

Mission

The Library recognizes its unique position and responsibility to build community and cultivate opportunities for Kern County residents to participate fully in our society as an informed citizenry, by connecting people, resources, ideas, information, and technology.

The goal of the Library is to provide an environment where all visitors are welcome.

Purpose

County residents expect each of our libraries to be welcoming, clean, and safe for selecting materials, reading, researching, studying, writing, and attending programs and meetings.

Behavioral expectations protect the rights and safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff, as well as preserve and protect Library materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

Provide a Welcoming & Comfortable Environment

We ask Library visitors to be respectful of each other and behave in a manner that does not disrupt others or interfere with normal operation of the Library. Mutual respect creates an inviting environment for everyone to enjoy programs, materials, resources, and services, both in person and in virtual spaces.

Examples of disruptive behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Impeding or harassing visitors on Library property through:
 - a. Distributing literature, gathering signatures, soliciting contributions, or conducting surveys inside a Library facility or on Library grounds
 - b. Soliciting, panhandling, or gambling on Library property
 - c. Placing unauthorized tables or canopies on Library property
 - d. Bringing in more than two carryall bags. Bags may not exceed the size of a standard backpack, briefcase, or canvas tote bag. Belongings such as carts, bicycles, bedding, or sleeping bags may not be brought into the Library.
2. Disruptive behavior, such as creating loud noises, loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards.
3. Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using any communication devices in a manner that disturbs others.
4. Using profane, obscene, or abusive language, that is willful, malicious, or repeated, including epithets directed at race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other personal characteristics.
5. Failing to comply with a reasonable staff request to cease behavior that interferes with the effective functioning of the Library.

Maintain a Healthy and Clean Environment

The Library maintains a healthy, clean, alcohol- and smoke-free environment for all Library visitors. Considerate consumption of snack food or a covered beverage (See Food & Beverage Policy) is allowed in public areas of the Library unless otherwise posted.

Examples of behaviors that are not conducive to providing a clean and hygienic environment include, but are not limited to:

1. Entering barefoot, shirtless, or removing footwear or clothes while in the Library.
2. Emitting offensive body odor or other strong, pervasive odors caused by scented products that unreasonably interfere with staff or visitors' comfort, safety, use, or enjoyment of the Library.
3. Personal hygiene that poses a health risk through illness or infestation.
4. Smoking tobacco, e-cigarettes, or cannabis products inside Library branches or within 20' of any entryway.
5. Exhibiting signs of being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
6. Unreasonable use of restrooms including, but not limited to: smoking, soliciting, loitering, bathing of body other than hands and face, willfully clogging plumbing, looking into an area designed to protect privacy of another individual using the area, shampooing, shaving, personal grooming, changing clothes, or washing clothes or utensils.
7. Consuming food or beverages in a manner that creates an unclean environment, attracts insects or vermin, disrupts other customers, or is harmful to Library property. (See Food & Beverage Policy)

Ensure a Safe and Secure Environment

Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a violation of any federal, state, or local criminal law or ordinance is prohibited on Library property.

To maintain a safe and secure environment for Library staff and visitors, the following activities are prohibited. This list includes, but is not limited to:

1. Camping on Library grounds and parking lots.
2. Using wheeled conveyances inside the Library or on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including use of skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, motorized or non-motorized scooters, and shopping carts. These restrictions do not apply to ADA assistive devices or baby strollers.
3. Animals, other than disability service animals and those allowed during special Library programs, are not permitted inside Library branches. Emotional support animals are not permitted.
4. Wearing or displaying offensive images that infringe on visitors' use and enjoyment of the Library.

5. Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other personal items unattended and or blocking public areas. These unattended items may be removed by Library staff.
6. Neglecting to provide proper supervision of children (see Child Safety Policy).
7. Adults using children's area without a child or need for children's collections.
8. Theft or vandalism of Library property or the personal property of Library staff or customers.
9. Sleeping or lying on the floor or furniture or blocking aisles, exits or entrances.
10. Verbally, physically, or sexually harassing Library staff, visitors, or volunteers, including stalking, staring, lurking, or using obscene or threatening language.
11. Assaulting, fighting, or challenging to fight.
12. Displaying firearms or any other dangerous weapon in rude, angry, or threatening manner. Law Enforcement Officers and individuals licensed to carry handguns in accordance with state law are exempted.
13. Engaging in acts of sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to: offensive touching, indecent exposure, sexual contact, and sexual intercourse and/or exhibiting lewd and lascivious acts.
14. Depositing bodily fluids on property, including Library collections, equipment, and furnishings.
15. Trespassing in any of the following ways:
 - a. Entering the Library before opening or remaining inside the Library after closing.
 - b. Refusing to leave after being asked by staff.
 - c. Entering Library property while banned.
 - d. Entering staff-only areas.

