

Patron Behavior Policy
Alamogordo Public Library
Proposed 2/06

The Alamogordo Public Library has established certain standards of acceptable behavior on library property in order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes the use and enjoyment of the resources and services of the library, promotes the safety of the general public and library staff, and protects the library building, furniture, equipment and materials.

The library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in disruptive or destructive behavior to leave the premises. The library may also restrict privileges for a specified period of time, or ban the individual from library property and events for a specified period of time or, in extreme cases, permanently.

In most cases, a staff member will notify the individual that he or she is violating the standards of conduct and give one verbal warning. Unlawful activities will be reported immediately to the police.

These policies apply equally to library sponsored programs held at other locations, e.g., Summer Reading Program events held at the Civic Center.

Disruptive/Prohibited Behavior:

The following behaviors are considered disruptive:

- **Loud Voices** — While today's libraries are no longer a place of complete silence, they are still a place where people go to study or read in peace. Voices heard above the general noise level, including loud laughter and crying babies, are disturbing to other patrons. This also includes personal CD players/radios tuned loud enough for other patrons to hear them.
- **Cellular Phone Use** — Please turn your cell phone ringer off before entering the library. If you need to take or place a call, please exit the library first.
- **Boisterous Behavior** — Running, horseplay, 'play' fighting, throwing things, etc. are not allowed.

- **Abusive or Obscene Language or Gestures** — Library staff will not debate appropriateness of said language or gestures — if they are deemed inappropriate by a single staff member or patron, then they are not to be used.
- **Solicitation** — Includes selling things, circulating petitions, or handing out flyers. An area for posters and flyers is available in the lobby, and items may be presented at the Circulation Desk for approval.
- **Smoking** -- Smoking is not allowed in the library building or immediately in front of the entrance.
- **Animals** — Animals are not permitted inside the library, unless they are service animals or are part of a library activity. Please do not tie or leave an animal outside if it is going to bark or otherwise disturb patrons.
- **Unattended Children** — See our Child Protection Policy
- **Improper Attire** — Patrons must be fully clothed, including shoes and shirts. Patrons coming from the pool to the library should make sure they are reasonably dry before entering.
- **Abuse of Library Equipment, Furniture, Materials and Facilities** — Including but not limited to: placing feet on tables and chairs, rocking chairs backward, standing on furniture, mutilating or defacing materials, and mistreating equipment or computers (including attempting to change settings or bypass security measures).
- **Bikes, Rollerblades, Skateboards** — These and any similar items must be left outside the library, or in the case of smaller items, carried with you.
- **Blocking Aisles, Doorways, etc.** — We have limited space in our library, as well as patrons with walkers, wheelchairs, or general trouble maneuvering. Please ensure bags, backpacks, etc. are stowed under a table or chair.
- **Weapons** — Carrying weapons of any type onto library property is not permissible, except by law enforcement officers.

- **Excessive Displays of Affection** — pretty self-explanatory! Please don't embarrass us both by making us say something.
- **Misrepresentation** — Using another person's name or library card, or giving false information in order to gain access to computers, check out materials, or participate in a program.
- **Public Use Telephone** — A courtesy phone is available at the end of the Circulation Desk for patron use. This phone is provided for short 'emergency' calls, such as children calling for a ride home. It is not to be used to conduct business or job hunt. Please limit calls to three minutes, and keep in mind that sound from the lobby area tends to travel throughout the library.

Illegal Activity:

Any staff member witnessing an illegal activity will report it immediately to his or her supervisor, who will contact the police if necessary. No warning will be given. Illegal behavior includes but is not limited to:

- **Assault** — Intentionally or by reckless conduct endangering or injuring another person.
- **Criminal Mischief** — Intentionally damaging property of another person. Includes vandalism of library materials or facilities.
- **Harassment** — Threatening or annoying another person by physical contact or abusive language, or by following a person around a public place.
- **Drunk/Disorderly Conduct**
- **Public Lewdness**
- **Theft**
- **Trespass** — includes entering without permission any area designated as "Staff Only"
- **Possession of Controlled Substances**