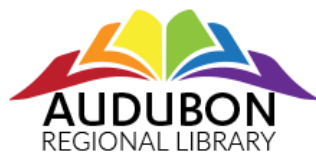


Section 15 – Patron Behavior Policy

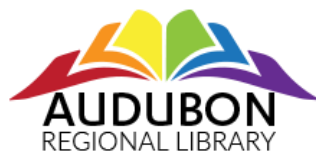
The Audubon Regional Library is a public agency providing materials and services to the public in an atmosphere that allows research, study and use of library materials and services without disruption.

The purpose of the Patron Behavior Policy is to provide guidelines for behavior to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff, and to preserve and protect library materials, facilities and property. These guidelines shall apply to all buildings and the bookmobile serving the Audubon Regional Library, and to all persons entering Library premises. Violation of the following rules of behavior may result in eviction from the library and the temporary or permanent suspension of library privileges.

Guidelines for behavior are as follows:



1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or a violation of federal, state or local law.
2. Selling, distributing, or using any dangerous weapon upon the library premises or using or threatening the use of any other object in such a manner that it may be considered a weapon.
3. Gambling is not permitted in library facilities or on library computers.
4. Engaging in any physically intimidating or assaultive behavior; making any threats of violence or unlawful activities toward library staff or other library patrons; using threatening, abusive, or obscene language. The library has a policy of zero tolerance for threats and acts of violence. Any person engaging in such behaviors will be immediately ejected from the Library Premises.
5. Possessing, selling, distributing, consuming, or appearing under the influence of any intoxicating beverage or controlled substance.
6. Trespassing by entering or remaining on the library premises after having been notified by an authorized individual not to do so and entering or remaining on the library premises during the time in which an individual's library privileges have been suspended.
7. Refusing to follow the directions of library staff.
8. Engaging in any behavior that a reasonable person would find to be disruptive, harassing, or threatening in nature to library patrons or staff including without limitation stalking, prolonged staring at or following another with the intent to annoy, or intentionally behaving in a manner that could reasonably be expected to annoy or disturb other patrons.
9. Leaving children under the age of thirteen (13) unattended on the library premises.
10. Engaging in any sexual contact, activities or conduct including without limitation the physical manipulation or touching of a person's sex organs through a person's clothing in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification.
11. Inappropriate display of affection, including without limitation intimate physical contact, is not permitted.
12. Selling, soliciting, surveying, distributing written materials, panhandling, or canvassing for any political, charitable or religious purposes inside a library building or on the library premises without prior authorization of the library director or designee.
13. Smoking or other use of tobacco products including electronic cigarettes and chewing tobacco anywhere within the library.
14. Eating while using library computers or in spaces designated as free from food.
15. Sleeping, lying down, or napping on any bench, table, or seat on the library premises.
16. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the library, or disturbs library staff or customers, including but not limited to, talking loudly, arguing, yelling, cursing.
17. Using personal electronic equipment including, but not limited to, stereos, cellular telephones, portable computers and tablets at such a volume or making ongoing noise that is unreasonably disturbing to other library patrons.
18. Conduct that involves the use of abusive or threatening language or gestures.
19. Conduct that creates unreasonable noise or conduct that consists of loud or boisterous physical behavior or talking.
20. Emitting strong pervasive odors, including odors caused by perfume or cologne that unreasonably interferes with library user or staff comfort.
21. Dressing inappropriately for a public building including attire that does not sufficiently cover those parts of the body considered private; failing to wear shoes or a shirt inside a library building.
22. Dressing inappropriately for a public building used by children including attire that displays profane language and/or curse words.
23. Using library materials, equipment, furniture, or buildings in a manner inconsistent with the



customary use thereof; or in a destructive, abusive, or potentially damaging manner; or in a manner likely to cause personal injury to themselves or others.

24. Interfering with the safe and free passage of library staff or patrons on the library premises, including without limitation the placement of objects in hallways, aisles, flooring or elsewhere in a manner that impedes the free passage of such persons inside the library premises.
 25. Leaving an animal tethered and unattended on the library premises.
 26. Bringing bicycles or other similar devices inside library buildings, including, but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways.
 27. Impeding access to the library premises or otherwise interfering with the free passage of library staff or customers in or on library premises, including without limitation placing objects such as bicycles, skateboards, backpacks or other items in a manner that interferes with free passage of patrons.
 28. Placing personal belongings on or against library buildings, furniture, equipment or fixtures in a manner that interferes with library staff or patron use of the library facility or leaving personal belongings unattended.
 29. Entering nonpublic areas of the library premises without permission.
 30. Using library restrooms or facilities improperly for purposes such as bathing, shaving, washing hair or changing clothes.
 31. Taking any library materials into restrooms.
 32. Bringing fireworks or other dangerous substances on the library premises
 33. Engaging in any other activities that are inconsistent with those activities normally associated with the use of public library facilities that include without limitation reading, studying, and using library materials or computers or attending programs.
 34. Violating the library's rules for acceptable use of the internet and library public computers.
- Copies of these rules will be made available by staff upon request.

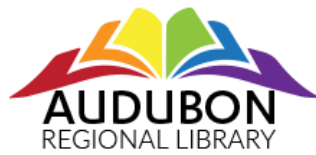
BANNING AND APPEALS PROCESS

Library staff members may ask a patron to leave the premises with or without warning, depending upon the seriousness of the violation of the guidelines for behavior. The length of the eviction shall depend upon the nature and seriousness of the offense that required removal, the extent of damage or disruption, any history of prior infractions of library policies, and other relevant circumstances.

When possible, any patron who has been evicted and/or prohibited from returning to the library shall be provided with written notification indicating the reasons for the ban, the period of the ban, and the appeals process. When a minor has been banned for 30 days or more, the library director may attempt to contact the child's parent or legal guardian by telephone and/or send a certified letter to the child's parent/guardian.

Any patron whose library privileges have been suspended has the right to appeal the decision to the library director. The director may shorten, modify, or terminate the banishment period if the information submitted by the individual warrants such modification. The director will respond in writing and notify the individual of the decision and of the patron's right to appeal that decision. Until such time as the determination has been reviewed and/or modified by the director or reversed on appeal by the Audubon Regional Library Board, a banned individual may not enter or remain on library premises.

The director's written determination may be appealed to the Audubon Regional Library Board. Such notice shall be filed with both the library director and the library board president, c/o Audubon Regional Library, P.O. Box 8389, Clinton LA 70722.



The board shall hold a hearing within 30 days after the patron's notice has been filed. The appellant shall be notified at least 10 days before the hearing. Failure to appear on the assigned day of the hearing without prior notification to the library board president will result in the denial of the appeal.

The president of the Audubon Regional Library Board shall conduct the hearing. At the hearing, the appellant may be represented by counsel, may present evidence, and may call and examine witnesses and cross-examine witnesses.

Within 30 days of the completion of the hearing, the board shall issue a written decision stating the reasons therefore. The board shall have the power to affirm or reverse the written determination or to remand it to the library director with instructions for reconsideration. The decision, except for remand, shall be a final determination for the purposes of judicial review.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EVICTION OR BAN

Any person who is asked to leave the library as a result of the violation of these guidelines and refuses to do so shall be considered to be trespassing and may be subject to permanent exclusion from the library and/or to arrest. Any person who enters or remains on library premises during the period of banishment from the library will also be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.