

FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHING POLICY

The primary goal of the Dothan Houston County Library System (The Library) is to provide materials and services to the community in fulfillment of its Mission/Vision and Strategic Plan. To this end, the Library generally allows filming and photography on its premises, as long as the activity does not interfere with Library operations or its users' ability to have a safe experience. Library staff reserve the right to stop any filming/photography session that appears to be in violation of this policy, jeopardize public safety/security, or violate the integrity or impartiality of the Library.

Library Programs and Events

The Library allows filming and/or photography at all of its programs and events by staff, attendees, and the media. The Library reserves the right to utilize photos and videos from public programs and Library-related events taking place on or off Library premises, strictly for promotional purposes, on its website, social media, newsletter, and other library publications. To ensure the privacy of all individuals, including children, all images will not be identified by the Library using full names or personally identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent, or legal guardian. This also includes all photos and images submitted directly to the Library for any Library-related purpose (programs, events, contests, galleries, etc.).

Casual Filming and Photography

Casual photography and/or filming by the public intended to record a personal visit, or make use of the Library as a backdrop is generally permitted, provided that such photography and/or filming does not interfere in any way with Library operations, other Library users, does not violate the Library Code of Conduct, and is consistent with the Library's overall Mission/Vision and Strategic Plan. The Library is not responsible for any necessary consents or permissions

News Media and Documentary-Type Photography

News Media photographers and reporters who are doing stories or projects directly related to library programs and services may do so simply by obtaining prior verbal permission from Library management or in-charge staff. Obtaining all necessary permissions and consents for the photography and/or filming of Library users is the responsibility of the individual news/media outlet. Any other filming of non-Library related "man-on-the street" interviews or filming/photographing for public opinion polls may not be conducted inside Library facilities, but are allowed outside on Library premises.

Commercial Photography

The Library does not permit commercial photography (i.e advertising, portraiture, film/TV production, etc.) that is unrelated to the Library's programs and services on or in its facilities or premises without prior permission from the Library Director.

Photography for Groups and Non-Library Events in Meeting Rooms

Groups arranging meetings in meeting rooms may arrange photographers and/or News Media during the event. Photography for such events is restricted to the space reserved by the group and may not take place in other areas of the Library. Obtaining all necessary permissions and consents of meeting attendees is the responsibility of the person(s) filming/photographing.