



Patron Code of Conduct

Welcome to the Lee County Library System. For the comfort and safety of all library patrons, all library users must adhere to the following policies of the Library System. The spirit of these policies is to ensure a pleasant environment for everyone who is using the library.

The Lee County Library System's Code of Patron Conduct was designed within the framework of existing local, state and federal laws, the American Library Association (ALA) *Code of Professional Ethics*, ALA's *Guidelines for the Development of Policies and Procedures Regarding User Behavior and Library Usage* (January 24, 1993) and the *Library Bill of Rights*. Lee County libraries must provide facilities in which both library users and staff can be free from harassment, intimidation, and threats to their safety.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

Library users are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not violate the rights of others, and does not result in damage to library property. The Lee County Library System expects the following behaviors within the library:

- Respect of other users' rights of access -- both physically and intellectually -- to the library
- Appropriate use of library materials, equipment, and property
- Patron responsibility for their personal property
- Appropriate public attire, including shoes and shirts
- Parental responsibility for the total behavior of any children using the library

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The Lee County Library System considers the following behaviors to be unacceptable:

- **Engaging in disorderly conduct**, unreasonably disturbing or offending library users or staff (one warning, then out)
- **Eating or drinking in non-designated area** (one warning, then out)
- **Smoking**, chewing or dipping tobacco products (one warning, then out)
- **Soliciting**, selling, campaigning, posting of notices or petitions, and distributing of leaflets not authorized through the community relations office (one warning, then out)
- Entering the library with any **animal**, other than a service animal that assists a patron with disabilities (one warning, then out)
- **Leaving children** under eight years of age out of sight of a responsible caregiver at any time (one warning, then out – both child and caregiver – or call police if no caregiver is found)
- **Bringing suitcases**, duffel bags, large bags, or other containers will be permitted in the library **only if the patron voluntarily agrees** that these items may be subjected to a search upon departure (out immediately)
- **Carrying a concealed weapon** in violation of Florida Statutes 790.01 and 790.06 (call police)
- **Consuming alcohol** or illicit substances (call police)
- Willful **destroying of library property** or personal property of library users or staff (call police)
- **Stealing** of library property or personal property of library users or staff (call police)
- Physically **assaulting** or molesting any library user or staff (call police)
- Using abusive, lewd, or **obscene language** toward any library user or staff (call police)
- Exhibiting **threatening** or intimidating behavior including voyeurism, exhibitionism, and stalking (call police)