

Patron Behavior and Health Safety Policy

Revised 5/2026



The Greenwood Public Library is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment conducive to the use and enjoyment of the Library by its patrons and in furtherance of Library's mission to enrich the lives of our community by promoting discovery and fostering personal growth.

The following rules apply within the Library or anywhere on Library property:

- Patrons shall not interfere with the use of the Library by other patrons, or interfere with Library employees' performance of their duties.
- Patrons shall respect the rights of other Library patrons and staff, and shall not harass, annoy, or intimidate others through noisy, boisterous, or threatening activities or by behaving in any other manner which reasonably can be expected to disturb other persons.
- An individual may not knowingly create a safety or health hazard for other persons (including but not limited to contagious illness and the spread of bed bugs or lice). All individuals using the library facility must abide by any state or local health mandates, such as in the event of a health emergency.
- Shoes and shirts are required inside the Library. Exceptions may be made in the Kids Department when children use shoes as collateral for on-demand items or are within the crawl space.
- Smoking any type of cigarette including e-cigarettes is not allowed in the Library building or on Library property with the exception of the designated smoking area located at the northeast corner of the building near the sidewalk.
- Canvassing (on any topic) may only occur on library property with permission. Upon complaint from patrons they may be asked to leave the property or banned from the property.
- Political electioneering may occur at the library when the library is designated as an election location. Electioneers are governed by state law to be 50 feet away from the voting entrance and may not approach patrons entering by other doors.
- In accordance with SEA 292, individuals using Library property may carry firearms. However, firearms may not be displayed in a threatening manner.
- Theft and vandalism of library property are criminal offenses and may be prosecuted.

Violators will receive a warning and an opportunity to cease a behavior that violates this policy. The second warning will be accompanied by a one-week suspension of in-house Library privileges. If the behavior continues, Library privileges will be suspended for three or more months. Continued or repeated violations may result in suspension of Library privileges for a duration commensurate with the severity of the offense, the patron's history of policy violations, and any other relevant factors.

Patrons engaged in behaviors that pose a serious or imminent risk to health or safety may be immediately expelled from the Library without prior warning and with or without the assistance of Library security or local law enforcement. This includes patrons who are experiencing an outbreak of bed bugs or lice. They may be

immediately banned from the Library and borrowing privileges until such time as they can provide proof that their home has been treated and the problem eradicated. We will gladly continue to provide virtual Library services and curbside document services until such time that their in-house Library privileges are restored.

When possible, patrons who have their Library privileges suspended will be provided with written notification stating the specific Library policy violated and specifying the length of the suspension. Appeal requests may be made in writing to the Library director. Further appeals may be made in writing to the Library board.



Approved by the GPL Board of Trustees



Date

Document History and Version Control Table			
Version	Action	Approval Authority	Action Date
1.0	Changes accepted	GPL Board of Trustees	08.09.2022
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