



Lafourche Parish Public Library Disruptive Behavior Policy

PURPOSE

The Lafourche Parish Public Library strives to ensure all library customers and staff a safe and enriching library experience as well as environment.

When the behavior of a library customer creates a disruption, which interferes with the use of the library and its services by other patrons or interferes with a staff member's completion of his or her duties, this is considered disruptive conduct.

Some of the incidents that constitute disruptive behavior are: loud talking, fighting, throwing objects, boisterous behavior, obscene language, damaging library property, etc.

PROCEDURE

The following steps will be taken:

1. Issue a verbal warning, with the statement that the person(s) will be asked to leave if the behavior in question does not cease.
2. Request that the person(s) leave the library.
3. If the person refuses to leave the premises, call the police.

Some behavior is illegal and should be handled in a different manner. For the following incidents a supervisor needs to be informed immediately and the police notified: assault, criminal mischief, drunken/disorderly conduct, harassment, public lewdness, theft, and trespassing.

Any person who threatens library patrons or staff with harm, causes property damage, or whose actions cause disruption of normal library staff and customer routine will have criminal charges brought against him or her and/or that person will be banned from any/all library branches and headquarters.

Library staff and police officers may ask a customer to leave the premises with or without prior warning, depending upon the seriousness of the violation(s). The length of the eviction shall depend upon the nature and seriousness of the offense that required removal, the extent of damage or disruption caused, any documented history of prior infractions against other library policies, and other relevant circumstances. The time period for the ban will be determined by the Library Director.

When possible, any customer who has been evicted and/or prohibited from returning to the library shall be provided with written notification indicating the reasons for the ban, the time period of the ban, and the appeals process.

When a minor has been banned for 30 days or more, the Library Director may attempt to contact the child's parent or legal guardian by telephone and/or send a certified letter to the child's parent/guardian.

Any customer whose library privileges have been suspended has the right to appeal the decision to the Library Director. A customer may appeal in writing to the Library Director or in person only after scheduling an appointment with the Director. The Director will bring the appeal to the Lafourche Parish Library Board of Control within 10 days. This board may or may not shorten, modify, or terminate the banning period if the information submitted by the individual, via the Library Director, warrants such modification. Until such time as a determination has been reviewed, modified and/or reversed on appeal by the Lafourche Parish Library Board of Control, a banned individual may not enter or remain on any library premises including any/all branches and headquarters.