**Harper Library Patron Behavior Policy**

Harper Library (hereinafter Library) is a 501(c)3 public library that supports Harper, western Gillespie, and small portions of eastern Kimble and northern Kerr Counties, Texas**.** Our mission is to provide full library services including library materials, internet access, computer use, programs, and basic office services (faxes, printing, copying) for all visitors to our Library. The Harper Library Resale Shop (hereinafter Resale Shop) exists to provide income for the support of the Library and to provide a discount retail source for clothing, housewares and other items to Harper and the surrounding area.

To ensure all people who use, work, and volunteer at the Library and Resale Shop can do so in a comfortable and safe environment, the Library and Resale Shop reserve the right to determine what they consider to be disruptive or inappropriate behavior by the patrons in the Library or customers in the Resale Shop. To ensure that every patron/customer may enjoy the benefits of our facilities, patrons visiting or using the Library’s facilities, services, or Resale Shop must comply with the Library Patron Behavior Policy while on the premises.

**Dangerous, destructive or illegal conduct, including, but not limited to the following, will not be tolerated:**

* Engaging in the use of physical force or violent behavior;
* Engaging in intimidating or harassing behaviors, including sexual harassment defined as unwanted sexual advances**,** or visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature;
* Making violent or threatening statements to others;
* Open carry of weapons of any type; and
* Damaging, destroying, stealing, or otherwise vandalizing property.
* Any person engaging in one or more of the above behaviors will be instructed to leave the premises immediately and may have his or her privileges to use the Library/Resale Shop suspended or revoked. In addition, law enforcement may be notified and appropriate legal action may follow.

**The following behaviors are also prohibited:**

* Using harassing, obscene, abusive, or insulting language or gestures; including inappropriate remarks about or conduct related to a person’s race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, physical appearance, or economic status.
* Annoying other patrons by talking loudly, using a cell phone, or otherwise interfering with their ability to read, study, or otherwise use the Library.
* Entering the facilities with animals other than service animals authorized by law.

* Using the public restroom in any manner that is not customary, including laundering or bathing.
* Entering the Library/Resale Shop without wearing shirts or footwear.
* Bringing outside food or beverages into the Library/Resale Shop or having beverages at the Library computer tables.
* Smoking or vaping inside the Library or Resale Shop.
* Possessing, consuming, exchanging, selling, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs inside the Library/Resale Shop or on Library property.
* Loitering in the Library children’s area without a child.
* Sleeping in the Library.
* Failing to follow the Unattended Children’s Policy.
* Petitioning, soliciting, or selling merchandise or services including the distribution of handbills or flyers.
* Interfering with the staff’s performance of their duties.
* Refusal to follow reasonable direction from Library/Resale Shop staff, including but not limited to leaving the facilities during normal closing hours, following the rules of a suspension of Library privileges, or refusing to evacuate during an emergency.
* Using roller skates, scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, or other similar devices on Library property.
* Bringing outside trash for disposal.

**Engaging in any of the above behaviors may result in one or more of the following consequences, depending on the severity of the violation:**

Initial warning will be given. Library/Resale Shop staff will immediately inform the patron they are in violation of the Patron Behavior Policy. They will be asked to leave the premises. They will be given a copy of the Patron Behavior Policy.

Further violations will result in the following:

1. Library privileges suspended for seven (7) days.
2. Library privileges suspended for one (1) month.
3. Library privileges suspended for up to one (1) year.

The length of the suspension will be determined by the

Harper Library Executive Board of Directors

Approved by the Harper Library Executive Board of Directors on November 19, 2018