



## Laurens County Library Code of Conduct

The mission of the Laurens County Public Library System is to provide a full range of library services to individuals of all ages. The library service will not be denied or abridged because of race, religion, age, gender, handicap conditions, national origin, belief, social and/or political views. The library strives to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all of our patrons, to provide a pleasant and orderly facility conducive to effective use of library services and materials.

The administration has the responsibility of assuring a pleasant experience for all library users. To meet this responsibility, the library staff will identify behavior that infringes on the rights of patrons or staff and/or threatens the safety of library property. The library staff will then deal with the behavior according to the guidelines of this policy, and may contact law enforcement when deemed appropriate.

An individual excluded from the Library property may appeal in writing to the Library Director. Decisions of the Director may be appealed in writing to the Library Board.

The following actions are prohibited anywhere on Library property:

1. Engaging in violent or aggressive behavior, including fighting or any type of physical violence.
2. Conduct that threatens, harasses, or endangers another patron or staff member is prohibited. Harassment may include, but is not limited to, persistent staring, unwanted conversations, following, or taking unwanted photographs. **Making threats, stalking, or sexual harassment toward staff or other patrons will result in immediate expulsion from library and involvement of law enforcement.**
3. Theft, destruction or damaging materials, furniture, or other property belonging to the library, staff, or other patrons.
4. Using obscene, abusive language, horseplay, running or engaging in inappropriate action toward staff or patrons.
5. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
6. Smoking, other use of tobacco products or use of electronic cigarettes or vaping products in or near buildings.
7. Drinks that are not in closed containers such as covered cups, or plastic bottles
8. Possession of weapons of any type. Concealed weapons are not permitted.
9. Bringing animals or pets into the library except for service animals.
10. Leaving a child under 11 years of age unattended by a responsible person. See Child Safety Policy.
11. Entering the library without footwear and clothes that cover the lower and upper parts of the body. Babies that are being carried are exempt from the shoe requirement.

12. Disruptive use of cell phones or other electronic devices. Users are asked to set cell phones on silent or vibrate and receive or make calls in foyer, study room, or outside of the library.
13. Entering library prior to opening, refusing to leave library at closing time, or entering a non-public area without permission from library staff.
14. Consumption of unauthorized food, babies that are carried are exempt from this requirement.
15. Congregating around the entrance/exits or any other library property in a manner that blocks easy access to the library's facility for patrons or staff
16. Selling and/or soliciting for services, money, or items.
17. Any other illegal acts or conduct in violation of Federal, State, or local law, ordinance, or regulation.
18. Failure to follow the Library's Computer Use Policy
19. Leaving vulnerable individuals (i.e. individuals with a mental or physical impairment who are unable to protect themselves from abuse or exploitation or comprehend and comply with library policies)
20. Misusing the restrooms. This includes: drinking, using drugs, sexual activities, and loitering.

Library employees are in charge of facilities and have the authority to enforce these regulations, and to address other situations that may arise.

**Failure to comply with the Library's established rules and regulations may result in exclusion from the Library and notification of law enforcement authorities, pursuant to SC Code of Laws 16-11-625.**

## **Public library trespass, warning, appeal, penalties**

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 11, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"Section [16-11-625](#). (A)(1) A person who enters a public library, without legal cause or good excuse, after having been warned not to do so by the library director, the branch manager, or the acting branch manager of the library in consultation with the library director is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days.

(2) A copy of the warning provided for by subsection (A)(1) must be given to the person in writing, in the presence of a law enforcement officer, and must state:

(a) the alleged criminal law violation or the alleged violation of the library's code of conduct promulgated by the library's board of trustees under the authority provided by Section [4-9-37\(b\)](#);

(b) the duration of the prohibition to return; and

(c) the procedure by which the person may appeal the warning to the library board of trustees. The person receiving notice of trespass wishing to appeal the notice must submit a request for a hearing to the board within five business days of receiving the notice. The board of trustees of the library must then provide a hearing within ten business days of the request for an appeal.

(B) A violation of the provisions of this section is triable in the appropriate municipal or magistrates court with jurisdiction over the offense. Any law enforcement officer of this State or a subdivision of this State may enforce the provisions of this section within their respective jurisdictions.

(C) The provisions of this section must be construed as in addition to, and not as superseding, another statute relating to trespass or unlawful entry on lands of another.