

Sampson-Clinton Public Library

Code of Conduct

In order to provide a safe environment that promotes the enjoyment and full utilization of the Sampson Clinton Public Library, patrons are asked to respect each other and the library staff and to share the library's space and its resources. We also ask that everyone abide by the guidelines below. Library staff will issue one warning to cease conduct violating any of the following, and failure to comply may result in being asked to leave the library for the remainder of the day.

- Any behavior, verbal or physical, that makes another patron feel harassed, intimidated, threatened, discomfited or unsafe or that in any way interferes with another patron's use of the library is not allowed.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be used so as not to disturb others.
- Only service animals are appropriate in the library.
- Conversations and activities are to be kept at a level that will not disturb others. Situations that have been caused complaint in the past include young children babbling/crying; people humming; children running; people having extended conversations; etc....
- Obscene, abusive, or threatening language is strictly prohibited.
- Children should not be left unattended anywhere on the library premises if they cannot care for themselves or if they interfere with or disrupt other patrons' use of the library (Please see the "Unattended Children" section below).
- Soliciting opinions/money, giving speeches, or requesting people to fill out surveys is not permitted.
- Eating, smoking, carrying weapons, or bathing in the library is not allowed.
- All drinks must have a lid.
- The library does not allow the use of sports or recreational equipment on the property.
- Sleeping on the library's premises for an extended period of time (approx. 15 min.) is not allowed.
- Patrons are must be properly proper attired (shoes, pants/skirt, shirt, etc...) and be in possession of their personal property at all times. The library is not responsible for the loss or theft of items left unattended.
- Patrons are required to comply with the directions of library staff members.

If a person's hygiene is interfering with another person's use of the library, he/she will be asked to return to the library once the hygiene issue has been resolved.

A patron will be immediately expelled and suspended for committing or attempting to commit the following:

- Harassment, stalking or threatening behavior
- The use of alcohol or controlled substances

The police will be contacted immediately for the following offenses:

- Assault
- Battery

- Theft
- Vandalism
- Sexual offenses / offensive touching

Unattended Children

The Sampson-Clinton Public Library welcomes children of all ages. The library is a public building and, as such, everyone is welcome. We ask patrons to help us keep the library a safe and pleasant place for children by adhering to the following policies:

- It is the parent or guardian, not the library staff, who are responsible for the supervision of the child(ren) in the library. Library staff do not act in loco parentis.
- Parents are reminded that they are responsible for supervising their children's access to Library materials. While the staff members are always available to lead young people to interesting materials selected with children's interests and needs in mind, it shall be assumed that children who visit the Library unattended are authorized to use the full range of materials available to all library patrons.
- Unwelcomed interaction with minors is prohibited in the library. Parents should speak to their child(ren) about personal safety. Children should know they can always come to a library staff member if another person is making them feel threatened or uncomfortable.
- All children are subject to the library's Code of Conduct while in the library.
- Children:
 - Under 5 and under must stay with a parent or caregiver over age of 17.
 - Between 6 and 12 who can care for themselves and do not disturb others may be in the library unsupervised (parent / caregiver is on library property).
 - 12 and over may be left at the library unattended if they can care for themselves and do not disturb others provided that they be picked up quickly in case of emergency, library closure, or other incident.
- All children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency; both children and adults should be aware of library hours. At closing time, the proper authorities will be notified to escort unattended children from the library contact cannot be established with the parent after fifteen minutes.

Any other behavior not included in this policy which interferes with the proper and established function of a public library, that threatens the safety and/or welfare of individuals, or that interferes with the quiet enjoyment of the library and library grounds by other individuals is not allowed.

Library administration understands that circumstances may occur which would necessitate varying the application of this policy, and these instances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Library Director.