

## 809 Library Use Policy

---

See also related policies: Library Programming (702), Event Board (803), Meeting Room and Lobby Use (806), Discussion Rooms (810), Theft/Mutilation of Library Materials (811), Unattended Children (813), Copyright (814), and Internet Use (815). See also Iowa Code and Code of Iowa City, at the end of the policy.

### 809.1

The purpose of the Library Use Policy is to affirm the rights of all people to free and equal access to information and use of the Library and bookmobile without discrimination, intimidation, threat of harm or invasion of privacy. The Iowa City Public Library is dedicated to providing a friendly, courteous and respectful experience. The Iowa City Public Library strives to provide an enjoyable, clean and comfortable environment for all Library users.

### 809.2

The Iowa City Public Library is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state or local criminal law or ordinance is prohibited on Iowa City Public Library property. Examples of prohibited activities include but are not limited to:

809.201 Sexual, physical or other harassment including bullying youth or others on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

809.202 Possessing, consuming, selling or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or other substances.

809.203 Soliciting, panhandling or gambling.

809.204 Trespassing or entering Library property when suspended.

809.205 Impeding passageways through physical presence or with personal property.

809.206 Leaving personal property unattended. Items left unattended will be removed.

809.207 Fraudulent use of another person's Library Card or account number.

### 809.3

The Iowa City Public Library patrons and staff expect a comfortable and welcoming

environment. Mutual respect makes it possible for everyone to enjoy library materials and services. We ask Library users to be respectful of each other and behave in a manner that does not disrupt others or interfere with normal operation of the Library. Examples of prohibited disruptive behaviors include but are not limited to:

809.301 Sleeping, except for attended individuals.

809.302 Using threatening or abusive language.

809.303 Fighting or challenging to fight, running, shoving or throwing things.

809.304 Creating unreasonable noise. Using audible devices without headphones or using headphones set at a volume that disturbs others.

809.305 Failing to comply with a staff request, unauthorized entry in a staff area or failure to leave the library during emergencies and at closing time.

809.306 Campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey taking, posting notices, fundraising or selling, unless authorized by the Director or designee.

809.307 Displaying flyers, signs, or posters larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches or in a manner that disrupts other library patrons' ability to utilize library programs and services on Library premises (for example, displaying signs on sticks). Larger signs may be displayed by those reserving a meeting room.

809.308 Taking pictures or videotaping people, except at events, unless authorized by the Director or designee and by the patrons involved or parents if minors are present.

## **809.4**

The Iowa City Public Library will maintain a healthy and clean environment for all Library users. Considerate consumption of snack food or a covered beverage is allowed in public areas of the Library unless otherwise noted. Examples of prohibitive behaviors that are not conducive to providing a clean and hygienic environment include but are not limited to:

809.401 Using cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco or other tobacco.

809.402 Personal hygiene, odor or scent that constitutes a nuisance to others or poses a health risk.

809.403 Bringing animals inside Library buildings, with the exception of service animals and those allowed during special Library programs.

809.405 Introducing bed bugs or other pests via returned materials or personal belongings.

## 809.5

The Iowa City Public Library is responsible for protecting collections, equipment and property for present and future users. Intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing any materials, equipment or property belonging to the Library, another patron or staff member is prohibited.

## 809.6

Enforcement of the Library Use Policy will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner. Individuals may not be aware that their conduct is disruptive.

809.601 Library staff, Iowa City Police Department and/or other trained professionals will intervene to inform and stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

809.602 Individuals who fail to observe the Library Use Policy may be asked to leave the Library building and property, be suspended from the Library for a period of time, be subject to arrest or be subject to other lawful action.

809.603 Security cameras are located in public and staff areas of the Library to protect the safety and security of people, the building, and its contents.

### Iowa Code:

Disorderly Conduct, §723.4

Assault, §708.1

Intoxication, §123.46 3

Trespass, §716.7

Criminal Mischief, §716.1

Indecent Exposure, §709.9

Theft, §714.1

Unlawful Assembly, §723.2

Harassment of Public Officers, Employees, §718.4

Willful Disturbance, §718.3

Public Health: Smoke Free Air §641.153

Use of Computers, §622.51A, §702.1A, §702.14, §714.1, and §716.6B

Code of Iowa City:

Disorderly Conduct (8-5-1)

Aggressive Solicitation (8-5-2)

Damaging, Defacing Property (8-5-4)

Indecent Exposure (8-5-6)

False Alarms (8-5-7)

Animal Control (8-4-6)

Adopted: 4/25/1991

Revised: 05/25/1995

Revised: 01/28/1999

Revised: 12/10/2001

Revised: 1/27/2005

Revised: 01/08/2008

Revised: 01/27/2011

Revised: 01/24/2013

Revised: 11/21/2013

Revised: 03/24/2016

Revised: 11/16/2017

Revised: 07/23/2020

Revised: 06/14/2021

Revised: 08/22/2024

Revised 09/26/2024