

## BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Portsmouth Public Library aspires to offer the citizens of the City a safe, accessible, attractive place conducive to learning, research, enlightenment, creativity and enjoyment. For the safety and comfort of customers and staff, we prohibit the following:

### Conduct influencing health and Safety

- Possession, distribution and/or suspicion being under the influence of Illegal drugs or alcohol.
- Fighting, roughhousing, running, spitting, throwing things or deliberately knocking library displays over
- Panhandling, Soliciting, and Gambling
- Use of smoking products, including but not limited to smoking, chewing, rolling cigarettes and filling pipes, Vaping and e-cigarettes. Outside smoking of **ANY** kind must stay beyond 25 feet of all entrances or exits to include ramps and stairs.
- Defacing any portion of the premises with litter, trash, or unauthorized signage
- Indecent exposure, Inappropriate displays of affection, engaging in obscene or sexually provocative conduct, or engaging in any sexual activity, sexual harassment or sexual solicitation, unwanted physical contact or touching
- Stalking, following, or staring in any way that makes a staff member or patron uncomfortable
- Verbal Harassment: The use of obscenity, profanity, threats, conduct or language that is insulting to other library patrons or staff.
- Entering staff areas, offices, or supply areas unaccompanied by staff
- Damaging, stealing, vandalizing, defacing, misusing or destroying library property
- Violation of any posted computer protocols, such as eating, or viewing pornography
- Bringing animals into the library with the exception of assistance animals or animals needed for library programs.
- Failure to comply with the reasonable direction of a library staff member, security guard or law enforcement officer.
- Trespassing. Including entering or attempting to enter library premises while barred/banned. Refusing to leave when asked by library staff or security. Failing to leave the library immediately upon closing, or being on library property before or after public hours without express permission from authorized personnel.
- Impeding access within/outside the library including stacks, aisle, stairs, doorways and meeting rooms

### Conduct that impacts the comfort and rights of other patrons

- Creating any sound or noise, engaging in any conduct or physical activity that is determined by library staff to be materially distracting and/or disruptive to other library patrons
  - To include cell phone ringers and notifications
  - Loud audio with/without headphones at a volume that disturbs others
- Anyone whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons. To include excessive use of perfumes.
- Use of restrooms for bathing, shaving or as a laundry facility
- Eating and Drinking, with the exception of sealable bottled liquids with a lid/cap such as bottled water
- Lying down, Sleeping or appearing to sleep on the premises. Patrons must use library provided seating (chair, couch etc.) floors and step stools are not authorized as seating
- Being Inappropriately Clothed. Failing to wear shoes and clothing which substantially covers the torso, and lower areas. Having clothing improperly fastened.
- Wearing a mask, hat or hood that conceals the face, unless for medical or religious reasons
- Monopolizing library staff time with queries unrelated to library assistance
- Possession of numerous large items that are for personal use and are unrelated to use of library facilities. The library is not responsible for personal belongings and they should not be left unattended on library property.
- Inappropriate use of library equipment, materials, facilities, outlets or spaces, including disabling or unplugging library equipment; rearranging furniture without permission.
- Using someone else's library card to obtain library services without permission, including public computer use, is prohibited.