



Library Behavior Policy

Shelby County Public Library

Approved Feb 9, 2023

Revised, May 9, 2024

The Shelby County Public Library Board established this Library Behavior Policy to ensure all SCPL visitors enjoy a safe and welcoming environment. Any individual or group, who disrupts other users, the normal activities of the library, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or refuses to follow the guidelines may be asked to leave the library facility. It is intended that library users shall be engaged in normal activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building or on the premises of the main library or one of its branches. This includes the Plaza/Courtyard, parking lot, and the garden/grassy area around the shed.

Staff will apply library policies, applicable local, state, and federal laws, and call law enforcement when necessary. Anyone engaged in any of the following behaviors may be required to leave all SCPL property.

- Behavior that interferes with or disrupts library work or activities
- Damaging or abusing the library property or property of others
- Failing to comply with a reasonable request by library staff
- Harassment as defined by Indiana State Code 35-40-10-2
- Having pervasive odors or visible presence of pests on self, personal belongings, or library materials
- Inappropriate displays of affection
- Leaving belongings unattended
- Not wearing shirt, shoes, or pants
- Performance of any illegal act
- Running
- Sleeping
- Smoking
- Solicitating or panhandling
- Threatening or violent behavior
- Using obscene language
- Vaping

The **Shelby County Public Library Computer Use Policy** describes other inappropriate behaviors associated with the use of the library computers.



The following items may not be brought into the library building or its branches nor is the library responsible for damage to or theft of:

- Animals (*with the exception of trained service animals or animals for library sponsored events*)
- Bicycles (*we do offer bike locks for checkout for the duration of user's visit*)
- Scooters

If a patron is asked to leave library property, they may be escorted from the building to ensure policy is upheld in all areas.

Children in the Library

The Shelby County Public Library is a shared facility open to people of all ages. For the protection of minors, parents should always guide the minor in the use of the library. The adult responsible, who transported a minor to the library premises or who has allowed or directed a minor there, shall be responsible for the safety of that minor. The library staff cannot assume responsibility for unattended minor.

Minors ages 10 and under must always be with a parent or caregiver (age 14 or over) while using the library. Minors ages 11 and over may use the library without parental/guardian supervision if appropriate behavior is maintained. Parents or a guardian may be called at any time deemed necessary by library staff. If a parent or caregiver has not arrived within a reasonable amount of time, the Shelbyville Police Department/ Morristown Police Department will be called for the safety of the child.

Any time a minor is injured in the library, a parent/guardian will be called to determine what action should be taken. If immediate medical attention is needed, 911 will be called and then the parents or guardian.

If a minor is asked to leave due to behavior, they may not be allowed to enter the library again without an adult/guardian for a set amount of time.

If a minor's privileges are suspended for any sort of behavior, a library staff member may request a meeting with the minor and their parent/guardian to discuss the minor's return to the library with full privileges.