



Library Code of Conduct

The Lincoln County Public Library will strive to provide for the cultural, educational and recreational needs of all citizens of Lincoln County by providing equal access to a variety of books, materials, programs and other resources and information that meet and exemplify the diverse needs of those we serve. We will provide a customer service oriented, knowledgeable and well trained staff that will promote the enjoyment of reading and support the pursuit of lifelong learning.

The Board of Trustees of the Library has adopted the following policy so that the Library may provide an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of their services and facilities. The public is required to comply with all library policies, including this **Library Conduct Code**.

1. **Noise**

- Creating loud, unreasonable, and/or disturbing noises by persons, electronic devices or cell phones is not allowed.
- Cell phone ringers should be silenced. Cell phone or other electronic conversations must be conducted outside the library building.

2. **Personal Conduct.**

- Disorderly conduct of any kind, including fighting or challenging to fight or using obscene/offensive words likely to provoke violence is not allowed.
- Behavior that is disruptive to library use is prohibited.
- Alcohol and illegal drugs may not be possessed or consumed on library property.
- Sleeping or putting your head, feet or legs on the table is not allowed.
- Shirt and shoes must be worn at all times; clothing must be appropriately buttoned or zipped.
- Selling and/or soliciting of any kind is not permitted.
- Distributing or posting printed materials/literature that have not been approved by the Library is not permitted.
- Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited.
- Personal hygiene that constitutes a nuisance to other Library patrons and employees is not permitted.
- Blocking aisles, doorways, stairways, elevators or ramps by people or property (including power cords) is prohibited.
- Large objects such as carts, bicycles, bedrolls or luggage may not be brought into Library facilities; baby strollers are permitted in Library facilities.
- Leaving personal property unattended is prohibited. All property must be within sight of the owner. Library staff are not responsible for the belongings of persons in the library.
- Communication of threats, physical violence or sexual offenses will result in permanent exclusion.

3. **Children.**

- Children under the age of 12 and any person in need of supervision must be attended by a responsible adult at all times.
- Children up to the age of 17 must not be left at the library after closing time.
- For the safety of children, adult use of the children's area of the library is limited to use by parents and caregivers acting on behalf of children.

4. **Food.**
 - Food and beverages may not be consumed in the library. Exceptions: bottled water and bottles for infants are allowed. Bottled water is not permitted in computer areas.
5. **Animals.**
 - Only assistance animals may be brought into the building. The animal must be clearly marked as an official assistance animal.
6. **Restrooms.**
 - Library materials should not be taken into restrooms.
 - Restrooms may not be used for changing clothes, washing clothes, washing hair, shaving or bathing.
7. **Library Property.**
 - Furniture should not be moved or rearranged.
 - Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library property, or a patron's or employee's property is prohibited.
Library materials should not be removed from the premises without authorization through established lending procedures.
8. **Illegal Conduct or Activities.**
 - Any other illegal acts or conduct in violation of Federal, State, or local law, ordinance or regulation including G.S.14-208.18 (Sex offender unlawfully on premises) is not permitted.
 - Carrying weapons of any type with the exception of those allowed under NC General Statutes is not permitted.
 - Theft of Library materials is a serious offense and will result in permanent exclusion from the library and arrest.
 - Trespassers will be arrested and prosecuted.

Failure to comply with the Library's rules may result in exclusion from the Library for the day, or permanently and/or in arrest.