

# 811. Theft, Defacement, or Alteration of Library Materials and Resources

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See also: Related Library policies on Circulation, Fines and Fees (801.2) and Overdue Materials (801 .3), Meeting Room and Lobby Use (806), Library Use (809) and Internet Use Policy (815).

## 811.1

The purpose of this policy is to protect Library property and to describe actions the Library may take against those accused of theft or defacement of Library materials, computer files, equipment or facilities. Library Policy 801, "Circulation and Library Cards" governs issues related to Library materials checked out and damaged or not returned.

## 811.2

Intentionally removing Library property or removing Library materials without checking them out is prohibited and may result in loss of Library privileges and may also require making restitution. Any other act defined as theft of Library materials under state or local law will be considered and treated as theft under this policy.

## 811.3

Intentionally defacing, mutilating, altering or damaging Library facilities, materials, digital equipment, files, or other property is considered material damage and may result in loss of Library privileges and may also require making restitution. Material is damaged when, in the sole discretion of Library staff, circulation of an item is prohibited due to its condition.

## 811.4

The Library may seek prosecution of those alleged to have intentionally removed, defaced, mutilated, or willfully damaged Library property to the extent provided by law.

## 811.5

Defacement of Library property to target a specific group based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability may be reported to the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom which maintains a database on challenged materials and hate crimes inside libraries. As appropriate, damage or defacement of library property may also be reported to ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, which works in close coordination with the Office for Intellectual Freedom to respond to incidents which can produce traumatizing impact to service communities.

Pertinent sections of the Iowa and Iowa City codes including, but not limited to: Library Materials and Equipment - Unpurchased Merchandise - Evidence of Intention. (§714.5 Code of Iowa), Parental Responsibility for Actions of Children (§613.16 Code of Iowa), Damage and Trespass to Property (§716, Code of Iowa), Detention and Search in Theft of Library Materials and Shoplifting (§808.12 Code of Iowa); Damaging, Defacing Property (8-5-4 Code of Iowa City).

Different aspects of crime related to computers are found in Code of Iowa §622.51A, §702.IA, §714.1, and §716.68.

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Revised: 12/18/2014

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