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CODE OF CONDUCT – EXPANDED VERSION
To Support a Positive Experience at the Library

Boise Public Library provides access and opportunity for everyone by connecting people to ideas, information, and the community. We create respectful and safe spaces for the entire community while upholding the right to privacy and the freedom to read, seek, and hold different points of view.

Boise Public Library has adopted the following guidelines to promote welcoming, comfortable spaces, which we expect all visitors and staff to honor. Choosing not to follow the guidelines may result in the suspension of access to library facilities.

Boise Public Library Values Respect and Accessibility for All

Library users are required to demonstrate respect to each other and library staff. Respectful behavior includes:

- refraining from using profane, threatening, or abusive language or gestures; and
- avoiding behaviors that disturb or disrupt others by interfering with the operation and enjoyment of the library.

To allow all users to access library materials, services, and programs, everyone is required to keep personal property within their control. Items such as skateboards, collapsible scooters, large bags, and rollerblades are to be carried, placed, and stored in a manner so as not to create a safety hazard for other users. Bicycles and large scooters must be secured outside at designated bike racks.

Service animals, as defined by the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), are the only animals allowed inside the library. This includes service dogs, service dogs-in-training, and service miniature horses as defined by state and federal law. Pets and animals for emotional support, comfort, or therapy are not allowed in the library.

Service animals must be leashed, harnessed, or tethered unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices. If these devices are unable to be used, the library user must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective means. Library users may be asked to remove their service animal from the library if the animal:

- Poses a direct threat to the safety of others.
- Is out of control and effective action is not taken to control it.
- Is not housebroken.
- Interferes with the library's fundamental purpose, e.g., continuous barking.

Petitioning, soliciting, and distributing written materials (“leafletting”) is acceptable outside of the library so long as it does not impede access to the building’s entrances and exits. Solicitations inside the library are permitted with prior authorization by library administration and must be for the benefit of the library.

Boise Public Library Values Safety and Health for All

Safety

Library user conduct must never endanger the health and safety of other library users or staff or cause or threaten to cause damage to library property. Illegal behavior is not permitted in person, by phone, or by other digital means. If an action or behavior is against the law, it is not allowed in the library. This includes federal and state statutes and regulations and city ordinances.

Unlawful or prohibited behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Harassment of library staff or other library users (physical, sexual, verbal, or stalking).
- Damage, theft, or destruction of library property, including use of library equipment in a manner other than intended by the manufacturer.
- Possession, manufacture, distribution, or consumption of alcohol or other controlled substances.
- Engaging in sexual conduct, viewing pornographic materials, or engaging in other lewd acts (exposure, masturbation, or nudity).
- Possession of a deadly or dangerous weapon, such as a bladed instrument, explosive device, or other item held for the purposes of endangering or inflicting bodily harm on a person. An exception is made for a lawfully possessed firearm or pocketknife with a blade six of (6) inches or less.

Security staff may inspect bags and personal belongings upon reasonable suspicion.

Boise Public Library welcomes children of all ages. Parents/caregivers are responsible for their minor child(ren)’s safety and behavior while in the library, whether present or not. Children under the age of ten (10) are required to always be accompanied by a caregiver when in the library.

Health

Library users are required to always wear clothing and footwear in the library.

Pre-packaged snacks and covered beverages may be consumed in the library in designated areas and during approved library programs.

Sleeping and hygiene activities such as shaving or bathing, which inhibit the fundamental purpose and use of the library and are not allowed anywhere on the premises. If a library user is found to have dozed off, an employee may check in to ensure their well-being. Limited hygiene resources can be accessed through the Library’s Mental Health Coordinator and in public restrooms.

Breastfeeding is allowed in the library.

Smoking and vaping are allowed outside of the library in pre-designated areas, which are located twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances and exits. Tobacco and vaping products must be stored in personal belongings and out of sight while inside the library.

What Happens When Library Guidelines are not Followed?

Enforcement: Library Suspension and Appeal

Anyone found to be engaging in behavior inconsistent with library policy or regulation will be asked to modify their conduct to remain in the library. Library users found to be in violation of library policy or regulation may be suspended from any or all Boise Public Library facilities, programs, or services and if necessary, the library may invoke legal action. Any individual who is asked to leave the library and refuses shall be considered trespassing and may be subject to arrest per Idaho Code § 18-7008. Library users who have been suspended may appeal the suspension within 15 days to the Library Director.

Following the suspension period, library users are welcomed back into the library so long as they conduct themselves pursuant to library policy and regulation.