

North Carolina Public Library Disruptive Behavior Policy

It is the policy of the Bladen County Public Library to offer the full range of the library service to all residents of the community, regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion, economic status, etc. It is the intent of the library to provide its services with a minimum of regulations and restrictions, adopting only those which are essential to the library's operation.

The library recognizes that the users of the library are in fact the owners of the library. As user-owners, the public has certain expectations of the library. These include an outstanding collection of library materials, pleasant attractive surroundings, and courteous, efficient and effective service from the staff.

Library users have a right to assume that visits to the library will be free from harassment, free from physical discomfort and danger, and free from psychological and emotional stress.

The library staff has the same right. Each member of the staff should be able to do his/her work free of harassment, abuse, discomfort, and undue psychological stress.

The rights of both the public and the staff are sometimes violated by the attitudes and behavior of a very small minority of persons.

It will therefore be the policy of the Bladen County Public Library Board of Trustees to maintain in the library system a quiet, pleasant environment conducive to serious study as well as casual use. To assure the successful implementation of this policy, the Board considers the following to be unacceptable behavior:

1. Entering the library without a shirt or shoes, with exposed undergarments, or with clothing that does not adequately cover the body.
2. Loud conversation or laughter which is disturbing to other users.
3. Obscene or abusive language.
4. Smoking or other uses of tobacco/marijuana, including smokeless tobacco/vaping products on library property.
5. Use of radios, laptops, video games, cell phones etc. without headphones so that sound is transmitted to others.
6. Willful destruction of or damage to any library property.
7. Blocking or in any way interfering with the free movement of any person or persons.
8. Bringing into the library any animals other than service animals or animals used for library-sponsored events.
9. Consumption of alcoholic beverages.

10. Removal of any library property from the building without authorization through established lending procedures.
11. Soliciting, selling, or distributing leaflets.
12. Distribution of leaflets or posting of notices in areas not authorized for this purpose.
13. Failing to turn off or silence cell phones or other communication devices upon entering the library. Cell phone communication is allowed in the library if calls are kept as quiet as possible, so they are not a nuisance to customers or staff.
14. Bringing in open food or beverage containers or consuming food.
15. Following staff or users around the building, or other harassing behavior such as staring or other intimidating acts.
16. Rearranging of any library furniture or equipment from one location to another.
17. Engaging in disorderly conduct, committing a nuisance, or unreasonably disturbing and offending library users.
18. Carrying unauthorized weapons of any sort.
19. Skateboarding, rollerblading, roller-skating, etc. on library property.
20. Exuding unpleasant odors that interfere with the comfort of library patrons and staff. This includes body odor, strong fragrances, and/or any other scents that detract from the pleasant environment that the library strives to offer.

North Carolina laws pertaining to the model Disruptive Behavior Policy

G.S. 14-33 Misdemeanor assaults, batteries and affrays.

G.S. 14-76 Larceny, mutilation, or destruction of public records and papers.

G.S. 14-127 Willful and wanton injury to real property.

G.S. 14-132 Disorderly conduct in and injuries to public building and facilities.

G.S. 14-134 Trespass on land after being forbidden.

G.S. 14-190.9 Indecent exposure.

G.S. 14-204.1 Loitering for the purpose of engaging in prostitution offense.

G.S. 14-269 Carrying concealed weapons.

G.S. 14-277-1 Communicating threats.

G.S. 14-398 Theft or destruction of property of public libraries, museums, etc.

G.S. 153A-266 Powers and duties of trustees.

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