Code of Conduct Policy

Reference: Adopted by the Library Board (Original date unknown)
Revised and adopted by the Library Board: August 25, 2026

Code of Conduct

The Cloquet Public Library belongs to the residents of Cloquet who pay taxes to support it. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the City of Cloquet and the staff of the Cloquet Public Library to ensure that everyone, individuals and employees alike, enjoy a library that is clean, pleasant, safe, and free from inappropriate behavior and any threat of harm, indignity, or invasion of privacy or property.

While it is impractical to try to address every behavioral situation that may occur, the following rules and guidelines are for the protection of all who use the library, and to ensure that a safe and respectful environment is maintained for all library patrons. Whenever these rules do not cover a specific situation, library staff have the responsibility to make a decision that is in the best interest of the library. Staff may require a patron to leave the premises, call the police, or ultimately bar a patron from the library for non-compliance.

Dress Code: Appropriate clothing must be worn in the library. For patrons, this includes shoes, shirts, pants, shorts, or skirts.

Laws: No one may violate any city ordinance or state statute while within the library or on library grounds.

Alcohol/illegal drugs: Alcohol or illegal drugs may not be brought into the library, nor may anyone under the influence of either enter the library or be on the library grounds.

Tobacco Use: Smoking, vaping, and chewing tobacco are not permitted at any time in the library or on library grounds.

Disruptive behavior: Behavior that disturbs or interferes with patrons or library employees is considered disorderly conduct and is prohibited by Minnesota Statute 651.01. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- speaking or laughing loudly
- running or horseplay
- fighting
- public displays of affection
- making noise of any kind

- playing any audio equipment or device that can be heard by others
- unauthorized game playing
- using skateboards, inline skates, or bicycles at the outside entrance to the library or in the lobby of the library
- odors or activities which are offensive to normal sensibilities of other library users

Personal threats: No one may willfully annoy, harass, or threaten another person. This includes but is not limited to:

- conveying threats or any kind of physical force or harm
- using obscene, abusive, or racially-charged language
- engaging in sexual misconduct
- stalking, staring, or invading personal space

Unattended person: Patrons may not leave any unattended person in the library who seeks or needs personal assistance and where staff has a reasonable basis to be concerned for the safety of the unattended person.

Library patrons may not:

- intentionally deface, destroy, or steal library property or the property of other library patrons as prohibited by Minnesota Statue 609.541
- solicit, panhandle, gamble, sell, advertise, or petition for contributions or support
- enter the library with items too large to fit under a study chair
- enter the library with animals or vehicles, except as required by persons with associated needs
- fail to observe internet use guidelines and policy
- tamper in any way with library equipment

Anyone violating these rules of conduct is first warned by the library staff member in charge of the library at the time of the offense. If the conduct continues, the offender will be ordered leave the premises.

Staff members or security officers may expel patrons without warning in situations of serious, threatening or willfully malicious behavior.

Failure to observe these rules may lead to suspension or revocation of library privileges including the right to visit the building or grounds. Repeat offenders or persons ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing. Appeals may be submitted in writing to the Library Director. If the appellant doesn't agree with the Director's decision, an appeal may be made to the Library Board.

The library staff reserves the right to search any bags, briefcases, backpacks, etc. upon probable cause.