



Fortville-Vernon Township

Public Library

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR POLICY

Purpose

In an effort to provide a comfortable and safe environment for all Library patrons, the Board of Trustees of the Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library has established an Acceptable Behavior Policy. The Policy is designed to provide clear and reasonable guidelines governing patron behavior within the Library and on Library premises.

Disruptive and Prohibited Behavior

Disruptive and Prohibited Behavior includes behavior within the Library or on Library premises that interferes with the use of the Library by other patrons, creates a risk of injury to other patrons or Library personnel, interferes with the work of Library personnel, or creates a risk of damage to Library property. The following are not permitted on Library property:

1. Any illegal activity
2. Any form of sexual misconduct, including exposure, offensive touching, viewing pornographic material, or sexual harassment of patrons or staff
3. Disruptive behavior which interferes with the use of the Library by others
4. Use of profanity, abusive or threatening language
5. Harassing, intimidating, threatening, or assaulting any person, including Library staff, by word or act, or by behaving in a manner which can be reasonably expected to interfere with any other person's use of the Library.
6. Carrying weapons of any type on library property is not allowed except as provided by Indiana state law.
7. Damaging, defacing, or theft of any Library property or materials
8. Begging or soliciting
9. Use of alcohol and tobacco products, including e-cigarettes
10. Bringing animals into the Library, except registered service animals or those who are part of a program



Fortville-Vernon Township

Public Library

Implementation of Policy

Definitions:

A Dismissal means that a patron must leave the library property for the remainder of the day in which the individual violated the Acceptable Behavior Policy.

An Expulsion means that a patron may not be on library property for the period of time specified in the expulsion letter issued by Library administration.

The Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library Board authorizes Library staff to dismiss a person from the Library for the remainder of the day in which the unacceptable behavior occurred. The Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library Board further authorizes the expulsion of patrons from the library property for a specified number of days at the discretion of Library administration. Library expulsions will be communicated in writing to the patron. Written Library procedures are to be followed and uniformly enforced. Law enforcement may be notified for assistance if a person refuses to leave the Library after being requested to do so by staff, or for returning to the library before the authorized time.

Unattended Children Policy

The Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the Library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, the Library is not able to provide short- or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children.



Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library

Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. The Library is not responsible if children leave Library property unattended.

Regulation:

Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, material selection, and supervision of children at all times in the Library and on library property. Children are expected to respect library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the Acceptable Behavior Policy and all other relevant library policies.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other library users, staff, or the normal operations of library business.
- An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others.
- An unattended child is left alone at the Library at closing time.

Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or are unresponsive, the Library will work with other local agencies as needed.

Adopted by the Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library 9/21/21