



Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Code of Conduct Policy

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (Library) Code of Conduct ensures that the Library is safe, welcoming, and provides equitable access and services for all patrons. Patrons are expected to be considerate and respectful, and behave in a manner that does not disrupt others or interfere with Library operations.

Rules:

- Any behavior that is disruptive or hinders use of the Library is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical harassment, loud or unruly behavior, and fighting.
- Possession of firearms or other dangerous weapons in the Library is prohibited.
- Alcohol and illegal drugs may not be used or distributed on Library property. Persons under the influence of either alcohol or illegal drugs will be told to leave Library property by the Library or security. Police will be summoned if they refuse to leave, and they will be trespassed from Library property.
- Sleeping, camping, or otherwise being in the Library building with no demonstrated or intended use of Library services are prohibited. “Camping” refers to the use of Library property for lying down and sleeping, storing belongings, and/or using Library property as a temporary shelter or living quarters.
- Panhandling on Library property is prohibited. “Panhandling” refers to collecting money or any item of value for one’s self or others, or attempting to sell or obtain compensation for any items or services.
- Use of Library public restrooms for anything other than their ordinary intended purpose is prohibited.
- Use of all tobacco products is prohibited throughout the Library building and on Library property. Tobacco use includes the use of smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, or devices that emit a vapor that contains nicotine and/or other chemical substances and smokeless tobacco.
- Polite use of cell phones is allowed. Please silence phones and keep calls short and quiet whenever possible. Extended conversations that might disturb others should be moved outside the Library building.
- Beverages with lids are permitted throughout the Library. Food consumption is prohibited in the Library building, unless in conjunction with a Library event, meeting room use, or within the coffee shop.
- Animals, other than service animals, are prohibited in the Library, unless in conjunction with Library programs.
- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a caregiver aged 12 or older in all areas of the Library building. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are ultimately responsible for the actions, behavior, and safety of children visiting the Library.
- Patrons must wear proper clothing in the Library building at all times, including shirts and shoes. Patrons must maintain a level of hygiene that does not hinder use of the Library by others.
- Theft, vandalism, and damage to Library property are criminal offenses, which may result in legal action.
- Leave bicycles, scooters, carts, and other large-wheeled items outside, in a location where they do not inhibit entrance or exit to the Library building. Mobility devices and occupied baby strollers are welcome inside the Library building.

- The Library reserves the right to inspect personal items. Patrons are responsible for their personal items, and the Library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Engaging in any activities prohibited by state or federal law or city ordinance is prohibited.
- Patrons must comply with all Library policies, available online at <http://www.bismarcklibrary.org/160/Library-Policies>.

Anyone in violation of these rules is first warned by the Library or security. If the conduct continues, the individual will be asked to leave Library property for the day. If the conduct again continues, the individual will be trespassed from the Library. Depending upon the severity of the situation, the Library may immediately trespass an individual and the Library and security may expel an individual and/or call the police without warning. Failure to observe any provision of this policy may lead to revocation of Library privileges, including the right to visit Library property. Persons who have been trespassed or persons ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.

This Code of Conduct Policy was prepared under the advice of the Attorney's Office with the City of Bismarck.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees: 4/26/2018