



Mesa County Libraries - Code of Conduct

The Mesa County Public Library District is dedicated to protecting the rights and safety of library patrons, volunteers and staff. Our goal is to enable all library visitors to enjoy an inviting and comfortable atmosphere. Each person is expected to respect the rights of others and comply with the following Code of Conduct while on library property.

Permitted conduct in the library includes:

- Quiet and courteous use of cell phones
- Small group congregation for social, study or discussion purposes
- Personal belongings of no more than two shopping bags or the equivalent
- Consumption of light snacks and covered beverages
- Service animals
- Children under 11 years of age when accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 16 years of age
- Use of children's areas by children under the age of 13 and their caregivers, or patrons actively using the collections or seeking assistance
- Use of teen areas by patrons 12 to 18 years of age or patrons actively using the collections

Prohibited conduct in library facilities and on library property includes but is not limited to:

- Possession or use of alcohol, marijuana or illegal drugs or being under their influence
- Smoking, use of electronic smoking devices, or use of tobacco products
- Disrupting the normal flow of library operations or interfering with the use and enjoyment of the library by others
- Using another person's library card or identifying information
- Inappropriate activities such as loud social interaction, bathing, shaving, washing clothes, sleeping, gambling, betting or wagering
- Misuse of computers including illegal activities and publicly viewing sexually explicit or pornographic materials
- Inappropriate attire or poor hygiene
- Unattended pet/animals
- Theft or other attempts to convert library property to personal use
- Language or gestures that are intimidating or obscene or demonstrate a lack of civility
- Violent behavior or any form of unwanted touching or other contact
- Destroying or vandalizing library property or threatening to damage property
- Engaging in any action that is sexually inappropriate or offensive
- Communicating a threat of harm to any person or property

- Possession of weapons including firearms and knives without a concealed firearm permit

Code of Conduct Violations: violating any Library District Policy, Code of Conduct or rules for usage of materials, computers or other library property.

Failure to Comply: failure to comply with requests of library staff.

Mesa County Libraries reserves the right to remove any person and/or restrict library privileges of any person whose conduct is deemed by library staff to violate this Code of Conduct. Recurring offenses may elevate the penalty.

NOTIFICATION & APPEALS PROCESS

At the recommendation of library staff, the Security Manager or designee will issue a letter to the patron specifying the behavior that has violated the Code of Conduct and the penalty for doing so, which may include a banning from all Mesa County Libraries locations and facilities for a period of up to one year.

Any patron banned from Mesa County Libraries may appeal once in writing to the Library Director. An appeal must be mailed or delivered to the Director at: Mesa County Libraries, 443 N. 6th Street, Grand Junction CO 81051 within 15 days of the date of any action taken to ban the patron. The appeal must include all of the reasons the patron believes he or she is not in violation of the Code of Conduct and state why the patron cannot comply with any requests of library personnel that would otherwise have allowed reinstatement of library privileges. The Library Director will issue a written determination of the appealed matter within 45 days of receipt of the appeal.

This policy supersedes the Code of Conduct 2013 and was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Library Board of Trustees on January 28, 2016.

APPROVED: _____

Elaine Barnett, President
MCPLD Board of Trustees

Dean DiDario, Secretary
MCPLD Board of Trustees

Date: January 28, 2016