George H. & Laura E. Brown Library  
Problem Behavior Policy

George H. & Laura E. Brown Public Library provides information and resources to enrich lives and strengthen communities through innovative services within and beyond our walls. In order to achieve this, a Behavior Policy has been established by the Library Board of Trustees. This policy has been created to ensure the safety and rights of our customers. Customers not in compliance with the Library’s Behavior Policy will be asked by Library staff to leave library property, and, when appropriate, members of the staff will contact the police.

A. Disruptive Behavior

Behavior that interferes with other customers' rights to use the library, including excessive noise in designated quiet areas, the odor of a customer and/or the personal belongings of that customer constituting a nuisance to others, and unapproved vigorous physical activity.

B. Illegal Behavior

Violations of Federal or North Carolina law or local municipal ordinances are absolutely prohibited, including, but not limited to: fighting, the use of obscenities, verbal abuse, and other forms of disorderly conduct, theft, property damage or destruction, public indecency, or intentionally failing to pay a library fine or return library property.

All applicable codes, ordinances, and regulations of municipalities where a building is located shall be adhered to during the use of such premises.

Members of the library staff will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of violations.

C. Building Regulations

The Library Board of Trustees governs the use of space in library buildings. Unacceptable behavior on the grounds and in the building also includes but is not limited to the following prohibitions: smoking (including e-cigarettes) or tobacco in any form, interference with the free ingress and egress to the building, solicitation, peddling, panhandling, carrying a weapon of any kind, and sleeping. Shoes and shirts must be worn.

D. Children at Closing

Children have the same rights as adults to be in the library. They must follow library rules of behavior. If they transgress any of the above rules, their parent or guardian may be called to intercede. If a child's behavior necessitates them leaving the library, and this leaving could pose a risk to the child, the local law enforcement agency may be called as well as the North Carolina Department of Social Services.
Suspected child abuse or neglect will be reported to the North Carolina Department Child Protective Services.

Members of the library staff will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency for children left after the closing hours.