Approved by Chili Public Library Board of Trustees: May 19, 1998 Revised 6/1999, 10/2000, 6/2004, 3/2006, 1/2007, 3/2008, 12/2016, 6/25/19, 6/22/21, 4/25/23, 3/25/25

Code of Conduct Policy

The Chili Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted the Chili Public Library Code of Conduct in an effort to ensure the comfort and security of patrons and library staff, as well as to protect and preserve the library building, collection, equipment and grounds.

These rules will be firmly enforced by the Chili Public Library staff. The librarian on duty shall determine what constitutes behavior inconsistent with library operations regardless of gender, age or other social classification. Patrons are urged to report disruptive behavior immediately to library staff so that appropriate steps can be taken. In order to accomplish this, all library patrons are requested to comply with the rules below.

A parent/guardian is required to provide proper supervision and control over the activities of their children at all times.

- Children under age eight must not be left in the Children's room without a parent/guardian.
- Children under age twelve must be accompanied by an adult in the library.
- Chili Public Library staff and board will not assume responsibility for minors remaining on library premises after closing.
- If a minor is not picked up within 15 minutes after closing, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office will be notified to report an abandoned child.

Any disturbance, whether in person, online, or by phone that interferes with the normal use of the library is prohibited. Examples of such disturbances may include:

- Abuse of library cards, computers (hardware and software) and/or policies.
- Harassment and/or profanity directed toward library patrons or staff.
- Illegal, disruptive, disorderly or hazardous behavior.
- Behaviors disruptive to other patrons or staff, including but not limited to, loud or distracting sounds, loud conversations, obscene language, or making gestures or motions (including staring and stalking).

To maintain proper use of library resources and facilities, patrons must refrain from:

- Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Smoking is prohibited inside the library and within 100 feet of its entrances. This restriction extends to all traditional tobacco products, electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes"), vaping devices, marijuana, chewing tobacco, herbal cigarettes, and any other electronic nicotine delivery systems.
- Sleeping, loitering and/or soliciting.
- Use of restrooms for other than their intended purpose.
- Using Chili Public Library property inconsistent with its intended purposes.
- Entering without proper attire, including shoes and shirt.
- Lack of personal hygiene.
- Compensated services (including for profit tutoring).
- Leaving personal belongings unattended at any time or having the belongings obstruct aisles, walkways or seating for other patrons.

The Chili Public Library is not responsible for personal belongings left in library materials or on library property.

Patrons will be held responsible for any damage to library property or equipment.

Bicycles, scooters, and hoverboards are not permitted inside the library. Bicycles are to be stored in the designated bicycle rack located outside the library.

Service animals are welcome in the library. Pets are not permitted in the library. A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. A service animal is not a pet. An “Emotional Support Animal” and/or an animal which provides a person with emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship is considered to be a pet and therefore not permitted inside the library. An “Emotional Support Animal’ does not constitute a “service animal”

All patrons must comply with the Chili Public Library Internet Policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Consequences of Misconduct

Any person who refuses to adhere to the Rules of Conduct Policy will be asked to leave library premises. Law enforcement officials may be called to enforce compliance with such a request. Incident reports will be completed to document any violations of library policies.

A violator of this policy will be barred from entry into all library facilities for a period of time commensurate with the nature of the violation, at the sole discretion of the library director or the Chili Public Library director’s designee. A person will be considered in violation of this policy if they refuse to comply with the directions of the staff, or if they repeatedly demonstrate behavior that is not permitted in the library.

The following penalties will be generally imposed, subject to the discretion of the library director or the director's designee:

- Minimum penalty for first offense: Excluded for the remainder of the day.
- Minimum penalty for second offense: excluded for up to one week.
- Minimum penalty for third offense: excluded for up to one month.
- The Library Director may exclude a habitual or severe offender for a longer period of time, or permanently.

Statement of Inclusivity

Diversity is a fundamental value of Chili Public Library. It is the goal of Chili Public Library to create an environment that appreciates, acknowledges, encourages, and celebrates differences by functioning and communicating effectively and respectfully within the context of varying beliefs, behaviors, orientations, identities, creed, mental/physical disabilities, and cultural backgrounds. The Chili Public Library values and provides services to everyone regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, national origin or citizenship status, physical or mental disability, age, or sexual orientation. In support of these principles, the library welcomes all members of the community and seeks to provide a safe and inclusive space for all visitors and employees, and upholds the rights of all individuals to use its facilities without fear of harassment or intimidation. The library makes decisions regarding our collection, programs, and policies that both promote a sense of belonging and embrace our uniqueness as individuals. The Chili Public Library creates and maintains a working environment that embraces diversity among employees and strives to deliver inclusive service to its staff and the community. We believe libraries are for everyone.