



# OCEAN SHORES PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Policy: 5.0 Patron Code of Conduct

Adopted Board of Trustees June 2021

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The Ocean Shores Library encourages an environment in which all patrons can enjoy and use the library in an appropriate and respectful manner. Because libraries are public places designed to serve people of all ages with a wide range of interests, this policy defines expectations for behavior. This policy supports staff members' actions when a person's behavior and/or activities unreasonably interfere with other's enjoyment of the library.

### 5.1 Expectations

Library patrons are expected to:

- Be safe
- Be respectful of other patrons and library staff
- Be respectful of library property
- Obey the law
- Comply with requests from library staff

### 5.2 Prohibited Behavior

Library staff will intervene to stop illegal, unsafe, disruptive, and inappropriate activities and behaviors.

Illegal Behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Harassing, stalking, or threatening behavior
- Sexual misconduct or behavior, such as exposure or sexual harassment
- Selling or using controlled substances
- Consuming alcohol or possessing an open container of liquor
- Intoxicated behavior
- Theft
- Destruction or defacement of property
- Viewing or printing child pornography
- Using electronic or communication devices in an illegal manner
- Smoking within and up to 25 feet away from the building (RCW 70.160)

Unsafe or Disruptive Behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Activity that unreasonably interferes with others' use and enjoyment of the library
- Activity that unreasonably interferes with the functioning of library staff
- Use of electronic or communication devices in a loud, disruptive, or disturbing manner
- Physical activity dangerous to self or others
- Loud talking or screaming, out loud or on electronic devices
- Use of hostile or aggressive language or gestures
- Possession of weapons
- Bodily hygiene so offensive as to interfere with others' use and enjoyment of the library
- Soliciting, such as sales, canvassing, and panhandling
- Accompanying animals other than identifiable service animals
- Use of tobacco and smoking in all forms, including the use of electronic cigarettes, vaping, and smoke-free tobacco products- less than 25 feet from building as stated in the Revised Code of Washington, RCW 70.160

Inappropriate Use includes but is not limited to:

- Use of library facilities for purposes inconsistent with library use, such as sleeping, bathing, shaving, washing hair or clothing
- Abuse of furniture, equipment, property or collection
- Tampering with the library catalog or internet stations
- Abusing computer time limits
- Trespassing in non-public areas of the library
- Leaving personal belongings unattended or with library staff
- Using scooters, skateboards, or any wheeled footwear in the library
- Parking or storing bicycles or other transportation devices inside the building

### **5.3 Personal Responsibility**

Persons using the library are responsible for their safety, the safety of children in their care, the children's use of the library, and the security of personal belongings. Ocean Shores Library is not responsible for the safety of library users against their own acts or the acts of other library users.

## **5.4 Food and Drink**

The Ocean Shores Library strives to create a welcoming, clean, and comfortable environment for its users, and to protect valuable collections, furnishings, and equipment. Each library patron is asked to following the guidelines:

- Drinks must be covered at all times.
- Small snacks such as chips, cookies, candy, nuts, string cheese, dried fruit, energy bars, or fruit in small containers are permitted.
- Messy foods and/or foods with strong aromas are not permitted.
- Foods may not be delivered to the library.
- Patrons are expected to pack up and take out all of their trash.

## **5.5 Enforcement**

The Ocean Shores Library intends that the enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff and/or local law enforcement officers have the right to intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the library's established rules and policies could result in removal from the premises and expulsion from the library for a period of one day or more to be determined by the Director or in arrest or prosecution. Violations could also result in the restriction or termination of library privileges, including the use of library computers, and other equipment as stated in RCW27.12.290.