

## Policy on Appropriate Library Behavior

The Staff and the Board of Library Trustees of the Bloomfield Public Library are responsible for determining the rules of behavior necessary to protect all library users' access to the library and to its materials, to ensure the safety of library users and staff, and to protect the library's resources and facility from damage. To maintain an atmosphere appropriate for work, study and enjoyment for all library users and staff, the following policy on behavior at the Bloomfield Public Library and on library property has been established. The policy will be courteously, but firmly, enforced by library staff.

Examples of appropriate library activities include: browsing for materials, reading, thinking, quiet conversation, homework, writing reports and researching. Library computers are to be used quietly, so as not to disturb others. Group study which creates enough noise to disrupt other patrons must be conducted in designated area or the conference room, subject to permission by library staff.

Examples of inappropriate activities include: running, throwing, loud or abusive talking, eating or drinking (except bottled water), sleeping, moving furniture, putting feet on furniture, loitering, gambling, inappropriate public displays of affection, excessive socializing, proselytizing, soliciting, selling, distributing leaflets, use of tobacco products, offensive bodily hygiene that constitutes a nuisance to others, viewing obscene material on the Internet, and other activities which disrupt the library. Blankets and backpacks that are too big are prohibited. Any illegal activities including vandalism will not be tolerated.

Disruptive behavior is defined as noisy, boisterous or acting-out behavior which is inappropriate in a setting where serious study is being conducted. This behavior may represent a physical danger to people or property, or may interfere with the legitimate library business of other users or staff.

Patrons who are behaving inappropriately or disruptively will be warned that the behavior must stop. In most cases, verbal warning will be issued to any person or group that violates the rules. A written warning will be sent if the individuals in question still do not comply with the rules. Any further warnings will result in expulsion from the library and its grounds. However, no warning is required, if in the

judgment of the library staff, the behavior in question (a) violates federal, state, county or municipal laws, or (b) poses an immediate threat to the safety or well-being of other library users or staff.

Library employees are authorized to enforce these rules. The library reserves the right to revoke or restrict library privileges of a patron for behavior contrary to these rules and regulations. In cases where voluntary compliance is not adhered to, the police may be called for assistance. Revocation or restriction of library privileges may be appealed to the Bloomfield Public Library Board of Trustees by written notice within fourteen (14) days. The patron shall be advised of his or her right to appeal upon revocation or restriction of privileges. The Board of Trustees will consider the appeal at its next scheduled meeting after receiving notice of appeal.

*Adopted by the  
Library  
Board of Trustees  
June 29, 2005*