LIBRARY CONDUCT POLICY

Purpose:

The Board of Trustees has established this policy to provide guidelines so all library users and employees should be free of any threat of harm, invasion of property, or gross indignity. Visitors to the library are expected to be engaged in library activities.

Objectionable Behavior:

No person shall engage in any conduct that disturbs or interferes with the legitimate usage of the library. This conduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, or surveying patrons or staff in a manner that is disruptive to library activities.
- Disrupting patrons with loud behavior.
- Running, jumping, or generally behaving in a manner that could endanger themselves and other patrons or staff.
- Sleeping while lying down, or sleeping at a limited resource. This includes the bench in the atrium.
- Using nicotine products such as cigarettes, chew, or e-cigarettes (pursuant of the Smoke Free Air Act).
- Using skates, skate shoes, or skateboards in the library.
- Soliciting funds or panhandling.
- Filming, recording, or photographing other library users that captures what people are using, or disrupts another person's ability to use the library or work inside the building. This provision does not apply to general security footage captured by the library security cameras.
- Interfering with the library's right to maintain a clean, pleasant, and safe facility.
- Participating in or facilitating gambling on library premises.
- Interfering with others' use of the library through poor bodily hygiene that is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance. All Mount Pleasant Public Library patrons must be fully clothed, including shirt and shoes.
- Using the bathrooms for unreasonable or unintended purposes including bathing and laundering.
- Interfering with the ability of staff members or volunteers to do their duties, such as making inappropriate personal comments, verbal or physically harassing, refusing to comply with requests, or monopolizing time and attention through conversation or behaviors.
- Knowingly introducing bed bugs or other pests via returned materials or personal belongings.
- Failing to comply with a staff request, unauthorized entry in a staff area*, or failure to leave the library during emergencies and at closing time.
- Consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages or using or possessing controlled substances in the library or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances in a manner that causes public disturbance.
- Theft, vandalism, destruction of library property, or other illegal activity.
- Possessing any firearm, knife, or any device which could be used as a weapon - or other weapon prohibited by City Ordinance or State Statutes.

- Willfully annoying, harassing, or threatening another person.
- Willfully exposing patrons and staff to offensive images or loud, obscene, or abusive language.
- Committing lewd acts.
- Interfering with another person's passage within the library through physical presence or with personal property.
- Using the computers to view sexually explicit images or violating the library's Computer & Internet Policy. (See Computer & Internet Policy)

*Library patrons will remain in areas designated for patrons. Any persons attempting to enter spaces off limits to the public, whether or not marked as such, shall be asked to leave immediately. The library has legitimate concerns of employee safety and privacy, as well as the need to safeguard confidential information, in these areas. Persons attempting to film library staff, or confidential areas, will be ordered to cease and desist.

Disciplinary Action:

Enforcement of the *Library Conduct Policy* will be conducted in a fair and responsible manner. Individuals may not be aware that their conduct is disruptive. Enforcement of these rules for persons may take the form of any of the following actions, depending on the severity of the misconduct that will be determined by the staff on duty at the time. These disciplinary procedures are merely guidelines. They are not listed in any particular order, and there is no requirement that any particular disciplinary action precede any other action. The library may choose to implement any of the procedures listed, including immediate banishment from the premises, at any time, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

1. In the case of a minor disruption, the patron receives one warning. At the second offense, the patron must leave the library for the rest of the day.
2. In the case of any misconduct that, in the judgment of a staff member, is extreme, the offender will be ordered to leave the building immediately, or the police may be called as appropriate.
3. If the patron is uncooperative or threatening in any way the police will be called.
4. Patrons causing disruptions on repeated visits will be warned by the director, or designee, that they will not be allowed to enter the library if the behavior continues.
5. Patrons who engage in repeated disruptive behaviors that violate City Code or State Statues, may be permanently banned from the library premises by the director.
6. A form detailing the disciplinary action will be provided to the patron.
7. Patrons wishing to appeal disciplinary action must make a written request to the Board of Trustees within two business days of occurrence.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
August 12, 2026