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Patron Code of Conduct Policy

The purpose of the Avon Free Library Patron Code of Conduct is to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for all library patrons, as well as library employees. It also ensures access to library facilities, the safety of users and staff, and the protection of the library collection, equipment and facility. It is expected that all Patrons of the Avon Free Library will respect the rights of others. This is expressed by behaving in a way that does not impede other patrons from enjoying a quiet space that does not disrupt their use of the library.

All library policies begin with three basic principles:

1. Patrons should not engage in behavior that interferes with the rights of other individuals to use library materials, resources, and services.
2. Patrons should not engage in behavior that threatens or disrupts the secure and comfortable environment of the library.
3. Patrons should not engage in behavior that limits the ability of the library staff to conduct library business.

Examples of **behaviors that interfere with the rights of others** include, but are not limited to:

- Excessively loud conversation or laughter;
- Playing music on a computer or other device at a volume that can be heard by other patrons;
- Using a cell phone, or other electronic device in a manner that is disruptive;
- Inappropriate attire (all patrons must wear shirts and shoes) or bodily hygiene that constitutes a nuisance to other patrons.

Examples of **behaviors that threaten or disrupt the secure and comfortable environment of the library** include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting or threatening to fight, taunting, teasing, bullying, or acting in any manner that disrupts, threatens, or intimidates another patron or library staff member,
- Boisterous behavior (e.g. running, pushing, shoving or throwing things);
- The transportation, use, or storage of any firearms, weapons and/or explosives;
- Viewing sexually explicit images on a computer or hard copy document;
- Consuming alcohol, illegal substances, being intoxicated, smoking, using tobacco products or vapor cigarettes;
- The consumption of food unless previously arranged as part of a library program (non-alcoholic beverages in covered containers may be consumed);
- The use of roller blades, skateboards, scooters, bicycles or other wheeled transport on library property (wheeled or motorized vehicles necessary for personal mobility are permitted);

- Bringing animals into the library (service animals as defined by the Americans with disabilities Act § 35.136 are exempt);
- Any other action that may damage the library building, furniture, or other property.

Examples of **behavior that limits the ability of the library staff to conduct library business** include, but are not limited to:

- Demanding books, computers, or other Library property;
- Threats or verbal abuse directed against Library patrons or staff;
- Refusing to comply with requests from the Library staff to desist from any disruptive activity or behavior;
- Impeding access, under any circumstances, to the building or an area of the building or blocking book stack aisles;
- Leaving unattended personal items in the building;
- Soliciting, petitioning, and posting notices, fundraising, selling, canvassing or distributing any written material unless authorized by the Library Director;
- Entering non-public areas unless accompanied by a staff member or through prior authorization from a staff member;
- Failing to exit the building at closing and or not following directions from staff during an emergency;
- Relocating or tampering with tables, chairs, equipment, or other furniture without staff permission;
- Unattended children under the age of 8

The Library staff may use its discretion to determine if a patron is engaged in any prohibited or disruptive conduct and may intervene to stop any disruptive behavior or activity. Any patron not abiding by these rules and regulations of the library or any other reasonable request by a Library staff member may be required to leave the premises. Library employees may contact the Avon Police Department or Livingston County Sheriff's Office if deemed advisable.

Any patron who violates these rules and regulations may be denied the privilege of access to the library by the Library's Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Library Director. A patron whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 31, 2017