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FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES FOR USE

The Forsyth County Public Library offers a full range of library services to all residents of the community, regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion, or economic status. The library board of trustees strives to maintain a pleasant and safe environment that is conducive to both study and casual use.

***Please respect our
Rules for Use***

The following are not allowed:

1. Engaging in any illegal activity or behavior.
2. Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
3. Carrying a weapon of any sort (gun, knife, club, etc.) unless you're a member of law enforcement.
4. Using obscene, abusive or inappropriate language.
5. Following, staring at, or otherwise harassing staff or customers.
6. Engaging in disorderly conduct, committing a nuisance, or unreasonably disturbing and offending library customers.
7. Blocking or in any way interfering with the free movement of anyone.
8. Willful destruction, damage or unauthorized removal of library property or rearranging of library furniture or equipment without permission.
9. Leaving children under 8 years old unattended by a caregiver.
10. Leaving personal items unattended, and bringing in any items that take up an excessive amount of space or present potential harm or distraction. Any item brought into the library is subject to search. The library is not responsible for personal items left unattended.
11. Cell phones and listening devices must be silenced. Cell phone conversations must be conducted at a low volume and concluded before approaching a library service desk.

12. Misuse of library parking lots, sidewalks or property for activities considered disruptive or dangerous to participants or customers. Unauthorized entry into staff, closed or restricted areas is prohibited.
13. Having food or beverages in areas where prohibited.
14. Tobacco use in any form and smoking products, including e-cigarettes, e-liquids, and vapes inside library buildings and outside areas where prohibited.
15. Not wearing shoes or a shirt.
16. Extreme body odor or other foul smells.
17. Willfully exposing others to health hazards, such as lice, bed bugs, influenza or other infectious diseases.
18. Sleeping.
19. Only certified service animals are permitted. Therapy, support and companion animals are prohibited.
20. Distributing leaflets, posting notices, soliciting or selling of any kind is prohibited unless approved by library staff.
21. Using library telephones without permission, except those designated for public use.
22. Displaying obscenity or material that is harmful to minors.
23. Displaying other behaviors inappropriate in a public library setting. (Examples: bathing, sexual activity).
24. Registered sex offenders are not permitted in the library.
25. Not wearing a face covering. In accordance with Forsyth County guidelines for entering and using public facilities, the Library is currently requiring that face coverings be worn by customers, covering the mouth and nose, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Violators of this policy and/or customers who do not comply with staff decisions are **subject to expulsion and/or banning from FCPL libraries.**

Those refusing to leave when asked are subject to arrest under trespass laws of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Criminal behavior will be prosecuted under the law.

Please report any violations to the library staff.

If a customer questions you over a particular rule, the following N.C. Statutes may be stated in order to provide the customer with a point of reference.

NORTH CAROLINA LAWS PERTAINING TO POLICY

- G.S. 14-33 Misdemeanor assaults, batteries, and affrays, simple and aggravated.
- G.S. 14-34 Assaulting by pointing a gun.
- G.S. 14-34.2 Assault with a firearm or other deadly weapon upon governmental officers or employees.
- G.S. 14-71.1 Possessing stolen goods.
- G.S. 14-72 Larceny of property; receiving stolen goods or possessing stolen goods.
- G.S. 14-74 Larceny by servants and other employees.
- G.S. 14-76 Larceny, mutilation, or destruction of public records and papers.
- G.S. 14-127 Willful and wanton injury to real property.
- G.S. 14-132 Disorderly conduct in and injuries to public buildings and facilities.
- G.S. 14-159.12 First degree trespass.
- G.S. 14-159.13 Second degree trespass.
- G.S. 14-160 Willful and wanton injury to personal property.
- G.S. 14-190.1 Exhibiting obscenity.
- G. 14-190.13 Exhibiting harmful material to minors.
- G.S. 14-190.9 Indecent exposure.
- G.S. 14-196 Using profane, indecent or threatening language to any person over telephone; annoying or harassing by repeated telephoning or making false statements over telephone.
- G.S. 14-204.1 Loitering for the purpose of engaging in prostitution offense.
- G.S. 14-208.18 Sex offender unlawfully on premises
- G.S. 14-269 Carrying concealed weapons.
- G.S. 14-277.1 Communicating threats.

- G.S 14-277.3 Stalking.
- G.S 14-288.4 Disorderly conduct.
- G.S 14-398 Theft or destruction of property of public libraries, museums, etc.
- G.S 14-399 Littering.
- G.S 14-444 Intoxicated and disruptive in public.
- G.S 153A-266 Powers and duties of the library board of trustees.

Americans with Disabilities Act states:

Service Animal means any dog (or miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. ["A therapy animal, support animal or companion animal provides comfort and/or companionship to an individual. These non-service animals are not afforded the same privileges in public places as a service animal."] (From "Welcoming Your Customers Who Use Service Animals," *NCDHHS*)

However, as a staff member, you may not ask for proof from a customer that an animal is a service animal.