

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Policy

This code of conduct is intended to encourage behavior, which supports the Library mission - strengthening our community through inspiration, enrichment, and education. Behavior becomes unacceptable when it interferes with this mission, impinges on the rights of others, causes damage to buildings or equipment, or causes injury to oneself or others. Those willing to modify unacceptable behavior are always welcome to stay. However, those unable to comply will be asked to leave. If necessary, the authorities will be called.

II. Principles of Conduct

The Library serves various functions for library members, including that of a community information center, a place to study, and a place to find cultural and recreational materials and activities. All of these require traffic, movement, and discourse. In balancing these various roles and functions, a reasonable noise level is expected and generally believed to be acoustically unavoidable. When in the Library, patrons must observe the following principles of conduct:

- Speak in normal or quiet tones of voice
- Respect others, including their rights and personal property
- Respect Library property and staff
- Maintain responsibility for the safety, well-being, and conduct of children in their charge
- Refrain from actions that are disruptive to other library members
- Place cell phones and pagers on vibrate feature; hold conversations outside the building

III. Library Member Prohibited Activities

The following are examples of behaviors (but not limited to) that seriously interfere with the activities normally associated with the use of a public library and are prohibited in the East Lake community Library:

- Smoking
- Sleeping
- Eating, drinking, or displaying food in open containers
- Disturbing or annoying anyone by loud/unreasonable noise or movement, including, but not limited to, using audible devices without headphones, or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others
- Use of abusive, threatening, harassing, or insulting language
- Animals (except trained assistance animals)
- Improper acts which are subject to prosecution under criminal or civil codes of law
- Vehicles and other objects which constitute potential safety hazards to patrons
- Objects placed adjacent to any exit or entrance on the inside or outside of the facility which pose a safety hazard to persons entering or exiting the facility
- Lack of shirt or footwear
- Personally monopolizing library space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons or staff

- Soliciting, selling, or begging
- Unattended children under the age of 10
- Bathing, shaving, washing clothes or other misuse of restrooms
- Distribution or posting of printed materials not approved by ELCL administration
- Loitering, including refusal to leave at closing or emergency evacuation
- Possessing, consuming or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Unruly/offensive behavior such as viewing pornography

V. Violations of Library Member Principles of Conduct

Library Staff have the authority to deal firmly but courteously with library members who are violating the Library Member Principles of Conduct and Library Member Prohibited Activities. Actions taken by staff may include making the library member aware that the behavior violates the principles of conduct or is a prohibited activity, warning the library member that he/she will have to leave if the behavior does not change, and telling the library member to leave the library. In some cases, the library member may be escorted from the building by staff or the police. Anyone known to have violated the principles of conduct and prohibited activities of the Library may be excluded from the Library and its programs as a matter of administrative policy. If the behavior involves illegal activity, such as child molestation, indecent exposure, or destruction of Library property such as computer equipment, library staff has full authority to call the police. Based upon the severity of the situation, a suspension of library privileges may be applied without advance warning or prior suspension.

The suspension shall remain in effect pending periodic administrative review. The library administrator's decision shall be final.

