



Library Code of Conduct

Everyone is welcome at the library. The goal of the Dothan Houston County Library System is to ensure that all patrons are able to enjoy their visit on library property responsibly and safely. Your presence is an agreement to act courteously toward all library team members and other guests by adhering to the following DHCLS Code of Conduct. Violators may be asked to leave. Refusal to comply with a request to leave may be subject to criminal trespassing and/or legal action (up to and including arrest). We ask for your cooperation with following the Library Code of Conduct as all library guests have a right to expect our facility to be a clean, pleasant and a safe place for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, connecting, learning and discovering.

- Courtesy to all makes it possible for everyone to enjoy library facilities, materials and services. Behavior is permitted which does not disturb or infringe on the rights of other library patrons and staff and is not prohibited by law or these regulations.
- Game playing is allowed, providing other patrons are not disturbed. Speaking in a loud voice, running, horseplay or fighting is not appropriate.
- Small snacks may be consumed in the outdoor patio areas only. Eating is not permitted inside of the library with the exception of library programs.
- Drinking of non-alcoholic beverages is allowed, provided the drinks are in covered containers.
- Proper use of library computers, without damaging or altering computer equipment or software downloading or installing any program on the hard drive of the computer or sending, displaying, or printing obscene material.
- Children's areas, tables and computers are intended for use by children, teens and their parents. Adults should not use children's areas without a legitimate reason for being there.
- Only Service animals and animals that are part of library programming are allowed in the library.
- Using audible devices without headphones that are set at a volume as to not disturb others.
- All bags, purses, briefcases, backpacks, bedrolls, containers, books, papers, and similar items are subject to inspection by library staff or security upon entering and exiting the library. Visitors may bring no more than one large and one personal item into the library. The large item or bag may not exceed 9" x 14" x 22". Any items considered dangerous will not be allowed.
- Patrons should keep personal items with them at all times. The library is not responsible for loss or theft of personal items.
- The library provides a location, outside, for bicycle parking. Bringing bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, roller blades or other vehicles into the library is not permitted.

Prohibited behavior including but not limited to the following:

1. Monopolizing library space (including entrance walkways). Loitering (remaining in the library for a protracted time without an apparent purpose).
2. Destroying, defacing, or stealing library materials or property.
3. No moving, jumping, standing or extreme lounging on library furniture.
4. Sleeping in or on library property is not permitted.
5. Entering the library without shirts and/or shoes. Showing of undergarments.
6. Body odor which causes discomfort to other users of the library.
7. Bathing, body washing or washing clothes in restrooms.
8. Use of cell phones or other personal listening or communication devices, at a level that can be heard by others.
9. Disturbing, threatening, harassing, intimidating, abusive language or behavior towards library team or guests, including following or staring.
10. Smoking and use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes).
11. Possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or other controlled substances.
12. Bringing weapons of any kind (including replicas) into the library.
13. Trespassing in non-public areas.
14. Any illegal act or conduct in violation of federal, state, or local law, ordinance or regulation is not permitted.
15. Solicitation of any kind including but not limited to soliciting of money, cigarettes, food or rides on property of the library.
16. Engaging in any form of sexual activity or harassment of staff/patrons.
17. Refusing to obey directives of library team members and/or security guards.
18. Any behavior not listed that the library deems inappropriate.