

Madison Public Library Behavior Policy

The Madison Public Library is a place where all should feel safe, healthy, and welcome. In order to provide equitable access to library experiences and resources, the rules below apply to everyone in our spaces. This includes in our buildings and on any part of library property, including outdoors, in programs, meeting spaces, emails, phone calls, or in online spaces.

Keep the library a safe place.

- No illegal activities.
- No weapons or using other objects as weapons allowed.
- No violence or threats of violence.
- No alcohol or drugs allowed. (This includes all drug paraphernalia.)
- No being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- No sexual activity.
- Stay in public areas only. Do not enter areas marked Staff Only.
- Keep library exits, stairwells, and entrances clear.
- We only allow charging of phones and small electronics like laptops. Anything else presents a fire hazard. (Charging of mobility devices required for disabilities is allowed.)
- Stay awake and alert. Library staff need to know you are okay, so if you fall asleep, library staff will wake you up to check on you.
- Trained service animals (or service animals in training) are welcome. Other animals, including emotional support animals and pets, are not allowed.
- Manage your belongings. Follow the Library's [Personal Item Rules](#).
- Adults should not approach youth they are not responsible for. If you're concerned about a youth or their behavior, let staff know.
- Parents/guardians and/or caregivers must follow the Unattended Minor Policy ([link coming](#)).
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Keep the library a healthy place.

- Using tobacco or vaping products must be done off of library property. This includes rolling cigarettes. You can have these products, but keep them stored away and out of sight.
- Tops, bottoms, and footwear must be worn at all times.
- Keep library restrooms clean. No bathing, shaving, cutting hair, or changing clothes in restrooms or anywhere else in the library. Unless serving as a caregiver, only one person in a stall at a time. Use the restroom that best fits your identity.

- Library staff have the right to conduct a welfare check if they are concerned about a person's health or safety in the restroom.
- Keep library materials out of restrooms.
- Library staff have the right to ask you to wear a mask or leave for the day if you show symptoms of a contagious medical condition.

Keep the library a welcoming place.

- Follow the directions of staff members. We are trying to keep the space safe for everyone.
- Don't use racial, homophobic, or other slurs or other offensive language.
- Don't be too loud, create a disruption, or interfere with others' access to library services.
- Don't harass, sexually harass or stalk library users or staff.
- No pornography or otherwise disturbing images on library or personal devices.
- Don't ask library users or staff for money, resources, favors, or services. Don't try to sell anything.
- Don't ask anyone to support any political, charitable, religious or other cause without prior authorization of the Library Director or designee.
- Respect others' personal space. Don't engage people in unwanted conversations.
- Use library furniture, technology, and equipment as it was intended. Don't move it, unplug it, or damage it. Keep your feet off the furniture, and don't lie down on anything, including the floor.
- No food or uncovered drinks while using library computers.
- Follow [library rules on computer use](#).
- Don't create or leave a mess in library spaces or on library property. If you make a mess, alert staff, or clean it up.
- Be aware of strong odors you might bring into the space. You might be given resources and/or asked to leave if the odor becomes disruptive.
- Teen and Youth spaces are reserved for youth and their caregivers. Anyone is welcome to browse the collections.
- Harassing library staff off library property is against the rules and may result in a ban from library spaces.
- If you are asked to leave or are banned, stay out until your return date. If you continue to enter or refuse to leave, staff may extend your ban or call police.

What happens when a library visitor breaks the rules?

When possible, staff will first educate/warn individuals about the rules before asking people to leave.

- If you break the rules, you may be told to leave the library for the day or a longer period of time (a ban).
- If staff think it's necessary, they will call the police.
- If you're banned, you cannot use any Madison Public Library location.
- If you come into the library when you are banned, it is trespassing. If you are trespassing, you could be given a citation and/or arrested under Madison City Ordinance 23.07(2)
- Bans can be appealed by following the process on the ban notice and outlined in the Ban Reconsideration and Appeal Policy (*link coming*).