Sanctions & Suspensions

The goal of the Library is to provide an environment where all visitors are welcome. We ask Library visitors to be respectful of each other and behave in a manner that does not disrupt others or interfere with normal operation of the Library.

The severity of any particular offense may require a higher level of suspension or legal action.

Welcoming & Comfortable Environment	Sanctions & Suspensions		
	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
<p>Impeding or <u>harassing visitors</u> on Library property through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributing literature, gathering signatures, soliciting contributions, or conducting surveys inside a Library facility or on Library grounds Soliciting, panhandling, or gambling on Library property Placing unauthorized tables & canopies <p><i>Kern County Code of Ordinances ("KCCO") 13.04.010 (using property for business or exclusive use without permission) Calif. Penal Code ("CPC") § 647 (c); CPC § 647 (e)</i></p>	<p>Verbal Warning: Visitor may correct behavior or leave library premises for the day</p>	<p>1 week</p>	<p>1 month</p>
<p><u>Personal Belongings</u> Visitors may bring in no more than two carryall bags. Bags may not exceed the size of a standard backpack, briefcase, or canvas tote bag. Belongings such as carts, bicycles, bedding, or sleeping bags may not be brought into the Library. <i>CPC § 370; CPC § 602.1(b); CPC § 647(c)</i></p>			
<p><u>Disruptive behavior</u>, such as creating loud noises, loud talking, screaming, or banging on computer keyboards. <i>CPC § 415(2)</i></p>			
<p>Using <u>audible devices</u> without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others. Using any communication devices in a manner that disturbs others. <i>CPC § 415(2)</i></p>			
<p>Using <u>profane, obscene, or abusive verbal language</u>, that is willful, malicious, or repeated, including epithets directed at race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other personal characteristics. <i>CPC § 415(2)</i></p>			
<p><u>Failing to comply</u> with a reasonable staff request to cease behavior that interferes with the effective functioning of the Library.</p>			

*After 3rd offense, more serious consequences will be considered.

Healthy & Clean Environment	Sanctions & Suspensions		
	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
<p>Entering <u>barefoot, shirtless</u>, or removing footwear or clothes while in the Library. <i>CPC § 370</i></p>	<p>Visitor must leave library premises for the day</p>	<p>1 week</p>	<p>1 month</p>
<p>Emitting offensive <u>body odor</u> or other strong, pervasive odors caused by scented products that unreasonably interfere with staff or visitors' comfort, safety, use, or enjoyment of the Library. <i>CPC § 370</i></p>			
<p>Personal <u>hygiene</u> that poses a health risk through illness or infestation. <i>KCCO 8.44.050</i> <i>CPC § 370</i></p>			
<p><u>Smoking</u> tobacco, e-cigarettes, or cannabis products inside Library branches or within 20' of any entryway. <i>KCCO 13.04.015 (J) & (R)</i> <i>Cal. Gov't Code § 7597</i></p>			
<p>Exhibiting signs of being <u>under the influence</u> of alcohol or <u>illegal</u> drugs <i>KCCO 13.04.015 (A)- alcohol</i> <i>CPC § 647(f); CPC § 647 (1)</i></p>			
<p><u>Unreasonable use of restrooms</u> including, but not limited to: smoking, soliciting, loitering, bathing of body other than hands and face, willfully clogging plumbing, looking into an area designed to protect privacy of another individual using the area, shampooing, shaving, personal grooming, changing clothes, or washing clothes or utensils. <i>KCCO 13.04.015 (R)</i> <i>CPC § 647(a)-(b); CPC § 647 (j)(1-3)</i></p>			
<p>Consuming <u>food or beverages</u> (See Food & Beverage Policy) in a manner that creates an unclean environment, attracts insects or vermin, disrupts other customers, or is harmful to Library property. <i>CPC § 370</i></p>			

*After 3rd offense, more serious consequences will be considered.

