

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Trustees and the staff at Westbank Community Library and Laura Bush Community Library hope that the people who use our libraries will find the facilities a safe and welcoming place to be. This Code of Conduct sets out example behaviors but is not meant to be comprehensive.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Our libraries provide for a mix of activities, both quiet and noisy. On a busy day, the variety of activities within proximity of each other is likely to result in sharing conflicts. We expect library users to curb the things they are doing that are disturbing to people around them, like

- making excess noise or disturbing the peace
- making loud or long phone calls
- using profanity
- taking up more than a fair share of space, cluttering the aisles, or lying down to sleep
- soliciting, proselytizing, political campaigning, handing out flyers, or panhandling
- repeatedly interrupting others or correcting the behavior of others
- being intoxicated from alcohol or drugs
- engaging in public displays of affection or sexual conduct
- emitting strong odors (caused by poor hygiene, excessive use of cologne, or foods)
- harassing others, including sexual harassment
- displaying images of a sexual or inflammatory nature that may be offensive to persons of ordinary sensibilities or harmful to children

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

Our libraries belong to the community, and their care and upkeep is a responsibility shared by all who use them. Our expectations include

- no smoking or vaping on library property
- no messy foods, especially at the computers
- having lids on drinks
- handling materials with care
- using equipment and furniture as it was intended
- cleaning up after yourself
- reporting all accidental spills or damage
- no bathing in the restrooms

SAFETY

Safety is of utmost concern at our libraries, and those concerns include any action by any person in the library which may cause harm to that person or to anyone else.

- All children are the responsibility of their parents, not the library.
- Children 6 and under need to be with an adult. Children 7 and 8 must have an adult in the library.
- Vulnerable adults with special needs must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.
- Program access may be limited by age.
- Service dogs must be under the control of the handler. Non-service animals are not permitted except as part of library educational programming.
- Obey safety notices, including parking signs and requests from staff.
- No running, climbing, or throwing things.
- Keep your belongings with you.

LIBRARY BANS

Library users may be asked to leave the library temporarily or permanently if their behavior is in breach of our Code of Conduct or the law. Individuals failing to leave when requested by library staff or by a law enforcement officer may be charged with criminal trespass under Texas Penal Code 30.05. Criminal activities that occur on library property will be reported to law enforcement. In most situations, an individual banned permanently from the library may appeal the ban to the Board of Trustees (BoardPresident@westbanklibrary.com). However, a library user who commits criminal acts on library property may be permanently banned from both library locations and such evictions will not be subject to appeal.

INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT

Internet access at Westbank Community Library and Laura Bush Community Library is provided as a public service to allow access to information beyond our collections. The Library can only assume responsibility for the information provided on the Library's website.

USER RESPONSIBILITY

- **Evaluation of material obtained from the Internet is the responsibility of the user.** Not all sites on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information.
- The Library is not responsible for loss of personal files stored on public computers or the loss of personal storage devices left behind.
- **The Library implements Internet filtering on our computers as a condition of funding.** It is configured to filter at the lowest level, which should block most explicit porn and child porn. Some Internet sites carry sexually explicit information and other information resources that library visitors may find controversial or inappropriate. The Library is not liable for exposure to such information. Our **Code of Conduct** prohibits the displaying of images of a sexual or inflammatory nature that might be offensive to others or harmful to children.
- **Restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.** The Library does not have the right or responsibility to act in *loco parentis*. For more information on children and the Internet, see www.ncjrs.gov/internetsafety/
- **The Libraries' wireless connection is unencrypted and unfiltered.** Use of the wireless connection is done at the patron's own risk. Patrons using the service agree to hold the Libraries harmless from any claim or loss arising from, or related to, any instance of hacking or other unauthorized use or access into the patron's computer, as well as any damages related to viruses, identity theft, spyware, plug-ins, or other Internet-borne programs.

APPLICABLE LAW

§43.22 of the Texas Penal Code prohibits the intentional or knowing display of an obscene photograph, drawing, or visual representation, while being reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

§43.24 of the Texas Penal Code prohibits the display of harmful material, defined in the law similarly to indecent material under federal law, if the displayer is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

US Code Title 17 governs the copying (including downloads) of copyrighted material. Infringements of the law may result in suspension or revocations of library privileges and notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

DEVICES

Using our computers:

- Login with your library card number and phone number or obtain a guest pass at the Information Desk.
- Usage is limited to 60 minutes at a time per day for guest pass users.
- Printing costs 5¢ per page for black-and-white printouts or 50¢ per page for color. Pay for your prints at either desk, and a member of staff will release it to the printer for you.

Using your own device:

Our wireless Internet requires no password. The Libraries are not responsible for failure of a device to connect to the service. Library staff will not change the settings on patron equipment. At this time, there is no printing available from personal devices.

The Library reserves the right to terminate the Internet access privileges of any person not in compliance with this agreement. Serious abuses may result in a temporary or permanent ban from the library. Also see our *Code of Conduct*.