



Patron Conduct

Purpose

The Nippersink Public Library District (“Library”) is committed to providing access to knowledge, information, and resources in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. This policy ensures that all patrons can use Library materials and services without disruption and that staff can perform their work in a secure and respectful setting.

Policy Statement

The Public Library Act (75 ILCS 5/4-7) grants the Board of Library Trustees authority to exclude from Library use any individual who willfully violates Library policies or regulations.

All patrons are expected to follow this policy and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Because no policy can anticipate every situation, Library staff are empowered to exercise professional judgment to maintain safety, fairness, and consistency.

For the purposes of this policy, a patron is defined as any individual who uses the Library’s facilities, materials, or digital resources, or who attends a Library program, event, or meeting.

Guidelines for Appropriate Conduct

To ensure that all patrons may have considerate use of the Library, appropriate behavior is expected. Violations of any of the following rules may result in a warning, suspension of Library privileges, or expulsion from Library property. When necessary, the police will be contacted. All staff members have the authority to enforce this policy.

1. No conduct that disrupts Library operations or threatens patrons, staff, or Library property.
2. Covered drinks and dry foods are permitted, provided they do not emit a strong odor.
3. No smoking indoors or within 15 feet of any entrance.
4. No theft, vandalism, or destruction of Library property.
5. Bicycles or vehicles may not block or hinder Library entry.
6. Animals are not permitted inside the Library except for certified service animals or those used in Library programs.
7. Cell phones and electronic devices are permitted, but use must not disturb others. Use outside the Library is encouraged.
8. Patrons exhibiting symptoms of communicable illness (such as fever or vomiting) may not enter the Library and may return 24 hours after symptoms resolve.
9. Appropriate attire, including shirts, pants, and shoes, is required at all times.
10. Patrons emitting strong odors that interfere with others’ use of the Library may be asked to leave.



11. Patrons may not enter staff spaces or go behind service desks.
12. Weapons—including explosives, firearms (except on-duty law enforcement), knives, look-alikes, or other dangerous objects—are prohibited.
13. Solicitation, fundraising, campaigning, lobbying, proselytizing, or selling is prohibited on Library property.
14. The manufacture, use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances, alcohol, marijuana and its derivatives, or related paraphernalia is prohibited on Library property.

Guidelines for Discipline Implementation

The Board of Trustees of the Nippersink Public Library District implements this conduct policy as follows:

1. A patron engaging in disruptive behavior or damaging Library property will be asked to show identification and stop the activity immediately.
2. If the patron refuses to comply or responds abusively, they will be required to leave Library premises for the day. Police will be contacted if necessary.
3. For minors without a caregiver present, staff will attempt to notify a parent or guardian.
4. Staff will record all instances requiring a patron to leave. Upon a third recorded instance, the Director may suspend the patron's privileges for thirty (30) days. Parents/guardians of minors will be notified when possible.
5. For egregious or repeated violations, the Director may recommend to the Board of Trustees that the patron be excluded for a longer period.
6. Patrons may appeal such actions in writing to the Board of Trustees.