Safe and Secure Environment	1 st offense	2 nd offense	3 rd offense
<p>Camping or loitering on Library grounds and parking lots.</p> <p><i>KCCO G-9055 CPC § 647 (e), CPC § 647 (h)</i></p>	<p>Visitor will be asked to leave, or Law Enforcement /other Impact agency will be called</p>	<p>3 months</p>	<p>6 months</p>
<p>Animals, other than disability service animals and those allowed during special Library programs, are not permitted inside Library branches. Emotional Support Animals are not permitted.</p> <p><i>KCCO 7.08.015; Cal. Civ. Code §§ 54.1-54.2; CPC § 365.5(b)</i></p>	<p>Verbal Warning: Visitor may return <u>without pet</u> or leave library premises for the day</p>		
<p>Using <u>wheeled conveyances</u> inside the Library or on Library grounds, except in designated areas, including use of skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, motorized or non-motorized scooters, and shopping carts. (These restrictions do not apply to ADA assistive devices or baby strollers.)</p> <p><i>CPC § 602.1(b)</i></p>	<p>Verbal Warning: Visitor may correct behavior or leave library premises for the day</p>	<p>1 week</p>	<p>1 month</p>
<p>Wearing or displaying <u>offensive imagery</u> on clothing, buttons, badges, hats, or bags that infringe on visitors' use and enjoyment of the Library.</p> <p><i>CPC § 370</i></p>			
<p>Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any other <u>unattended personal items</u> and or blocking public areas. These unattended items may be removed by Library staff.</p> <p><i>CPC § 370; CPC § 602.1(b); CPC § 647c</i></p>			
<p><u>Sleeping</u> or lying on the floor or furniture or blocking aisles, exits or entrances.</p> <p><i>CPC § 602.1</i></p>			
<p><u>Minor children</u> visiting the Kern County Library are the responsibility of their parents or guardians. The Library does not serve <i>in loco parentis</i>. The Library cannot accept responsibility for the safety and supervision of minor children. (See Child Safety Policy)</p> <p><i>CPC § 273a.3</i></p>	<p>Library staff will promptly attempt to contact parents/guardian & be asked to pick up child immediately. If not picked up within 30 minutes during regular hours, law enforcement will be called.</p>		

	If child is not picked up within 15 minutes of the library closing, law enforcement will be called. (See Child Safety Policy)		
<p><u>Adults using children’s area</u> without a child or need for children’s collections. <i>CPC § 647 (h)</i></p>	Verbal Warning: Visitor may correct behavior or leave library premises for the day	1 months	3 months
<p><u>Theft or vandalism</u> of Library property or the personal property of Library staff or customers. <i>CPC § 484</i></p>	3 months	6 months	1 year
<p><u>Verbally, physically, or sexually harassing</u> Library staff, visitors, or volunteers, including stalking, staring, lurking, or using obscene or threatening language, including non-verbal attention that is willful, malicious, or repeated. <i>CPC § 646.9 (a); CPC § 243.4</i></p>			
<p><u>Assaulting, fighting, or challenging to fight.</u> <i>CPC § 415(1)</i></p>			
<p>Intentionally depositing <u>bodily fluids</u> on Library property, including Library collections, equipment, and furnishings. <i>CPC § 370</i></p>			
<p><u>Trespassing</u> in any of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering the Library before opening or remaining inside the Library after closing • Refusing to leave after being asked by staff • Entering Library property while banned • Entering staff-only areas <p><i>California Government Code, section 37359 CPC § 602.1</i></p>			
<p><u>Displaying firearms</u> or any other dangerous weapon in rude, angry, or threatening manner. Law enforcement officers are exempted. <i>KCCO 20.01.010, § 2, 1-24-17 CPC § 171b</i></p>	Permanent		
<p>Engaging in acts of <u>sexual misconduct</u>, including, but not limited to: offensive touching, indecent exposure, sexual contact, and sexual intercourse and/or exhibiting lewd and lascivious acts. <i>CPC § 243.4</i></p>			

*After 3rd offense, more serious consequences will be considered.