

Patron Behavior Policy

In order to maintain the library as a welcoming place for everyone, any behaviors which interfere with library services or the use of the library by another individual are strictly prohibited.

These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Excessive noise
- Horseplay
- Running
- Obscene language or gestures
- Knowingly exposing others to communicable disease
- Excessive odor or other hygiene practices which impede the use of the library by others
- Misuse of furniture or library equipment
- Sleeping, when habitual or disturbing to others
- Solicitation
- Eating anything which is likely to cause damage or stains to library materials or furniture, or which has an odor likely to disturb or distract other individuals. No food is permitted in technology areas or near library computers.
- Drinking from any container which has no lid, or which can otherwise not be sealed. No beverages are permitted in technology areas or near library computers.

Dependent on the severity and frequency of transgression, library staff may ask disruptive patrons to vacate the library property.

The following behaviors are grounds for immediate ejection from library property and may result in long term or permanent loss of library access.

- **Assault**
LA RS 14:36 defines assault as, “an attempt to commit a battery, or the intentional placing of another in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery.”
- **Battery**
LA RS 14:33 defines battery as, “the intentional use of force or violence upon the person of another.”
- **Criminal Mischief**
LA RS 14:59 defines criminal mischief as, “the intentional performance of any of the following acts:
(1) Tampering with any property of another, without the consent of the owner, with the intent to interfere with the free enjoyment of any rights of anyone thereto, or with the intent to deprive anyone entitled thereto of the full use of the property.
(6) Throwing any stone or any other missile in any street, avenue, alley, road, highway,

open space, public square, or enclosure, or throwing any stone, missile, or other object from any place into any street, avenue, road, highway, alley, open space, public square, enclosure, or at any train, railway car, or locomotive.

(7) Taking temporary possession of any part or parts of a place of business, or remaining in a place of business after the person in charge of such business or portion of such business has directed such person to leave the premises and to desist from the temporary possession of any part or parts of such business.”

- **Disturbing the Peace**

LA RS 14:103 defines disturbing the peace as, “the doing of any of the following in such manner as would foreseeably disturb or alarm the public:”

(1) Engaging in a fistful encounter; or

(2) Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying words to any other person who is lawfully in any street, or other public place; or call him by any offensive or derisive name, or make any noise or exclamation in his presence and hearing with the intent to deride, offend, or annoy him, or to prevent him from pursuing his lawful business, occupation, or duty; or

(3) Appearing in an intoxicated condition; or

(4) Engaging in any act in a violent and tumultuous manner by any three or more persons; or

(5) Holding of an unlawful assembly; or

(6) Interruption of any lawful assembly of people.”

- **Institutional Vandalism**

LA RS 14:225 defines institutional vandalism as, “knowingly vandalizing, defacing, or otherwise damaging the following:

(6) Any building owned by the United States, state of Louisiana, or a political subdivision of this state.”

- **Obscenity**

LA RS 14:106 contains a full description of acts considered legally obscene. While all are grounds for immediate ejection from library property, the following are examples of the most likely acts to occur:

- The intentional exposure of genitals, buttocks, or chest for the purpose of sexual arousal or to deliberately cause offense
- Sexual intercourse or any other activity meant to cause sexual gratification
- Masturbation
- Exhibition, distribution, display, etc. of obscene materials in any medium.

N.B. Acts described above which do not specifically breach state or local laws are still prohibited by library policy.

- **Recording without Consent**

LA RS 283 and its subsections describe video voyeurism and restrictions regarding the recording of individuals without their consent. The use of any device to record an

individual's image or voice without that individual's consent is strictly prohibited by library policy.

- **Use of Tobacco Products**

Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article III., Section 2-31 governs use of tobacco products in parish buildings. Library policy prohibits the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping products, etc. within library buildings or within 25 feet of any library entrance.

- **Theft**

LA RS 14:67 defines theft as, "the misappropriation or taking of anything of value which belongs to another, either without the consent of the other to the misappropriation or taking, or by means of fraudulent conduct, practices, or representations."

Ascension Parish Library reserves the right to pursue criminal charges or civil suit as well as aid in the pursuit of criminal charges or civil suit by any victim of the behaviors described above.

Adopted by the Library Board on February 23, 2022.