



## Crawford County Public Library

203 Indiana Ave.  
English, IN 47118

Tracy Underhill, Library Director

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### Library Patron Behavior Policy

The Library Board of Trustees and the Library Staff strive to create a safe and positive environment for those visiting our library. A public library is a place to gather and share information as well as serve as a community meeting house. The library hosts a variety of activities for varied ages and interest groups and all visitors deserve the right to equally enjoy themselves.

**The library reserves the right to require anyone who engages in disruptive or destructive behavior to leave the premises. The library may also restrict privileges for a specified period of time or ban the individual from the library property permanently.**

\*Those patrons either barred from the library or refuse to leave will be subject to arrest by the police in accordance with IC 43-2-2 entitled "Criminal Trespass".

The library staff and director will maintain a peaceful environment in a fair and reasonable manner. **If every effort has been made by the staff to solve the disruptive issue or any staff or public member feels their safety is jeopardized in any way, the police will be contacted.**

#### Disruptive/Prohibited Behavior

- Not wearing shoes or shirt within library premises
- Abusive or obscene language or gestures. Includes language or gestures that convey a sexually explicit message or are conveyed in a coarse or crude manner; any language that verbally abuses another individual including staff and the public; coarse or obscene language displayed on clothing.
- Fighting: Includes any type of fighting whether real or pretend either inside the library or outside of the building.
- Loitering: defined as a person who wanders around the library, both inside and out, without apparent legitimate reason for visiting the library.
- Campaigning, petitioning, survey taking, soliciting or selling is not allowed unless authorized by the Director or Library Board of Trustees.
- Consume or be under the influence of illicit or intoxicating substances
- Entering or remaining upon library premises with poor body hygiene so offensive that it constitutes a nuisance and prevents patrons from enjoying the library
- Bringing animals into the library except for service animals, animals for scheduled library programs or with special permission from the library director
- Unattended children: See our Unattended Child Policy



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### Unattended Child Policy

The Crawford County Public Library welcomes the use of its facilities by children of all ages. Our services are offered to make visiting the library a positive experience as well as foster a love of books and reading. The safety of children visiting the library is a serious concern for the staff.

- All children younger than age 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. A busy library is not a secure environment for a child to be left alone.
- The Crawford County Public Library asserts that it is the parent's responsibility to provide childcare; the library staff must not be used for this purpose.
- The Library in no way assumes any responsibility for any child left unattended in or outside the building.
- Parents are responsible for monitoring their child's activities and regulating their behavior.

If a child is being disruptive, is habitually left unattended, or is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm, the library staff will intervene. If the behavior is not modified, library staff may ask the adult and the child to leave the library.



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### Firearms in the Library

All individuals possessing firearms on library premises must comply with state and federal laws and also must comply with the following provisions. Failure to comply with these rules will result in immediate removal of said person from library premises and may result in confiscation of the firearm and/or prosecution to include restricted privileges or banning from library property.

- Handgun Possession – IC 35-47-2-1 – No person may possess a handgun on library property or inside any library building (“Library Premises”) unless they also possess a valid permit to carry a handgun in the State of Indiana. Any person carrying a handgun on Library premises must provide proof of license upon request by library personnel.
- Criminal Recklessness – IC 35-42-2-2 – All firearms carried on Library premises must be secured in a manner which prevents potential injury or serious bodily harm to any other person or to property.
- Criminal Recklessness – IC 35-42-2-2 and Pointing a Firearm – IN Code 35-47-4-3 – No person may point, brandish, or display a firearm in any manner that is intended to threaten or intimidate any library patron, library staff member or library service provider.
- Criminal Recklessness – IC 35-4-2-2 – Persons may not carry a firearm in any manner which violates Indiana’s Criminal Recklessness Statute.
- The Library also prohibits the intentional display of any firearm during any public meeting conducted on Library premises.

\*Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees February 28, 2012

\*Updated October 26, 2016