

## **Winter Haven Public Library Behavior Policy**

### **LIBRARY BOARD POLICY 8-86**

Policy Title:	Behavior Policy
Adopted:	May 13, 1986
1st Revision:	April 23, 2001
2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision:	May 12, 2009

The following policy is developed to ensure appropriate use of the Winter Haven Public Library's services and facilities.

The actions of misconduct listed below are not permitted on Library property (inclusive of the main body of the Library, Coffee Shop, Book store, restrooms, gallery, parking areas and common areas) and will result in a verbal warning upon the first incidence, and possible removal from the Library for any subsequent occurrence.

- All tobacco use including smoking and chewing within any interior area of the Library building.
- Eating within the main body of the Library and/or the Book Store.
- Bringing an open container of beverage into the main body of the Library and/or the Book Store.
- Lying down or sleeping anywhere within the Library property.
- Soliciting or conducting surveys anywhere on Library property not authorized by the City staff.
- Making loud noise.
- Running, pushing, shoving or throwing objects.
- Using restrooms for bathing or shampooing, laundry, or changing clothes.
- Using cell phones and pagers in a manner that disturbs other visitors. Cell phone and pager audible ringers must be turned off while in the main body of the Library.
- Entering any interior area of the Library building barefooted, without a shirt, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene disruptive to the Library environment.
- Disruptive group activities.
- Bringing large articles into the main body of the Library that cannot fit under one Library chair.
- Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals, into any interior area of the Library building.

The following is strictly prohibited on Library property, and will result in removal (trespassing notice) from the Library. Trespassing notices are issued by the Winter

Haven Police Department for a period of not less than one year.

- Carrying firearms or dangerous weapons of any type, except by law enforcement officials.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Defacing or damaging Library property to include Library materials, furnishings, equipment, buildings and/or landscaping.
- Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other visitors, Library staff or volunteers, including stalking, staring, touching or using offensive language and obscene acts such as sex acts and indecent exposure.
- Removing Library materials from the premises without properly checking out.
- Any act which meets the definition of a crime under the laws of the State of Florida and/or the City of Winter Haven Code of Ordinances.
- Using abusive or vulgar language; harassment or hazing; or making an offensive gesture or display in a public place.

All bags and other articles are subject to inspection by Library personnel. The Library reserves the right to limit the size and number of items brought into the Library. Library staff will intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors.

Any person who is asked to leave the Library as a result of violating these regulations and refuses to do so, shall be considered a trespasser and may be subject to permanent barring and/or arrest.

Failure to comply with the Library's established standards of acceptable behavior may result in removal from the building and/or restriction of Library privileges.

**City of Winter Haven authorization provided by:**

David G. Greene  
David Greene, City Manager

6/3/09  
Date

T. Michael Stavres  
T. Michael Stavres, Community Services' Director

6.03.2009  
Date

Jennifer Kovac  
Jennifer Kovac, Library Services' Director

6.4.09  
Date

Brad Dantzler  
Brad Dantzler, Chairman of the Library Board

6/4/09  
Date