

GRIMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BEHAVIOR POLICY

All persons have free and equal access to the Grimes Public Library (GPL), its facilities and services during its regular business hours. The Grimes Public Library Behavior Policy has a threefold purpose: to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and volunteers, to protect the rights and safety of staff members, and to preserve the library's materials, facilities, property, and grounds.

We expect our patrons to:

Act legally and ethically:

Respect fellow patrons, library staff and facilities.

Use only their own library card/account or a card/account they have been given permission to use by the account holder.

Use all collections, supplies, equipment, facilities and furniture on the premises for their intended purposes.

Comply with the directive of a Library staff member.

Limit noise including loud conversations and use of audible devices. Cell phones should be set to silent or vibrate.

Be responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of persons in their care. See *Grimes Public Library Unattended Child and Vulnerable Individuals Policy*.

Always wear a shirt and shoes. Dress in accordance with indecent exposure law (*Iowa Code 709.9*).

Limit strong odors.

Share library equipment and furniture so that no one person monopolizes library property or prevents others from using them.

Consume food and beverages responsibly.

Library patrons may not:

Intentionally interfere with another person's enjoyment of library service and facilities.

Bring animals into the Library, except trained service animals or as authorized for Library-sponsored events.

(The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as "dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities." It also states that "the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not

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constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.” In addition, ADA regulations state if a particular service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or if it is not housebroken, the animal may be excluded. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Under ADA regulations, staff may ask if an animal is required because of a disability; they may also ask what work or tasks the animal has been trained to perform.)

Use outdoor and/or sporting equipment in the library. Such equipment may not be used in a manner that interferes with other patrons’ access to the library or has the potential to damage property.

Sleep on library premises or exhibit the appearance of sleep.

Use bathrooms for bathing, laundering or other unintended purposes.

Deposit litter anywhere other than in garbage receptacles provided.

Engage in sexual activity of any kind on Library premises.

Use tobacco products, vaping products, or e-cigarettes on Library premises.

Consume, possess, or be under the influence of illicit or intoxicating substances on library premises.

Annoy, harass, intimidate, threaten or discriminate against any member of the library staff of any patron including but not limited to cursing, campaigning, unwanted recruiting, or making unwanted sexual or physical advances.

Leave packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended. Personal property must be within sight of the owner at all times. The Library assumes no responsibility for personal items left unattended on library premises.

Congregate on Library premises in a manner which obstructs access, interferes with use of Library facilities or services, or where such activity is likely to result in an unsafe or intimidating environment. This includes solicitation and panhandling as well as distribution of leaflets or un-authorized notices.

Possess, use, or threaten to use a dangerous weapon, including all firearms.

Conduct media or commercial photography or filming without prior permission from the City of Grimes Marketing and Communications Manager.

Photograph and/or film library patrons without their permission.

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Enforcement:

Inappropriate behavior as outlined above or the commission of any crime on library premises will have consequences. Patrons may be asked to leave the library premises immediately. In addition, a patron may be barred from library premises temporarily or permanently depending on the severity of the offense. To enforce these policies, library staff are authorized to call for law enforcement assistance, or to take any other measures reasonably appropriate and necessary.

Approved by the Grimes Public Library Board of Trustees: 09/15; 03/17; 01/18; 02/18, 9/22