



DORCHESTER
COUNTY **LIBRARY**

Patron Code of Conduct

Please follow these rules to keep the library safe,
comfortable, and welcoming for everyone.

1. Respect all library rules and policies.
2. Follow all federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.
3. Behavior, sounds, or personal hygiene that disrupt other patrons' access to library resources are not permitted.
4. Threatening, or harmful or potentially harmful behavior is not allowed.
5. Do not damage, destroy, or steal library, staff, or patron property.
6. Appropriate clothing, including shoes, is always required.
7. Cell phone use must not be disruptive to others.
8. Hot food and open beverages are not allowed. Drinks must be in sealed containers and snacks are allowed in designated areas.
9. Do not leave personal belongings unattended or ask staff to watch them.
10. Belongings may not take up excessive space, block access, or create hazards.
11. No loitering or excessive sleeping.
12. No rough-housing or climbing on library furniture.
13. Restrooms must not be used for improper purposes, including solicitation, meetings, bathing, shaving, or laundering clothing.
14. Soliciting, selling, surveying, or distributing materials is not allowed.
15. Unauthorized use of another person's library card is not permitted.
16. Animals are not allowed, except for animals used in Library programs and securely leashed, in-hand, working service animals. Patrons must not pet or interact or be encouraged to interact with service animals at any time.
17. Weapons are not allowed, except for use by law enforcement personnel in the performance of their duties.
18. Library staff are authorized to enforce these rules and can ask patrons to leave.

SAFE CHILD POLICY

- **Ages 0–5:** Responsible caregiver (16+) must stay within arm's reach.
- **Ages 6–9:** Responsible caregiver (16+) must stay in the building.
- **Ages 10+:** Must follow Library rules and be able to contact a caregiver.

The complete DCL Patron Behavior Policy is available upon request.

Approved by Dorchester County Library Board—May 19, 2026