

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The Argos Library Board of Trustees and Director encourages all members of the community to use the library. It is the Board's hope that patrons of all ages see the library as a warm, inviting, and secure place to be. To ensure that all library users are able to utilize the library without unnecessary distractions, each patron must behave in a manner that respects the rights of all users.

The library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in disruptive behavior to leave the premises, the right to restrict privileges for a specified period of time, and the right to ban the individual from the library for a specified period of time or permanently. Patrons may receive a notice of suspension letter. Patrons who violate the Behavior Policy will receive two verbal warnings as notice they are in violation and will be asked to leave the library with the third violation.

Disruptive behavior is defined as any patron behavior that interferes with the normal operation of the library, or which unreasonably interferes with another patron's ability to use the library. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Examples of Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- Leaving children unsupervised- See "Unattended Children Policy"
- Improper Internet usage- See "Internet Control Policy"
- Verbal or physical altercations; Harassment
- Vandalism
- Smoking
- Soliciting
- Animals. Service animals are welcome in the library. No other animals of any kind are permitted, unless part of a library-sponsored program.
- Misusing the rest rooms (using them as a laundry or bathing facility) is not allowed.
- Having food or beverages near any Library computer. Any damage to Library property resulting from food or beverages will be the responsibility of the patron.
- Cursing, obscene or abusive language
- Using or bringing controlled substances in the Library or on the grounds
- Removing Library materials or equipment without checking these out properly by Library staff at the Circulation desk
- Misusing, damaging, defacing and/or removing without authorization anything from the building and grounds
- Running, shouting, and/or roughhousing
- Playing in the elevator or on the staircase including running on the stairs

- Disturbing others' right to privacy and/or need for immediate personal space
- Disturbing others with loud talking, including use of portable phones and other electronic devices
- Coming into the library without wearing shoes or shirt, and/or appropriate public attire
- Skateboarding, roller-skating, or inline skate use
- Excessive displays of affection, or sexually inappropriate conduct
- Possession of weapons – carrying weapons of any type on Library property is not allowed except by law enforcement officers

Persons who violate these rules will be asked to leave the library premises, or, when appropriate, will be subject to arrest. Library staff should notify the Director. If the Director is not on the premises then the Argos Police should be called at 574-892-5122. Repeated violators and/or those who refuse to leave will be subject to arrest and prosecution under Section 35-43-2-2 of Indiana Code entitled, "Criminal Trespass."

The Board of Library Trustees will review the Behavior Policy periodically, and reserves the right to amend the policy at any time.