

# STANLY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE OF CONDUCT

## **Purpose**

The Stanly County Public Libraries and History Center welcome every member of the community to use and enjoy our facilities, collections, programs, and services. Because libraries and museums are public places designed to serve people of all ages, races and creeds, this policy defines the expectations for behavior so we can provide a safe and comfortable place for all community and staff.

## **Statement of Policy**

Individuals who engage in any of the actions specified below will first be asked to cease the activity by library personnel. If, after being warned by library personnel, an individual continues to engage in the prohibited conduct, that individual will be asked to leave the public library premises. If, after being asked to leave the premises, an individual persists in the prohibited conduct and/or refuses to leave the public library buildings and grounds, the individual will be considered a trespasser and will be subject to arrest as such. At the discretion of library personnel, the Police Department will be contacted whenever necessary to enforce compliance with this code of conduct.

## **The Following behaviors and activities are not allowed:**

This applies to anywhere the Library provides service: on all Library property, at the History Center, in the community, through our website or social media, and by phone, chat, or email.

<p><b>UNSAFE OR DISRUPTIVE</b></p>	<p><i>Examples (including but not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavior likely to cause personal injury to self or others</li> <li>● Interfering with the free passage of staff or others</li> <li>● Use of hostile or aggressive language, gestures, or behavior</li> <li>● Loud talking or disruptive physical behavior</li> <li>● Using electronic or communication devices in a manner that is loud or disruptive</li> <li>● Having or consuming foods or beverages in unapproved areas</li> <li>● Wearing insufficient clothing or removal of clothing</li> <li>● Bodily hygiene or scent so strong as to be disruptive</li> <li>● Sales and solicitation (unless by the Library, Friends of the Library, Historical Society, or as determined by the library director)</li> <li>● Bringing animals other than fully trained service animals</li> <li>● Leaving personal property unattended, with staff, or in the pathway of others</li> <li>● Loitering or sleeping</li> </ul>
<p><b>INAPPROPRIATE USE OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES OR PROPERTY</b>  Using library privileges, materials, equipment, fixtures, furniture, buildings or grounds in any manner other than intended or stated in policies</p>	<p><i>Examples (including but not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities inconsistent with normal library uses</li> <li>● Actions that may result in damage to library property or the property of others</li> <li>● Locating signs, posters, bills, or other advertising devices on public property unless allowed by library director</li> <li>● Using another person's library card to log on to a computer or to print</li> <li>● Using another person's library card to check out materials without their knowledge or consent</li> </ul>

<p><b>ILLEGAL</b></p>	<p><i>Example (including but not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Threatening or harassing behavior towards staff or others</li> <li>● Assaulting staff or others</li> <li>● Sexual misconduct or harassment</li> <li>● Selling or using drugs</li> <li>● Consuming alcohol or possessing an open container of liquor, or entering a facility under the influence</li> <li>● Theft of or damage to library materials or items belonging to staff or others</li> <li>● Viewing or printing child pornography</li> <li>● Smoking, vaping, chewing tobacco, or the appearance of, in the facility or within 50 feet of the entrance</li> <li>● Possession of firearms or other weapons</li> </ul>
<p><b>NONCOMPLIANCE WITH STAFF</b>  Ignoring requests or disobeying the direction of a staff member or written policies</p>	<p><i>Examples (including but not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When asked to stop a prohibited behavior, failing to do so</li> <li>● When requested to leave for violating the Code of Conduct or any SCPL policy</li> <li>● When refusing to follow directions including failure to take shelter in an emergency</li> <li>● Failing to respond to security alarms and property search</li> <li>● Disabling computer filtering software</li> </ul>