

Sulphur Springs Public Library Patron Code of Conduct

Sulphur Springs Public Library encourages people of all ages to visit the library. The library is used by families, children and adults. The purpose of this Patron Code of Conduct is to ensure that those visiting the library can enjoy a safe, comfortable environment that supports appropriate library services. It is within the complete discretion of library staff to determine whether patrons' actions, behavior and dress conform to the requirements of this Patron Code of Conduct.

Individuals demonstrating disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior will be required to leave the library at the request of library staff. It is within the discretion of library staff whether an initial warning to the patron is appropriate prior to the patron's removal from the premises. All serious acts will be reported to the Sulphur Springs Police Department. Disruptive and inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Abusive language or behavior towards library staff or others
- Actions that prevent the legitimate use of the library and its resources
- Cell phone calls that disrupt or are inappropriate either in volume or content. Patrons will be asked to take calls outside but no disruptive or inappropriate calls will be permitted on library property inside or out
- Eating and/or drinking
- Failure to remove crying babies and noisy, disruptive children from the library
- Harassment and lewd behavior
- Misuse of library property
- Noisy, boisterous talking or actions
- Smoking and/or use of illegal drugs is prohibited in the library and at all library programs
- Uncooperative attitude
- Patrons that abuse the computers and internet policy by signing in on someone else's card may be warned once and banned from computer usage if the warning is not heeded.

Patron Dress Code

- Sulphur Springs Public Library observes the common no shirt, no shoes, no service policy. In addition, patrons will not be permitted to wear inappropriate, suggestive, vulgar, or excessively revealing clothing not conducive to community standards.
- Patrons with an excessive amount of any offensive odor or substance like grease, ink, oil, blood, etc, that can be transferred to other patrons, library furnishings or equipment will not be permitted in the library.
- Vulgar, offensive or inappropriate tattoos must be covered while in the library.
- It is not the library's intent to enforce a strict dress code but if appearance / clothing or lack thereof is disruptive to staff or others, the person will be asked to either comply or leave the library.

Unattended Children

Sulphur Springs Public Library assumes no responsibility for the care and/or supervision of children. The Sulphur Springs Public Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens, and children are especially welcome. The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults. Parents, guardians or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of children in their care while in the library.

Sulphur Springs Public Library staff will not be responsible for the well being of children left unattended in the library. Staff cannot know if children are leaving with a parent, a friend, or a stranger. Library staff will not deliberately seek out unattended children; however, unattended children frequently become disruptive when they become bored. Parents, guardians or assigned chaperones are responsible for ensuring the appropriate behavior of their children while in the library. If a parent or other responsible adult cannot be located, unattended children who are disruptive will be placed in the care of the Sulphur Springs Police Department.

Young children should not be left unsupervised in any area of the library. If a parent/guardian cannot be located, staff will call the Sulphur Springs Police Department to report an abandoned child.

Older children who are disruptive will be asked to leave the library. If the child cannot safely leave the library and return home on his or her own, staff will permit the child to call a parent. If no parent can be contacted, library staff will either allow the child to remain in the library under close supervision until a parent can be contacted or contact the Sulphur Springs Police Department, depending on the severity of the situation.

Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent. Children who have not been picked up within fifteen minutes after closing will be left in the care of the Sulphur Springs Police Department.