

Patron/Child Safety and Behavior Policy

The YCL strives to maintain a safe, encouraging, non-threatening environment for all patrons, especially minor children. While a code of conduct is difficult to enforce in South Dakota, all public nuisance laws, nonsmoking facility and public intoxication, and criminal activities as per South Dakota Codified Law will be strictly enforced by local law enforcement officers. This policy is enforced on all YCL property, inclusive of the interior facilities, grounds and parking lot. All patrons are expected to behave in a civil, respectful manner to staff, peers, and other library patrons.

Staff has the authority and responsibility to enforce this policy. Local law enforcement may be called if patrons are abusive or unresponsive to the restrictions prescribed by staff on a per incident basis. Staff is also required to complete a City of Yankton Incident Report/Disciplinary Action form at the conclusion of each incident.

Staff should never use physical force or abusive words in patron confrontations. Reasons for asking patrons to leave the premises include, but not limited to the following:

1. abusive behavior/obscene language directed at other patrons or staff
2. physical abuse of other patrons or staff
3. physical abuse of grounds, furniture or equipment
4. carrying firearms and dangerous weapons of any type, unless authorized by law
5. illegal activities
6. no proper attire
7. offensive body odor
8. excessive loudness, extreme outbursts or behavior shifts
9. leaving children under the age of six (6) years unattended
10. abuse of library rules/policies or general loitering
11. skateboarding.

Many of these behaviors are not specifically substantiated by state/federal law, but a South Dakota Attorney General's opinion upholds the rights of a public agency to enforce standard rules of conduct, and staff has the authority to judiciously gauge such conduct.

Based upon the circumstances of each incident, Staff may elect to impose any of the following restrictions upon the offender:

- 1 Offender restricted from using a part of the facility/equipment/service for the remainder of current day, with restrictions provided to the offender both verbally and in writing if and when possible;
- 2 Offender directed to leave the library for one (1) week, both verbally and in writing if and when possible;
- 3 Offender escorted out of library by local law enforcement with no admission for one (1) month, both verbally and in writing if and when possible
- 4 Offender banned for amount of time determined by director, City Manager, and City Attorney;
- 5 Extreme incident: Offender removed by police with no further admittance to library until further action is decided by Director, City Manager, City Attorney, and/or police. Options may include permanent ban from Library.