



Tom Green County Library Code of Conduct

Library staff is committed to providing quality customer service in an open, safe and inviting environment. The Tom Green County Library Code of Conduct is designed to ensure this atmosphere is maintained at all times.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in the expulsion of individuals from county premises and/or criminal prosecution.

In keeping with the county's commitment to customer service and the provision of a safe and hospitable environment, the following guidelines are set forth to define those activities that are inappropriate for our users. Library staff will enforce these guidelines in a consistent and impartial manner.

Prohibited behaviors under the Texas Penal Code:

- Recklessly damaging or destroying county materials or property
- Gambling in any form on county property. (Texas Penal Code § 47.02)
- Making offensive gestures, cursing or using obscene, abusive, profane or threatening language (Texas Penal Code § 42.01)
- Displaying or distributing obscene material. (Texas Penal Code § 43.22 and § 43.24)
- Engaging in acts of sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to, indecent exposure, sexual contact and sexual intercourse (Texas Penal Code § 21.07 and 21.08)
- Stalking other customers or staff including looking into an area, such as a restroom, that is designed to provide privacy to a person using the area (Texas Penal Code § 42.01 and § 42.072);
- Exhibiting signs of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances (Texas Penal Code § 49.02)
- Displaying firearms or other deadly weapons on county property in a manner calculated to alarm. Exemptions from this prohibition are recognized for Law Enforcement Officers and individuals licensed to carry handguns in accordance with state law (Texas Penal Code § 42.01 and § 30.06e)
- Engaging in physical altercations including assaults and fighting (Texas Penal Code § 22.01)

To ensure a safe and positive library experience for all, please do not:

- Engage in any activity prohibited by law.
- Enter or remain in library before or after posted hours of operation without express permission of Department Director's designee.
- Leave a vulnerable adult or child unattended.

- Smoke or use tobacco products; including electronic cigarettes.
- Enter into staff work areas not open to the public.
- Consume or possess alcoholic beverages on library premises.
- Requests for photography and filming will be accommodated, provided the activity does not interfere with routine library operations, including patrons' right to privacy and the ability to safely use the library for traditional purposes without disruption.
- Converse, talk in a loud and disruptive manner, bang on computer keyboards or disruptively use devices such as cell phones, tablets, music players, and other instruments. Sound generating or amplification devices employed by building staff or used by persons with the authorization of building staff are exempt from this prohibition.
- Use libraries for activities other than their intended purpose such as: loitering, sleeping, changing clothes, personal grooming, washing clothes or utensils, or preparing meals or food.
- Enter the library without shoes or clothing covering upper and lower torso.
- Introduce animals, insects or other living organisms into library without express permission of library staff, with the exception of service animals. Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA and are prohibited from the library.
- Use wheeled recreational devices such as skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, and scooters in or on library property. Mobility devices are excluded.
- Enter the library with hygiene conditions or unsanitary belongings that interfere with the use of the library by other patrons and staff.
- Enter the library with bicycles, large framed backpacks, bedrolls, or multiple bags or parcels. Personal belongings must not impede access to doors, services or materials, and the library is not responsible for unattended items.
- Solicit or proselytize on library property, except as authorized. No panhandling at any time.
- Move, alter or rearrange furniture or equipment or use furniture or equipment for other than its intended purpose.
- Engage in any other activity that disturbs normal activities and/or the environment for other users and staff.