

Berkeley Public Library

Patron Library Use Policy

Berkeley patrons may engage in activities associated with the general use of a public library and will respect the rights of other library users. Individuals not reading, studying, using library materials or computers may be required to leave the building.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in the library. This is defined as, but not limited to, any behavior that disrupts another patron's use of the library or threatens the safety of library users and/or staff. Patrons will be warned if behavior is unacceptable and will be asked to leave the premises if said behavior continues. The police will be called if a patron refuses to leave.

Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Excessive noise (loud talking, shouting); harassment of other library users or staff; use of abusive language or obscene gestures; running; throwing objects; smoking or use of illegal substances; damage or misuse of library materials, furniture or equipment.
2. Interfering with the use of the library by other patrons, or interfering with library personnel in the performance of their duties.
3. Open containers and/or consumption of food or beverages.
4. Defacing or destroying library materials and equipment including books, periodicals, computers, audiovisual materials, library furnishings, walls, or any other library property.
5. Use of cell phones.
6. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons or staff may be required to leave the building; shirt and shoes must be worn at all times.
7. Animals are prohibited with the exception of service animals.
8. Smoking, the use of tobacco and electronic cigarettes, and the use of alcohol or illegal substances.
9. Children must be properly supervised. Library staff cannot supervise or care for children. Children under 10 must be supervised by their parent or caregiver at all times. Small children should be accompanied to the public bathroom. Parents or caregivers will remain in the library while children attend programs. Parents will be told if children's behavior is unacceptable and may be asked to leave if said behavior continues.
10. Engaging in any illegal activity.