

LIBRARY RULES

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PATRONS OF THE FRANKFORT COMMUNITY AND CLINTON COUNTY CONTRACTUAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Revised and Approved by the Board of Trustees, March 8, 2021

The following rules apply to the buildings and grounds of the Frankfort, Michigan Road, Mulberry, and Rossville Libraries. Patrons are required to follow the rules so that everyone can enjoy the use of the library.

Any person who violates Rules 1-3 while in or on library premises will be immediately ejected and excluded from library premises without first being given a warning, will lose all library privileges, and be banned from the library for one year. The Library Director can increase the ban for up to a maximum of five years. The Board of Trustees can impose a lifetime ban.

1. Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance.

2. Directing a specific threat of physical harm against an individual, groups of individuals, or property.

3. Theft, damage, defacement, or destruction of library materials, equipment, or facilities.

Any person who violates Rules 4-8 while in or on library premises will be immediately ejected and excluded from library premises without first being given a warning. Any person so excluded shall lose all library privileges and be banned from library property for a minimum period of one month. The Library Director can increase the ban up to three years.

4. The use of obscene language or gestures,

The definition of obscene is: offensive to modesty or decency; lewd; disgusting; filthy; repulsive. Obscene can also be defined as language or gestures which convey a sexually explicit message or describe intimate bodily functions in a coarse or crude manner.

5. Engaging in sexual conduct.

This includes the physical manipulation or touching of a person's sex organs through a person's clothing in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification.

6. Being under the influence of any controlled substance or intoxicating liquor.

7. Intentionally displaying firearms during public meetings.

8. Utilizing library property or other property that has been brought into the library by the patron or another individual in a manner that creates a safety hazard for library patrons.

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Any person who violates Rules 9-16 while in or on library premises will be given one warning; A second similar offense will result in that person's immediate ejection and exclusion from all library premises for the duration of the day. A third similar offense by that person will result in a banning from library premises for the period of one month. The Library Director can increase the ban for a period of up to one year.

9. Conduct which can be reasonably expected to disturb other persons.

This means to harass or annoy others by interfering with their right of access, running, loud talking, fighting, swearing, throwing objects, and bullying.

10. Bringing bicycles or scooters inside the library.

11. Bringing animals inside library building (with the exception of service animals or as allowed at a library approved event), or leaving an animal tethered and unattended on library premises.

12. Use of tobacco including e-cigarettes on Library property.

The Frankfort Community Public Library and the Clinton County Contractual Library are tobacco free.

13. Solicitation unless authorized by the library in advance.

This means selling anything for personal gain or for a charitable cause, begging, panhandling, proselytizing or circulating petitions.

14. Any violation of "Children Visiting the Library" policy.

15. Eating and drinking in prohibited areas.

Food and covered beverages are permitted in library facilities except the genealogy area and within the book stacks. Food and drink in the theatre is only permitted under specific conditions.

16. Any violation of the "Computer, Internet and Safety Use Policy."

Any person who violates Rules 17-19 while in or on library premises will be excluded from the premises until the problem is corrected.

17. No shirt, no pants, no shoes.

18. Placing feet on furniture, tables, or chairs is prohibited.

19. Body odor that is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons.

Any person who violates Rule 20 while in or on library premises may be immediately ejected from library premises without first being given a warning.

20. Library patrons are required to follow the instructions of library staff. Refusing to follow directions of staff to include failing to take shelter in an emergency, to properly wear a face mask during a declared health emergency or any other directive.

The Library reserves the right to inspect any parcels, book bags, bags, etc., that are carried into or from the library facilities. Persons who violate these rules may have their photographs or video captured by the library staff. These images may be shared with law enforcement as deemed necessary. If persons excluded from library premises return without prior permission, they may be arrested for trespassing.

Library staff have the authority to administer and interpret these rules, including determining violations, and may take any reasonable actions they deem necessary to preserve, facilitate, or maintain the Library's operations or patrons' normal use or enjoyment of Libraries' services, resources, expertise, or spaces.

A person ejected for violating any of the above rules must leave the library premises immediately. The person may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Library Director. If the Library Director affirms the ban, the person can appeal the ban, in writing, to the Board of Trustees.