

Laurens County Library
Rules and Regulations for Conduct in Libraries

The Laurens County Library Board has adopted the following policy in order to maintain a safe, orderly and enjoyable atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of its services and facilities.

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 profanity or obscene gestures.
5. Engaging in disruptive behavior including excessive noise, horseplay, running, or other unruly behavior.
6. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
7. Smoking, other use of tobacco products or use of electronic cigarettes or vaping products in or near buildings.
8. Possession of weapons of any type. Concealed weapons are not permitted.
9. Inappropriate dress, including lack of shirt or shoes.
10. Bringing animals or pets into the library (except assistance animals).
11. Leaving a child under ten years of age unattended by a responsible person. See Child Safety Policy.
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. Eating or drinking except in designated areas.
15. Loitering, or congregating in unauthorized groups, or blocking access to entrances, doors or walkways.
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.

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.

Passed by the Library Board of Trustees 1/21/15

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."