Burlington Public Library Conduct Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Burlington Public Library recognizes that the library is designed for the use of all members of the public. Library customers have the responsibility to use the library in a manner that

- respects the rights of others to use library materials, resources, and services;
- allows library staff to conduct library business; and
- maintains a secure, clean, and comfortable environment.

Security cameras are in use in public areas of the library to protect the safety and security of the people, the building, and its contents.

General Behavior

Staff members have the authority to enforce this policy and determine when behavior is inappropriate. Inappropriate behavior is any behavior that is disruptive to library use. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Loud talking, yelling, or other noise that disturbs others
- Abusive or profane language
- Running or climbing on library property
- Theft, vandalism, destruction of Library property or other illegal activity
- Behavior that endangers or could endanger the health or safety of others
- Bringing animals in the library that are not trained to assist individuals with disabilities or for library sponsored events
- Campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, soliciting, and selling, unless authorized by the Director
- Using nicotine products such as cigarettes, chew, or e-cigarettes (pursuant of the Smoke Free Air Act)

People exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be given a verbal warning. A person who refuses to comply after one warning will be required to leave the Library for the day.

In the case of extreme misconduct, the people involved may be ordered to leave the Library immediately and the police may be called. In the case of minors, the parents may also be called.

Individuals causing repeated disruption that interferes with others' use of the Library, threatens Library property, or violates the law may be temporarily or permanently banned from Library property by the Library Director. Incidents will be recorded and kept on file.

Food and Beverages

Food and beverages are allowed in the meeting rooms, lobby, and coffee shop and outside the building on the library grounds. Library patrons may have non-alcoholic beverages in re-sealable or covered containers in the library. Spills should be reported to a staff member immediately to avoid damage to library property. Exceptions may be made by the library management staff for special events.

Unattended Children

Children and families are encouraged to use the library together. The well-being of a child left alone in a public building is a serious concern. The library staff shall not assume responsibility for the safety of unattended children. While staff members will act with care and concern, responsibility for the welfare, behavior, and supervision of children using the library and computer work stations rests with parents, guardians, or caregivers. The library shall not provide childcare, and children should not be dropped off at the library for such purposes.

Preschool children should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver. Parents or caregivers of preschool children are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs.

A child may be asked to leave the premises due to inappropriate behavior. If a child is not able to leave the library without a caregiver, the child should not be in the library without a caregiver.

When a child is found to be unattended, library staff may contact the parents or caregivers. If they are not readily available, the staff may contact the Burlington Police Department. If any child remains at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff will contact the police to ensure safe transport.

Adopted: April 16, 2014

March 20, 2013 December 16, 2009 November 28, 2007