

Apr 13, 2026

Lancaster Community Library: Patron Code of Conduct

The Lancaster Community Library (LCL) strives to maintain safe, secure, and pleasant facilities free from behaviors that could threaten the safety and enjoyment of others. Staff, volunteers, and patrons should monitor their behaviors to ensure the library is welcoming to all individuals and groups. The library reserves the right to restrict access to services and facilities if the library's code of conduct is violated. Any exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the library director. A note will be placed on the patron record for any violations of the code of conduct.

For the safety and comfort of patrons, staff and volunteers, we **prohibit** the following:

- Possession, distribution and/or suspicion of being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
- Any form of tobacco use such as smoking, vaping, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, etc.
- Weapons carried illegally.
- Panhandling, soliciting, selling, distributing leaflets or posting notices not authorized by the library.
- Circulating petitions on library property.
- Sleeping in the library.
- Patron entrance into non-public areas without staff approval.
- Patron access to the upstairs space, stairs, and elevator of the library except for scheduled meetings.
- Unauthorized use of another person's library card for any purpose.
- Impeding access within/outside the library building including shelves, aisles, doorways, exits and meeting rooms.
- Bringing oversized items that may be a hazard, take up an excessive amount of space, or impede library use, such as gaming devices, large suitcases or equipment. Discretion is given to library staff.
- Leaving personal items unattended. The library is not responsible for patron's personal items.
- Willful damage to or unauthorized removal of library property.
- Rude, coercive, abusive, threatening or obscene language directed at library staff, volunteers or patrons.
- Use of profanity.
- Engaging in public displays of physical affection or lewd behavior including, but not limited to, petting, indecent exposure or sexual acts.
- Offensive bodily hygiene that constitutes a nuisance to others.

- Entering a library facility without footwear and a covering of the upper and lower body, such as shoes, shirt and pants. Or, removal of footwear and/or coverings of the upper and lower body while on library premises.
- Loud conversations and phone calls. Do not utilize a speaker phone. If calls disturb others, you may be asked to leave the main library for the duration of the call.
- Use of audible devices without earbuds or headphones.
- Consumption of food except in the meeting rooms, or during library events/meetings. Beverages must be in a covered and secured container. No beverages are allowed at the computer workstations.
- Running or moving in a way dangerous to self or others.
- Bringing animals into library facilities, except for service animals or animals that are part of a library sponsored activity.
- Misuse of the restrooms including, but not limited to, bathing, shaving, changing or washing of clothes.
- Violation of the library's Internet Use Policy and Virginia Law (18.2-374.1:1 child pornography and 18.2-372 through 18.2-374 obscene materials), whether using library workstations or the library's WiFi.

Minors in the Library

- Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by a parent or guardian while in the library.
- The library assumes no responsibility for minor children (under the age of 18) and cannot assure the safety, care, supervision, or entertainment of unattended minor children on library premises, nor can they prevent the child from leaving the premises.
- At the discretion of the library director, unattended minor children (under the age of 18) may be asked to leave.

Consequences

Customers who have destroyed library property must pay the cost of the damages before returning to the library. Such damages will be placed on the library record of the patron as a fine or fee.

Continuing failure to follow library rules will be grounds for denial of library privileges. Library staff may restrict access to the library for a period of time if the behavior guidelines and policies are not observed. A Do Not Trespass Order may be placed on persons whose behavior is disruptive or dangerous. Police will be called when a patron refuses to leave library property after being asked to do so, when a person in the library or on library grounds is engaging in unlawful behavior, or when a Do Not Trespass Order has been issued. Patrons engaging in criminal activity as defined in the Code of Virginia will be reported immediately to law enforcement authorities and are subject to being banned from library premises.