

Lawton Public Library CODE OF CONDUCT

The Lawton Public Library provides free, open and equal access to ideas and information to all members of the community. This code is designed to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy and applies to all individuals while on library property. Behavior becomes unacceptable when it interferes with other persons' use of the library, when it could result in injury to oneself or others, or when it could result in loss or damage to customer or library property.

Unacceptable behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing another person
- Using tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances
- Displaying excessive affection, obscene gestures, sexual acts, and indecent exposure
- Consuming food or uncovered beverages except in the main library lobby or the meeting rooms
- Pushing, running, shoving, or throwing objects
- Disrupting others with loud talking or other noises
- Skateboarding or rollerblading
- Misusing furniture and materials
- Bringing animals (except service animals) into the library without prior permission from the director
- Unauthorized soliciting of funds or offering of goods or services for sale
- Sleeping except for infants or toddlers under the supervision of a library customer or loitering inside the library. While in the library, customers shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library. Customers not engaged in using library materials, reading, studying, research or participating in library approved and/or sponsored activities shall be required to leave the library if, after being warned, they continue to sleep or loiter. For purposes of this section, loitering inside the library is defined as sitting or standing idly about, lingering aimlessly or putting one's head on a table for a prolonged period of time.
- Leaving personal items unattended in or around the building
- Behavior that interferes or denies others full and equal access to library materials and services
- Possession of a firearm in the library by anyone other than law enforcement personnel
- Disobeying reasonable directives of library staff members
- Any act or conduct that is in violation of city code, state and/or federal law

Shirt and shoes are required for all customers while in the library building.

Consequences of Misconduct

The library reserves the right to remove any person whose behavior is in violation of the library's code of conduct, disruptive, inappropriate for a library environment, or interferes with the use of the library by others. The director or staff designee will apply these rules in a fair and equitable manner for the benefit of all.

The consequences of misconduct may be any of the following: verbal warning, denial of access, removal from the library, loss of library privileges, and/or in the event of a criminal violation: prosecution.

All staff members are authorized to expel individuals for unacceptable behavior for the remainder of one day. Individuals with repeated expulsions or serious violations of the code of conduct may be banned from the library for longer periods of time. The director/director's designee will notify the individual about long-term expulsion.

Administrative Review

Individuals who are evicted, denied access or who lose library privileges may meet with the library director or director's designee in an informal session to protest the eviction or loss of privilege. Individuals shall be given notice of the reasons for the action and an opportunity to respond. The decision of the director/designee shall be final.

Library Board Approved: 8/4/21