



## SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

# RULES OF CONDUCT

Welcome to the Santa Barbara Public Library System. These rules of conduct are for the comfort, safety and protection of all library patrons and library staff. Library staff will firmly and courteously enforce these rules.

We ask your cooperation in maintaining an environment conducive to enjoyable use of the Library for all.

### I. CONDUCT SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE LOSS OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

**Dangerous, destructive, or illegal conduct will not be tolerated, for example:**

- Physical abuse or assault;
- Fighting or challenging to fight;
- Making violent and threatening statements;
- Engaging in or soliciting any sexual act; and
- Damaging or destroying library property.

### **NO ACTIVITIES THAT DISTURB OTHER PATRONS' USE OF THE LIBRARY ARE ALLOWED**

These examples are provided as an illustration, this is not an exhaustive list. Any patron displaying any dangerous, destructive, or illegal behaviors will be instructed to leave the library immediately. Police will be called and appropriate legal action will follow. **In addition to being instructed to leave the library immediately, a patron exhibiting such behaviors will have their library privileges suspended for up to one year, based on the severity of the situation.**

### II. CONDUCT SUBJECT TO PROGRESSIVE LOSS OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

**The following behaviors are also prohibited within the library:**

- Failing to observe Library rules or policies.
- Using harassing or insulting language.
- Bringing in personal belongings that measure more than 14" x 17" x 20".
- Personal items must be attended to at all times. Unattended personal items are subject to the City of Santa Barbara Policy on **Lost and Unclaimed Personal Property and Abandoned Property Found on City-Owned Property.**
- Failing to wear shirt/top, pants/skirt, and shoes.
- Leaving children under the age of eight (8) unattended by a parent or authorized person age 14 or older.
- Blocking library entrances or exits with personal property (i.e., bicycles, strollers, etc.) or leaving animals unattended on Library property.
- Participating in any activity in the library or at public entrances/exits which interferes with any person's comfort or safety.
- Entering library with animals other than service animals authorized by law.
- Entering library with bicycles.
- Riding skates, roller shoes, scooters, skateboards, or other similar devices.
- Smoking.
- Lying on the floor or sleeping, or appearing to sleep in the library.
- Unreasonable use of rest rooms, including laundering, bathing, and shaving.
- Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Drinking, except for nonalcoholic beverages with a secure top.
- Eating, except in Library designated areas.
- Possessing or consuming food or beverages around library computers or equipment.
- Disturbing or annoying anyone with loud and/or unreasonable noise, including but not limited to using electronic equipment or mobile telephones at a volume that disturbs others.
- Petitioning, soliciting or selling merchandise or services without written permission from the Library Services Manager or designee.
- Personally monopolizing Library space, seating, tables, or equipment to the exclusion of other patrons or staff.
- Fraudulent use of another's Library card and/or number for any purpose, including using another's Library card to reserve or use Library computers.
- Refusal to follow reasonable direction from Library staff, including but not limited to leaving the Library during normal closing procedures or during an emergency evacuation.
- Having offensive body odor or personal hygiene so as to interfere with other patrons' ability to use the Library.
- Carrying weapons of any type.

**If you observe anyone violating any of these rules of conduct, please inform either a Library Building Monitor or another staff member.**

**Any patrons displaying these behaviors will be addressed in the following manner:**

- **FIRST VIOLATION:** Initial warning, given copy of Library Rules of Conduct.
- **SECOND VIOLATION:** Library privileges suspended for one day.
- **THIRD VIOLATION:** Library privileges suspended for seven days.
- **FOURTH VIOLATION:** Library privileges suspended for up to one year.

**EXCEPTION: Notwithstanding the progressive action described above, if a patron cannot or does not cease the behavior immediately upon direction from Library staff, the Library staff shall direct the patron to leave the Library immediately and not to return to the Library until the behavior ceases.**

