

## BEHAVIOR POLICY AND RULES

The Vicksburg District Library is committed to providing a safe environment for staff and patrons alike. To meet that goal the Library Board has enacted the following rules for patron behavior. Patrons are responsible for their behavior and the behavior of those under their care. Any patron that violates Local, State or Federal Judicial codes is in violation of accepted library behavior that can result in a permanent ban on the use of the library.

- Patrons must wear shoes, shirts/blouses, and slacks/skirts and must remain fully clothed.
- Damaging library property or resources is vandalism and will result in the loss of library privileges.

Prohibitions: The following are not acceptable behaviors in the library or on library property.

- No use of tobacco products, vaping, or other substances is allowed.
- Food is allowed for programs at the library if it has been pre-approved.
- Drinks are allowed in a closed container.
- Disturbing noises include cell phones, computers, yelling, cursing, and profanity, abusive language, arguing and fighting are prohibited.
- Cell phones should be turned to vibrate in the library and conversations must be taken either outside or in the vestibule at the front door.
- Harassment, stalking, staring, unapproved photography of patrons or staff, and lewd gestures are prohibited.
- Weapons are prohibited except when the State law takes precedence, i.e. gun carry laws.
- Brandishing and/or threatening to use a weapon results in immediate call to police.

**Enforcement procedures:** These are the general guidelines used by staff when a violation of rules occurs

- All illegal behavior will result in a call to the police.
- First offense: Adults and teens will be given a copy of the patron behavior policy and parent or guardian of disruptive children will be given a copy. Offenders will be asked to leave for the day.
- Second offense: The offender will receive a one week suspension including ban from library property.
- Further offenses could result in a permanent ban from the library. Permanent ban will be based on severity and frequency of offenses.
- Immediate suspension of privileges for threats, acts of violence or illegal activity.
- A patron may appeal to the library director. If a patron feels that they did not receive satisfaction from the director, they may appeal to the library board at the next board meeting.