

Patron Behavior Policy

Reviewed and Adopted by: Library Board of Trustees

Date of Origin: 10/29/2025

Revision:

Effective Date: 10/29/2025

The Meeker Public Library (“Library”) is designed to be a safe and comfortable place for all members of the public to use. This Patron Behavior Policy is intended to protect the rights and safety of Library patrons, to protect the rights and safety of staff members, and to preserve and protect the Library’s materials, facilities, and property.

As required by Colorado law, the Meeker Regional Library District (“MRLD”) Board of Trustees (“Board”) determines the rules and regulations for public behavior at MRLD facilities. These rules are necessary to protect the rights of individuals to use and enjoy the Library, MRLD property, materials, and services as they were intended; to conduct MRLD business without interference; to preserve MRLD materials and facilities from harm; and to ensure the rights and safety of Library patrons, staff, and volunteers. All patrons are expected to behave appropriately and not engage in inappropriate behavior at the Library.

For the safety and comfort of younger children or individuals who are unable to follow MRLD rules and look after themselves independently, a responsible adult or caregiver shall accompany the children or other individuals who require such guidance, while they are using the Library.

Definition and Scope

Disruptive Behavior is generally defined as:

1. Behavior that interferes with the normal operation of the Library.
2. Behavior that threatens the safety of a patron or staff member.
3. Behavior that infringes on a patron’s right to confidentiality
4. Behavior that creates an environment that is not conducive to learning.

Regulation of Behavior

The Library Director and other staff members to whom the Library Director delegates the authority (and whom are on duty at the time) shall have the responsibility for enforcing this Patron Behavior Policy and determining when behavior in the Library is inappropriate.

While utilizing the Library's facilities, materials, and services, the following actions are prohibited:

1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime or violation of federal, state, or local statutes or ordinances.
2. Viewing pornography.
3. Public urination or defecation.
4. Illegally carrying or possessing a firearm or dangerous weapons (exception: a member of law enforcement licensed to carry such weapons, acting in an official capacity).
5. Engaging in verbally or physically threatening or harassing behavior towards Library patrons, staff, or volunteers; disobeying a reasonable request or directive from Library staff; or engaging in disruptive or unsafe behavior.
6. Stealing, defacing, damaging, or inappropriately using Library property, including removing property from Library premises without adhering to official checkout procedures.
7. Being disruptive while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, whether legally possessed or otherwise.
8. Panhandling, soliciting, conducting surveys, or distributing materials without MRLD permission.
9. Using electronic cigarettes, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, or entering the Library in an intoxicated condition. Smoking is also not permitted within 15 feet of the Library.
10. Engaging in overtly sexual conduct.
11. Bathrooms are intended and restricted for use by one (1) person at a time, except when a personal attendant is required.
12. Neglecting to provide appropriate supervision of juveniles or individuals who are unable to follow Library rules and look after themselves independently.
13. Bringing in animals other than a trained “service” animal (under control) as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
14. Sleeping in Library buildings, including restrooms.
15. Bathing or doing laundry on Library premises, including restrooms.
16. Not wearing shoes or a shirt at all times while on Library premises.
17. Bringing in oversized items that cause an obstruction.
18. Having bodily hygiene so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons.
19. Not adhering to the hours of operation of the Library, including closing at the scheduled closing time.

If minors violate any of the above-mentioned behavior expectations, staff have the option to not allow the minor back in the Library for the rest of that day, or until they bring a parent/caregiver

into the building to speak to the director about their behavior in the Library. If behavior continues after a meeting staff have the option to suspend the patron.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the MRLD to provide a place that is comfortable for employees and patrons to work and use Library resources. In compliance with applicable federal and state laws, the Library will be a place that is free of any form of harassment, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, flirtations, propositions, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, graphic or suggestive comments, or requests for sexual favors.

It includes the display in staff work areas of sexually suggestive pictures or objects, including photographs or illustrations of nude or seminude figures. All employees are responsible for assuring that the workplace is free of sexual harassment and should promptly report incidents or possible incidents of sexual harassment to the Library Director. After investigation, any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary actions that range from counseling and education up to and including termination of employment.

Patrons are not permitted to sexually harass other patrons or staff members. Library employees may refuse to assist a patron if they believe that such assistance will require the employee to view printed or computer screen materials that the employee finds to be offensive or interprets as harassment. The Library employee must immediately ask a supervisor for assistance with the patron's request. Patrons who harass staff or other patrons will be asked to leave the Library and, if appropriate, their behavior will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Disciplinary Guidelines

The Library staff reserves the right to ask a patron to leave the Library for any of the reasons listed herein. Enforcement of these regulations may take the form of any of the following, depending on the severity of the misconduct, which will be determined by the staff on duty at the time. These disciplinary procedures are guidelines. The Library may implement any procedure listed, including an immediate ban from the Library premises at any time.

Minor Disruption: In the case of a minor disruption, the Library patron will receive a warning. If the behavior continues, the patron may be asked to leave the Library for a stated period of suspension.

Extreme Misconduct: In the case of any misconduct that, in the judgment of a staff member, is extreme, the offender may be given only one warning, may be ordered to leave the Library immediately for a stated period of suspension, or the police may be called.

Permanent Ban From the Library: Patrons who engage in repeated Disruptive Behaviors that interfere with others' use of the Library or the general operation of the Library or engage in behaviors that violate the law may be permanently banned from the Library by the Library Director. A written notice of permanent ban may be given to the patron.

A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be made to the Board within 30 days.

Neither the Library Director nor any other member of the Library staff is a professional medical or legal expert. All actions taken shall be subject to the best opinion of the Library Director and Library staff.