

The logo for Dorchester County Library features a stylized fan shape composed of several overlapping, curved segments in yellow, purple, pink, and blue. Below the logo, the text "DORCHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY" is displayed in a serif font, with "DORCHESTER" and "COUNTY" in all caps and "LIBRARY" in a larger, bold, all-caps font.

DORCHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY

Patron Behavior Policy

1. General.

The Library assumes that all persons have a legitimate reason for being in the Library. To ensure that patrons of all ages find using the Library a positive experience, the Library has outlined basic rules of courtesy and responsibility that patrons are to follow. All patrons must abide by the Library's Patron Behavior Policy and may be subject to a search in the event that the theft detection alarm activates upon exit. Warnings are at the discretion of Library staff. Ejections and loss of privileges are possible. The Library expects everyone to cooperate with its policies.

a. Respect Materials and Equipment.

- (1) Damaging, destroying, or stealing any property belonging to the Library, Library staff, or patrons is prohibited.
- (2) Patrons may not take Library property or materials outside buildings without following established loan procedures or other authorization.
- (3) Patrons may not violate Library procedures or policies.

b. Respect Staff and Patrons.

- (1) Patrons may not leave personal possessions unattended on Library property or ask staff to watch their personal possessions.
- (2) Patrons must wear shoes and shirts in the Library at all times.
- (3) Behavior, sounds, or personal hygiene that disrupt other patrons' access to library resources are not permitted, including but not limited to:
 - a) fighting, challenging, or provoking violence;
 - b) loud talking and other noisy activities, including use of cell phones or other electronic devices; or
 - c) blocking or interfering with the free movement of individuals.
- (4) Loitering, excessive sleeping, or remaining at the Library for no obvious reason is prohibited. Patrons must be engaged in a Library activity such as reading, studying, doing research, or participating in a Library program.
- (5) Patrons may not violate federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations, including but not limited to:
 - a) disorderly conduct;
 - b) sexual activity;
 - c) possession of illegal weapons of any type;
 - d) possession, consumption or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs; or
 - e) use of tobacco or electronic smoking devices in Library buildings.
- (6) Soliciting, surveying, political campaigning, selling of any kind, or distributing or posting materials not specifically authorized by the Library Director or their designee is prohibited.

- (7) Patrons may not use libraries as childcare services.
 - (8) Cell phone use is permitted inside the Library as long as it is not disruptive to other patrons.
- c. Respect Buildings and Property.
- (1) Furniture, equipment, materials, and facilities must be used properly for their intended purposes.
 - (2) Patrons may not act in a manner that is potentially harmful to Library buildings, property, staff, or patrons, such as unauthorized use of another person's Library card for any purpose.
 - (3) Patrons may not bring in any items, backpacks, or other personal baggage that:
 - a) take up an excessive amount of space;
 - b) restrict the movement of individuals;
 - c) present potential harm, danger, or distraction; or
 - d) have no usefulness in the Library. (These include luggage, bedrolls, sports equipment, skateboards, skates or wheelies, scooters, and bicycles.)
 - (4) Patrons are not allowed to bring hot food or open drink containers inside the Library unless it is under the direction of Library staff. Drinks with lids are allowed inside the Library and snacks are allowed in designated areas.
 - (5) Improperly using restrooms, including solicitation, meetings, bathing, or shaving, is prohibited.
 - (6) Patrons may not use or monopolize Library equipment, materials, or facilities in an unauthorized manner that prevents others from using them, including but not limited to:
 - a) computers;
 - b) telephones;
 - c) printers; or
 - d) copiers.
 - (7) Patrons may not use non-public doors or any other non-public areas in an unauthorized manner.
 - (8) Patrons may not use parking areas or other property in an unauthorized, improper, or unsafe manner, including but not limited to using skates, skateboards, bicycles, and scooters. Vehicles parked improperly are subject to being towed at the owner's expense. Patrons walking dogs on Library property are responsible for waste removal.
 - (9) Animals are not allowed in Library facilities, except for service dogs and animals associated with Library programs.

Any of the above actions may result in the patron being asked to leave the Library. Those who persist and refuse to leave the buildings and grounds when requested will be subject to their behavior being reported to local police. Repeat violators are subject to loss of Library privileges.