

VIII. Rules of Conduct

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the library provides a pleasant and safe environment for its users for study, research, and recreational reading.

VIII-A: Patron Behavior

Unacceptable Behavior

Unacceptable behavior in the library includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Running, excessive noise, rowdiness, vandalism or similar disruptive behavior not in accordance with normal use of the library. Cell phone use is considered disruptive and is permitted only in the library's entry foyer or the Study Room.
- Smoking or using tobacco products in the library or on library property
- Consuming food or alcohol in the library (Food may be consumed only in the library's meeting room for designated events.)
- Consuming beverages from containers without lids (Coffee cups with lids and water or soft drink containers with lids or screw on caps are permitted.)
- Mutilating or defacing library materials or property
- Removing library materials without authorization
- Tampering with or intentionally damaging library technology or equipment
- Distributing leaflets, taking surveys, collecting signatures on petitions, soliciting, fundraising, or conducting similar activities within the library facility
- Harassing patrons or staff verbally or through actions such as staring, touching, following, or initiating unwanted conversations
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Engaging in illegal activity while in the library

Additional Rules of Conduct

- Patrons must have footwear and proper clothing.
- Weapons or objects that can reasonably be considered as weapons and firearms of any type are not permitted on library property. Persons (except law enforcement) who conceal or openly carry weapons will be asked to leave library property.
- Patrons are not permitted to leave personal belongings when they leave the building. The library is not responsible for loss of or damage to patrons' belongings.
- Animals, other than service animals for the assistance of the disabled, are not allowed in the library or allowed unattended on library grounds.

- Roller skates, roller blades, skateboards, cleats, and other similar equipment may not be used on library property.

Depending on the offense and the particular circumstances, violators may be barred from the use of the library either temporarily or permanently. The library will actively pursue disciplinary action, prosecution, or other legal actions when necessary.

VIII-B: Supervision of Children

Mahomet Public Library is a public building, and any public place may be potentially dangerous for a child who is left unattended. Therefore, children under the age of eight MUST be accompanied in the library at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver 14 years of age or older. Parents or guardians of children under age eight MUST remain in the library building during the entire time their children are attending library-sponsored programs.

Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library whether or not they are present with their children. Children whose behavior causes a problem for staff or other patrons will receive a warning, and, if their behavior persists, they will be asked to leave the library.

The library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at closing. If the child has not been picked up by fifteen minutes past closing, the appropriate authorities will be called.

VIII-C: Animals in the Library

Animals are prohibited from the library with the following exceptions:

- Service animals and service animal trainees
- Therapy and support animals
- Animals featured in a program sponsored by the Mahomet Public Library

Service and support animals are welcome at the Mahomet Public Library, but with the following guidelines:

- Service and support animals must be supervised by the owner at all times while inside the library. If the animal is walking, it must be on a leash. The library does not take responsibility for monitoring the safety or behavior of unattended animals.
- Service and support animals are expected to behave in a quiet, orderly manner. If an animal exhibits noisy or disruptive behavior, damages library property, or poses a threat to the health or safety of others, the patron will be asked to remove the animal from the library.
- Service and support animals must be housebroken. If the animal cannot control its bodily functions, the patron will be asked to remove the animal from the library.
- Library staff may ask the patron:
 - Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
 - What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

- Library staff may NOT ask the patron:
 - What is your disability?
 - What documentation or visible designation do you have to prove the animal is a service animal?