



Policy 5-10	Rules of Conduct	Created: 04/02/2015 Revised: 05/15/2023 Approved: 06/21/2023
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I. PURPOSE

This policy explains the rules and expectations to protect the rights and safety of library patrons, staff members, and volunteers, while also protecting library facilities, materials, and property.

II. INTRODUCTION

Jackson County libraries are places of information, knowledge, learning, and gathering. They are places where anyone may come and be welcomed, served, and find space to be heard. The Library is committed to serving everyone equitably, recognizing that some experience barriers when accessing services and resources. The Library is committed to eliminating these barriers that may sometimes hinder full and equitable access to these community members, including those who are experiencing homelessness, those with health challenges, those with income challenges, and other vulnerable or marginalized members of the community. Services will not be denied or abridged because of religious, racial, social, economic, or political status; mental, emotional, or physical condition; age or gender; or sexual orientation. We are open to all individuals but not all behaviors. A mutual relationship of respect and care with appropriate boundaries between the Library and patrons is necessary to maintain a peaceful environment.

III. LIBRARY STANDARDS

Jackson County Library Services strives to create a community of kindness, belonging, and safety. We want our libraries to be a clean and welcoming place for everyone. Those disrupting the intended use of the Library will be asked to leave, and their Library privileges may be suspended. This behavior policy extends to all Library programs and services, including in-person programs, virtual programs, and at outreach events where staff are present as representatives of the Library. It serves to define the rules regarding appropriate use of the Library. Patrons are expected to comply with staff requests at all times. We respectfully ask that everyone:

Be Considerate

- Consuming small snacks and drinks from lidded containers is allowed as long as they are not around computers. Messy food and meals are to be consumed outside the library. Caregivers may feed children under three anywhere in the library. To ensure a clean environment for all, we expect all patrons to dispose of accumulated litter from small snacks and lidded containers as well as notify library staff of any spills that occur.
- Please use restrooms as intended. Bathing, shaving, washing hair, or any other activities that prevent restroom use for other patrons is prohibited.
- Loud and unreasonable noise as determined by library staff must be reduced or taken outside of the library.
- Patrons must dress appropriately for a public building, including attire that does sufficiently cover those parts of the body considered private. Patrons must wear shoes and cover the upper and lower portions of their body while on library property.

Be Respectful

- Speak with kindness and respect toward other patrons and staff. Obscene, harassing, abusive language, gestures, or behaviors are not allowed.
- Intimidation, or making threats of violence or harm to another individual will not be tolerated.
- There is zero-tolerance of any language that can be construed as hate speech

Be Responsible

- Follow all laws, ordinances, and regulations including [all JCLS policies](#). There is zero tolerance for violation of laws, ordinances, and regulations.
- Weapons are not allowed in the library, including any item used in a threatening manner.
- Personal Items must be kept with you at all times. The library is a public space; staff are not responsible for the loss or damage of unattended items.

Be Safe

- Possessing, selling, distributing, or consuming drugs or alcohol is not allowed. Patrons under the influence of any intoxicating beverage or controlled substance to the extent that they are unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others will be asked to leave.
- Patrons will need to stay awake while in JCLS libraries. We understand that patrons may doze off, and staff will conduct wellness checks on patrons who are not alert.
- Enjoy roller and wheeled sports outside; please secure bikes and scooters outside.
- Keep children under your care (see [Unattended Children in the Library Policy](#)).
- Be mindful of possessions so they do not become a hazard for other patrons and staff. Library staff reserves the right to limit items brought into the library. Any item that might create a safety hazard may not be brought into the library.

Fine Print

- Sources of pervasive odors that unreasonably interfere with other patrons' ability to use the library and its facilities will be asked to leave the library building.
- Pets are not allowed; [service animals are welcome](#).
- In order to maintain the cleanliness of JCLS materials and spaces, sources that attract pests will need to leave JCLS buildings.
- Please stay home if you are sick and feel free to use our online resources.