

BETHALTO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Patron Behavior Policy

A patron who engages in any activity which materially disrupts the use of library facilities, collections, or services by patrons or materially disrupts the ability of the staff to perform its duties as determined by library staff shall cease such activity immediately upon request by library personnel.

Such activities may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Overt signs of substance abuse, including drunkenness *See drinking & drug policy for additional information
- 2) Overt sexual behavior
- 3) Bringing weapons, simulated or real, into the library
- 4) Using skateboards, skates, or shoes with wheels that are engaged
- 5) Loitering, fighting or other rowdy behavior
- 6) Wearing shoes in library is required
- 7) Abusing or destroying library property
- 8) Acting or speaking in a confrontational, threatening or abusive manner to other patrons or staff
- 9) Excessive noise from large groups of people or sound-generating devices
- 10) Soliciting for donations, purchases, etc. or passing petitions, surveys, etc.
- 11) Using the library for business meetings for 'for-profit' groups
- 12) Eating or drinking in carpeted areas

In such instances involving minors, identification will be requested and the incident may be reported to the parent or guardian.

If, following a request, the patron fails or refuses to comply or responds to the request in an abusive fashion, he or she will be required to leave the library premises immediately for the balance of that calendar day. If he or she fails to leave, the police will be summoned.

Library personnel will inform the Library Director whenever there are instances in which patrons are required to leave the premises and will fill out an Incident Report for each occurrence and submit it to the Library Director.

Upon the third instance in which a patron is required to leave the library premises within a 30-day period, the patron shall be barred from the use of the library premises for a period of 30 days. Parents or guardians of minors will be notified in writing after the third recorded instance in which a minor is required to leave the library and advised of the consequences of any further recorded instances. The length of exclusion or number of incidences required may be adjusted at the sole discretion of the Library Director based on the severity of the incidents. Parents wishing to appeal such action may do so upon written request to the Board of Trustees.

In the event a barred patron attempts entry to the library during any such period of exclusion, the police will be summoned and informed of the prior action.

In the event the patron persists in abusive conduct or disruptive behavior following a period of exclusion, the Library Director shall report to the Board of Trustees such conduct. The Board will then consider a long-term or permanent exclusion of that patron, as permitted under 75 ILCS 16/30-55.55.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Bethalto Public Library District on the 17th day of October 2024.

Adopted – October 17, 2024

Reviewed –

Revised or Amended –