



# Conduct Policy

It is the mission of Neill Public Library to provide an open environment in which people have free access to a wide variety of stories, ideas, information and opinions. The Board of Trustees is committed to providing all patrons a pleasant library environment and to enabling staff to give quality service. The library has a strong commitment to the principles of intellectual freedom and access to information. To this end, the Board is responsible for establishing rules of conduct regarding the library and to exclude any person who willfully and persistently violates those rules.

Enforcement of these rules will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Final determinations regarding violations of these rules will be made by the Library Services Director and/or their designee, and may result in exclusion periods from the library that vary based on the category of violation, with increasingly longer exclusion periods for repeat offenses.

The Board of Trustees has established the following rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of library patrons and staff and to preserve and protect the library's materials, equipment and property.

The following behaviors are prohibited in the library:

1. Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local or other applicable law, or library policy.
2. Leaving youth under the age of 7, or vulnerable youth, unattended in any area of the library (see Safety of Children Policy).
3. Damaging, destroying, stealing, or making other inappropriate use of any library property including, but not limited to, computer hardware, software and other equipment (see Internet Use Policy).
4. Moving library furniture from where it is placed by library staff.
5. Harassment of library patrons, volunteers, and staff, either verbally or through other action. This includes but is not limited to intimidation, profanity or other abusive language, harassment on account of race, religion, ethnic background, gender or sexual orientation, and stalking/staring.
6. Sexual misconduct, including but not limited to stalking, offensive touching, exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate phone calls, and excessive displays of affection.
7. Generating excessive noise or engaging in disruptive behavior.
8. Bringing non-service animals into the library.
9. Smoking, vaping or other tobacco use inside the library.
10. Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, and selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs.
11. Sleeping in the library.
12. Consuming food or beverages in public areas of the library not authorized by the library (see Neill Public Library Procedures).
13. Using another person's library card without their permission.
14. Accessing staff only areas or meeting spaces in the library without authorization.
15. Blocking aisles, entryways, or otherwise interfering with the free passage of others.

16. Leaving personal items unattended.
17. Using wheeled devices (except for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers).
18. Unlawfully bringing, carrying or using a weapon in violation of Chapter 9.41 RCW.
19. Soliciting, selling, distributing items, conducting surveys or collecting signatures not authorized by the library.
20. Being barefoot, without a shirt, with offensive body odor/personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the library environment.
21. Refusing to leave library property after being issued a notice of exclusion, or entering the library or being present on library grounds during a period of exclusion.

Library staff and/or Pullman police officers will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Individuals not conforming to the Code of Conduct may be given one reminder of the policy and given the opportunity to correct their behavior first, or asked to leave immediately, depending on the severity of the situation. Failure to comply with the library's established rules, regulations, and policies could result in removal from the premises and exclusion from the library or in arrest or prosecution. Violations could also result in the restriction and/or termination of library privileges, including the use of library computers and other equipment (RCW 27.12.290).

Approved by Neill Public Library Board 8-24-2005

(Revised 9-17-2008, 3-17-2010, 07-19-2023)