safety and welfare. However, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of their children while the children are in the library.

All children 7 years old and under shall be adequately supervised by a responsible parent or caregiver (age 13 or older) at all times for the sake of their own well-being.

Children may be left unattended during scheduled library programs and the responsible person may choose to leave the building, but he/she should plan to be at the library when the program is scheduled to conclude. However, persons responsible for children who have special needs related to physical or mental ability, disruptive behavior, emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, incomplete social skills, etc., shall remain with their children at all times.

Children 8 years and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of this library. It is assumed that children and young adults from age 8 through 16 years old who are unattended in the library have parental permission to use all library resources, including the filtered Internet workstations.

The library is not responsible for the safety or security of children left unattended.