

2.0 Plummer Public Library Unacceptable Use/ Behavior and Conduct Policy

"33-2607: Powers and duties of trustees. In addition to the powers elsewhere contained in this chapter and notwithstanding the provisions of title 50, Idaho Code, the Board of Trustees of each city library shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To establish bylaws for its own governance.
- (2) To establish policies and rules of use for the governance of the library or libraries under its control; to exclude from the use of the library any and all persons who violate such rules.
- (3) To establish, locate, maintain and have custody of libraries to serve the city, and to provide suitable rooms, structures, facilities, furniture, apparatus and appliances necessary for library service;"

In order to ensure the safety of all library staff and patrons, protect the usefulness of the materials collection, and maintain order in the library, the Board of Trustees of Plummer Public Library sets forth the following regulatory policy concerning inappropriate library use and behavior.

Unacceptable behavior includes any activity that disturbs others, interferes with library operations, damages the building or its furnishings, as well as any other behavior generally considered inappropriate in a public place. Activities that are unlawful, and/or present health or security risks to patrons or staff are prohibited.

In particular, the following conduct is prohibited:

- Eating or drinking except in designated areas.
- Smoking, use of tobacco products or vaping devices inside the library building.
- Intoxication or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Damage to, theft of, or defacing library property; using library equipment in a manner other than intended by the manufacturer or Plummer Library.
- Use of profane, obscene, or offensive language.
- Engaging in behavior which is disruptive or potentially harmful to other patrons or staff including but not limited to: verbally intimidating or threatening staff or other patrons; verbally or physically harassing staff or other patrons including: staring at or photographing them, making unreasonable noise; engaging in loud, excessive noise, boisterous behavior or talking.
- Being in the library without acceptable clothing (no nudity). Option: Sexual misconduct such as exposure, inappropriate touching, or any excessive public display of affection. (Patrons shall wear garments covering the upper and lower torso of their bodies. Shoes must be worn at all times.)
- Loitering or sleeping anywhere on the premises.
- Using a cell phone for a phone conversation within the main library area; using cell phones, radios, or other sound-producing devices in a manner capable of being heard by staff or patrons or otherwise disruptive manner. Phone calls are restricted to outside the building or within the main entry area.
- Exhibiting a firearm or other weapons (except for on duty law enforcement officials)
- Conducting business or other activity for personal gain on a regular and/or routine basis.
- Soliciting commercial services or products, panhandling.
- Gambling on the library property.
- Eccentric or lewd behavior.
- Leaving a minor child or vulnerable adult (not capable of exercising self-care, self-control and /or personal safety) alone at the library. These persons must be in the care of a person who is able to attend to their care, control, and personal safety. (See section 2.2: Unattended Minors and Vulnerable Adults)
- Intentional misuse of any library computer (as defined in the Internet Use Policy), or of library copiers, phones, or other equipment.
- Impeding the free movement of persons into or out of the library, including bringing large parcels or luggage into library which interferes with free passage of people or equipment.
- Entering non-public areas of the library without staff permission.
- Leaving a minor child or vulnerable adult (not capable of exercising self-care, self-control and /or personal safety) alone at the library.
- Refusal to comply with reasonable requests of library staff.
- Any behavior that interferes with the ability of library staff to perform their duties in an efficient and effective manner.

2.1 Policy Regarding Animals:

Animals, except for service animals as defined by the American with Disabilities, are not permitted in the building. (This is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, and the tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.) Emotional support animals are not allowed. You may inquire of the librarian about an appropriate location outside of the building where you may leash your non-service animal while you are inside the library. If a service animal behaves in an unacceptable way, disrupts, or poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others, the librarian will ask that the dog be removed from the premises.

2.2 Unattended Minors Vulnerable Adults

Plummer Library is dedicated to providing services to patrons of all ages. Staff are available to assist patrons in using the libraries' resources. However, it is not the role of the library or staff to provide care for minors and/or vulnerable adults. The library is a public building. For liability reasons, the staff cannot take responsibility for those left alone at the library. **Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety and behavior of their minor children or vulnerable adults at all times while in the library.** (A vulnerable adult is anyone over the age of 18 years who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, or to exercise self-control, which may be by reason of illness, age, mental illness, disability or other types of physical or mental impairment.)

(For the safety and comfort of all our patrons, Plummer Library has established the following policies):

1. If a minor or vulnerable adult violates the Patron Behavior and Conduct Policy s/he may be asked to leave the library. If the child is unable to leave the library without supervision by a parent/responsible person, the parent/responsible person may be asked to leave the library with the minor child or vulnerable adult.
2. All minors and vulnerable adults should carry emergency contact information at all times. In the following situations library staff may attempt to contact the parent or guardian; if the parent or guardian cannot be reached, or cannot arrange to immediately pick up their child, staff may place the child in the care of the appropriate law enforcement agency:
 - a. A minor or vulnerable adult is found alone and frightened or crying in the library.
 - b. A minor or vulnerable adult is alone and doing something dangerous.
 - c. A minor or vulnerable violates the Patron Behavior/Conduct Policy but is unable to leave the library alone.
 - d. No parent or caregiver comes at closing time to pick up a minor or vulnerable person who needs transportation to leave the library.
 - e. A minor or vulnerable is left alone at the library.
 - f. Another person at the library seems to be a danger to minor or vulnerable adults.
3. If a minor or vulnerable repeatedly violates the Patron Conduct Code s/he may lose his/her library privileges. If any of the situations described in (a) through (e) of subsection 2 occur repeatedly the minor or vulnerable and vulnerable and/or the parent/responsible person may lose their library privileges.

2.3 Enforcement:

Staff members are expected to use their discretion to resolve conduct issues that unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of the library by staff and patrons.

If a patron is not responsive to the needs of other library users or disregards the policies protecting patrons, staff, and library property, (including the Behavior and Conduct Policy, Animal Policy, Unattended Minors/Vulnerable Adults Policy, and Internet Policy), the patron will be asked to leave the library. If the patron(s) refuses to leave the library or becomes threatening in any way, library staff will call the police (911) and file an incident report. Legal action may be taken against persons engaging in any illegal behavior such as theft or vandalism of library property.

