

Cambria County Library

Behavior Policy

Cambria County Library maintains a safe and respectful environment for all visitors and staff. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

As a visitor to the library, you can expect excellent service, respect for your privacy, and a welcoming environment. The library is a place that belongs to everyone and has established basic rules of courtesy so that its facilities are pleasant places for all to visit. Only lawful behavior which does not disturb or infringe on the rights of library customers, volunteers, or staff is permitted. Prohibited behaviors may include, but are not limited to, examples listed in the policy.

Procedures

1. Cambria County Library's behavior policies apply to all library property, including the library building, patio, and parking lot.
2. Patrons must follow the Behavior Policy and all other related policies when at the library.
3. If individuals violate the behavior policy, supervising staff will take action up to and including temporary suspension and/or permanent expulsion. If privileges are permanently revoked, a patron may request a review by the Library Board of Directors.

Using the Library

General Conduct

- Cambria County Library maintains a safe and respectful environment for all visitors and staff. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Patrons must keep conversations at a low volume and use appropriate language. Engaging in loud, noisy, profane, obscene, or abusive/threatening speech, gestures and/or conduct are prohibited behaviors.
- Patrons must keep all personal belongings with them at all times. The library is not responsible for personal items. Articles that will not fit under "one" library chair with the exception of strollers, assistive medical equipment and wheelchairs are prohibited.
- Theft of library, staff, or patron property is not permitted. The library reserves the right to inspect all bags, purses, backpacks, or other containers when there is a reasonable suspicion of theft.
- All library materials should be returned to their appropriate place. Books should be placed in the designated area (such as a cart or basket) when finished instead of attempting to reshelve.
- Vandalism of library property and materials is not permitted. Defacing or mutilating books, magazines, newspapers, recordings, or other items in the library collection are not permitted. Patrons should report any damaged items to library staff and should not attempt to repair on their own.
- Use of library telephones by any person other than library staff is not approved. Cell phone use for calls is only permitted in designated cell phone areas.

- Weapons of any kind are not permitted at the library.
- Solicitation and proselytizing are not permitted at the library.
- Sleeping is not permitted at the library.

Unattended Children

- Unattended children are not permitted on library property. An “unattended child” is considered any child under the age of 12 without a supervising adult present on the same floor as the child and within distance that they can immediately attend to their child’s needs or behavior.
- A supervising adult is an actively engaged person aged 16 or older of sufficient maturity, judgment, and ability to be responsible for the care of the child.
- The City of Johnstown Police Department will be called if any child under the age of 16 is still on library property when the library closes.
- Cambria County Library staff are mandated reporters who must report to authorities when a situation causes concern for the safety of a child. Staff do not report cases of truancy except in instances where staff are concerned about repetitive truancy or under Mandated Reporter guidelines.
- The library cannot assume responsibility or liability for patrons of any age including unattended children. It is not the library’s intention to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasoned response prepared when a problem presents itself.

Safe Environment

- Safety guidelines are subject to change and may involve rules that pertain to public health and the best interests of our staff and visitors.
- The library uses video cameras to monitor the property.
- Sexual conduct or the viewing of sexual material is not permitted at the library.
- Security gates are used to monitor the appropriate use of the library collection.
- Patrons are not permitted to enter staff areas.
- Visitors are only permitted to photograph and record staff during library programs.

Hygiene

- Visitors must be appropriately clothed and wear footwear at all times.
- Visitors to Cambria County Library must maintain hygiene that does not present a hazardous or offensive condition.
 - Clothing and personal items brought into the library must not be soiled or infested with insects or other biohazards.
 - Unacceptable hygiene includes unpleasant odors including those created by body odor, strong perfumes, or other smells that may impact others’ use of the library.
- Activities including bathing, shaving, washing clothes, or similar are prohibited.

Food and Beverages

- Food may only be consumed in designated locations in the library.
- Beverages are permitted at the library in containers that have a lid or can be re-sealed.

Tobacco and Controlled Substances

- Tobacco in any form, including but not limited to cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and vaping products, are not permitted within 25 feet of public library entrances, on the patio, or within the building. Controlled substances, including marijuana, are not permitted. Tobacco and related products should not be visible while in the library.
- Alcohol may only be consumed on library property at official events hosted by Cambria County Library. Cambria County Library adheres to all laws and regulations related to alcohol use.

Cell Phones and Devices

- Cell phone calls are allowed in designated cell phone spaces. Cell phone calls are not permitted on the main library floors.
- Music and other audio may be enjoyed with headphones if they provide sufficient noise reduction for others.
- Visitors cannot unplug or move anything to access electrical outlets to use or charge a device. Patrons may charge devices in unused electrical outlets or use charging devices provided by the library.

Animals

- Service animals are permitted at the library. Per the American Disabilities Act, library staff are permitted to ask the following questions: 1. Is the animal a service animal, 2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- If a service animal exhibits out of control behavior and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken, the handler must remove the animal from the library. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff must offer the person with a disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.
- All other animals, including emotional support animals, are not permitted at the library unless it is part of an official library program.

Parking Lot and Grounds

- The Cambria County Library parking lot is reserved for library users only.
- Library-designated spaces, such as staff spaces, may not be used by members of the public.
- All signage or markers regarding spaces must be observed.
- All violators of parking lot policies will be towed at the owner's expense.

Cambria County Library connects our community with resources that educate, entertain, and empower.

