

OUR VISION: The South Carolina State Library supports and inspires a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina's future brighter. **OUR MISSION:** We optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services.

The South Carolina State Library Board has adopted the following rules of conduct in order that the Library may provide to its users and staff a safe and welcoming environment and an atmosphere conducive to research, study, work.

The following activities and behaviors are not permitted in the library or on library premises. Prohibited harmful, disruptive, or destructive behaviors include but are not limited to:

1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that constitutes a violation of any federal, state or local statute or ordinance.

a. Engaging in sexual conduct or lewd behavior on library premises, as defined by South Carolina Code of Laws SECTION 16-15-365.

b. Use or under the influence of controlled substances on library premises as defined by South Carolina Code of Laws SECTION 44-53-110.

c. Smoking or other use of tobacco inside library buildings as defined by South Carolina Code of Laws SECTION 44-95-20.

d. Possessing, drinking, or under the influence of alcoholic beverages, as defined by Richland County Ordinance No. 2124-91, § 1, 7-24-91.

e. Stealing, mutilating or defacing library materials are violations of state law, S.C. Code 16-13-330, 331, 332, as amended, and violators may be subject to arrest, fine or imprisonment.

f. Altering, damaging, or modifying any library computer, computer system or network, computer software or program or data contained therein are violations of state law, South Carolina Code of Laws SECTIONS 16-16-20, 30, 40, as amended; and violators may be subject to arrest, fine, or imprisonment. Violating the library's Internet Use Policy. This policy is available in print and appears as the start screen at every workstation.

g. Intentionally seeking to view, access, procure, or disseminate obscene or pornographic materials, as defined by South Carolina Code of Laws SECTION 16-15-305

2. Engaging in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the library, or disturbs staff and library users. Such conduct includes but is not limited to use of any personal electronic equipment, including mobile phones, radios, audio players, etc., at a volume that disturbs others; abusive or threatening language or gestures; loud or boisterous behavior or talking.

3. Using library materials, equipment, furniture, fixtures or buildings in a destructive, abusive or potentially damaging manner, in a manner likely to cause personal injury to any person, or for other than library purposes, such as running a business, sleeping, bathing, shaving, washing hair, or changing clothes.

4. Soliciting, petitioning or distributing written materials or canvassing on in the library or on library premises for any purpose without express permission of the Library staff. Such conduct extends to any activities that impede access to or egress from a library building.
5. Interfering with the free passage of library staff members or library users in or onto library premises including, but not limited to, placing objects such as bicycles, skateboards, scooters, strollers, shopping carts or backpacks in such a manner as to impede access into a building or onto the premises.
6. Bringing bicycles and other means of transportation inside library buildings, including, but not limited to, vestibules or covered doorways, where no bicycle rack is provided.
7. Bringing animals other than service animals inside library buildings.
8. Violating the library's Internet Use Policy. This policy is available in print and appears as the start screen at every workstation.
9. Disturbing others in the library as a result of poor personal hygiene practices or offensive body odor. Entering library buildings with bare feet or bare chest, or attire that is inappropriate for conducting work in the library.

To ensure compliance with the South Carolina State Library's Rules of Conduct and other official library policies, the staff of the South Carolina State Library are authorized to verbally warn individuals when they are violating these official rules or policies. Any individual who persists in prohibited behavior after receiving a warning from library staff will be asked to immediately leave the library premises. If the individual refuses to leave the library, law enforcement officials will be summoned by library staff to address the situation. In any situation involving illegal activity on the part of an individual, State Library staff will notify law enforcement officials immediately to respond to the situation.

The rules of conduct can be changed at anytime, subject to verbal approval by the board of trustees.

In the case of repeated violations of the Rules of Conduct or an egregious act by an individual, the State Library may revoke/suspend the individual's privileges to use the State Library's facilities in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Library staff will complete and submit to Library Administration an "incident report" to describe and document any event which involves summoning law enforcement personnel to the library or results in the eviction of an individual from library premises.