**Policy on Patron Conduct**

As a center for learning and education, the Camden-Jackson Township Public Library encourages the use of its facilities by the people we serve. We pledge to conduct our interactions with respect and to provide an atmosphere conducive to the effective delivery of library services to our patrons. In return, all visitors are asked to respect the Library’s mission and are asked to conduct themselves in a lawful, orderly, and considerate manner.

**Section 1: Conduct Governed by Federal, State, and Local Law**

Patrons must comply with federal, state, and local laws, including, but not limited to:

* Physical harm or threat of physical harm;
* Fighting;
* Selling, possessing, and/or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
* Defacing or intentionally damaging library property;
* Theft and/or attempted theft of library property or the property of patrons and staff;
* Abusive language;
* Sexual conduct and/or indecent exposure;
* Trespassing;
* Gambling;
* Smoking;
* Computer usage (please see our policy on Computer and Internet Usage)

Infractions of the law may result in a patron’s expulsion from the Library, criminal prosecution, or other legal action, as appropriate.

**Section 2: Conduct Governed by Camden-Jackson Township Public Library Policy**

Any behavior that interferes with library services and activities (including the ability of library staff to perform their work and the ability of other patrons to effectively use and enjoy the library facilities) is prohibited in all areas of the library building.

This includes, but is not limited to:

* Unauthorized removal or attempted removal of materials without proper checkout or other official library authorization; mutilation, defacement, or misuse of library property; obstruction of the use of library equipment, resources, or facilities.
* Entering the building without a shirt or other covering of the upper body or without shoes or other footwear.
* Furnishing false information to library staff.
* Disorderly or disruptive conduct such as noisy or boisterous activities that can be reasonably expected to disturb others.
* Trespassing in non-public areas or remaining in the library after closing or after being asked to leave.
* Leaving children under the age of seven (7) unattended on the library premises.
* Bringing animals in the library facility with the exception of service animals and animals brought in for special programs.
* Leaving an animal tethered and unattended on the library premises.
* Operating roller skates, skateboards, or other similar devices on the library premises.
* Bodily hygiene, including unsanitary personal conditions that is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to others.
* Using threatening, profane, or offensive language or gestures.
* Sleeping in or on library premises.
* Solicitation, including, but not limited to, solicitation for money, donations, or signatures.
* Posting or distributing material without permission.
* Eating or drinking, except in designated areas.
* Use of the furniture, library equipment, library materials, or restroom facilities in any manner or purpose other than what which is intended.
* Any behavior that is potentially unsafe or harmful to self or others, including failure to take shelter in an emergency as directed by staff.

**Section 3: Suspension of Library Privileges**

When possible, staff will first educate individuals about the applicable policies before taking stronger measures. Visitors whose conduct or activities violate this Policy on Patron Conduct will first be asked to modify their behavior. Further failure to comply with this policy will result in the suspension of library privileges and removal from the building. The length of said suspension of library privileges and eviction from the premises shall depend upon the nature and seriousness of the offense that required removal and any history or prior infractions of this policy or other library policies and any other relevant factors. A suspension may be indefinite if the offense is severe.

*Note: Library staff may not restrain or otherwise physically intervene in any situation that could potentially become violent.*

**Section 4: Subject to Search**

By entering the facility, all patrons consent to inspection of all bags, backpacks, purses, briefcases, luggage, packages, overcoats, and shopping bags by library staff upon request in order to protect and preserve the safety and security of property and people using the Library.