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9 **HARLINGEN PUBLIC LIBRARY**
10 **PATRON BEHAVIOR POLICY**
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12 The Harlingen Public Library provides dynamic and engaging services for a diverse and
13 constantly evolving community. The Harlingen Public Library Board has adopted the following
14 policy so that the Library may provide an atmosphere conducive to appropriate use of the
15 services and facilities.

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17 The following are prohibited on Library property:

- 18 ▪ Selling and/or soliciting for money, unauthorized items, or services.
- 19 ▪ Distributing or posting literature without prior approval by the Library Director or
20 designee.
- 21 ▪ Possessing or consuming illegal drugs, possessing drug paraphernalia, or being
22 under the influence of drugs.
- 23 ▪ Alcoholic beverages are allowed only within the Meeting Center. Sale of alcohol is
24 prohibited. Alcohol consumption or distribution by minors is prohibited. All laws
25 governing alcoholic beverage will be enforced.
- 26 ▪ Smoking or other uses of tobacco within the designated area of the library property.
27 Use of devices that simulate smoking – with or without vapors; with or without
28 odors. This includes devices commonly referred to as “e-cigarettes” or “electronic
29 cigarettes.”
- 30 ▪ Use of another person’s library card and/or account information to access library
31 services. (See also Library Card Policy)
- 32 ▪ Chewing gum, consuming food or drinking beverages within the library building.
33 Water is permitted except at computer stations. Reasonable exceptions will be
34 made for persons with infants and toddlers.
- 35 ▪ Sleeping, running, pushing, shoving, or horseplay.
- 36 ▪ Not being fully clothed (such as no shoes, no shirt, no diaper, etc.) Attire with
37 offensive or provocative content (text or graphics) is not appropriate.
- 38 ▪ Putting feet or legs on the furniture or standing on tabletops, standing on chairs, etc.
- 39 ▪ Grouping more than 4 people around a study table in the public area. Exceeding the
40 posted limit of occupancy in a study room or any of the meeting room facilities or
41 any inappropriate use of a study room or of meeting room facilities. Turning lights
42 off or inappropriate use of group study rooms.
- 43 ▪ Moving of furniture anywhere in the Library not authorized by Library staff.
- 44 ▪ Bringing animals or pets into the library Only service animals covered under the
45 American Disabilities Act and Texas state law may be brought into the library
46 unless approved by the Library Director or the Library Director’s
47 representative. All such animals must remain under the control of their
48 handlers. The service animal’s handler is responsible for any damage or harm the
49 animal may cause.
- 50 ▪ Any loud, unreasonable, and/or disturbing noises created by persons, such as
51 talking, singing, crying, yelling, playing a musical instrument, loud conversations
52 on mobile phones, and/or any noise producing devices.

- 53 ▪ Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any Library, patrons, or employee's
- 54 property.
- 55 ▪ Taking library materials into the restrooms.
- 56 ▪ Removing library materials from the premises without authorization through
- 57 established lending procedures.
- 58 ▪ Misuse of restrooms. (No changing of clothes, bathing, washing of hair, shaving,
- 59 nor washing of clothes, is allowed.)
- 60 ▪ Skateboarding, roller skating, rollerblading, bicycling. (Bicycles must be secured to
- 61 the bicycle rack.)
- 62 ▪ Chaining or fastening bicycles or other modes of transport to any part of the library
- 63 building other than the provided bicycle rack.
- 64 ▪ Bringing bedrolls, blankets, frame back-packs, large duffel bags, or similar items
- 65 into the library building. The Library staff reserves the right to inspect the contents
- 66 of all bags, purses, briefcases, and backpacks, etc. for library materials when alerted
- 67 by the library's book security system. If the detection system breaks down or there
- 68 is a general power failure, all bags, briefcases, etc. of persons exiting may be
- 69 inspected by library staff.
- 70 ▪ Placing oneself or personal belongings so that it interferes with the free passage of
- 71 library patrons or staff or leaving personal belongings unattended.
- 72 ▪ The Harlingen Public Library staff has been instructed not to hold or watch over
- 73 any personal belongings.
- 74 ▪ Unauthorized entrance into non-public or staff areas.
- 75 ▪ Unauthorized use of a library business telephone or a staff computer by a patron.
- 76 ▪ Possession of weapons except as permitted by law. Library staff has the discretion
- 77 to call the Harlingen Police Department if they see potentially dangerous items on a
- 78 person or onsite.
- 79 ▪ Engaging in disorderly conduct, disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior, such as
- 80 fighting or challenging to fight, or using offensive or provocative words.
- 81 ▪ Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of patrons or library staff. Harassing
- 82 behavior is deliberate and/or repeated behavior that is not welcome and creates a
- 83 hostile environment. Some examples of harassment, but are not limited to, include
- 84 spitting, constantly staring at or following another person, using offensive, vulgar,
- 85 or abusive language or gestures.
- 86 ▪ Kissing, petting, or any other inappropriate physical conduct, etc.
- 87 ▪ Indecent exposure or voyeurism.
- 88 ▪ Using obscene language or engaging in obscene or abusive acts.
- 89 ▪ Threatening the safety or rights of another person in the Library or interfering with
- 90 another person's right to use the Library or with the Library staff's performance of
- 91 their duties.
- 92 ▪ Patrons whose bodily odor is offensive so as to interfere with other patron's use of
- 93 the Library shall be required to leave the building.
- 94 ▪ Entering the Courtyard fountain water pool or permitting children or animals to do
- 95 so.
- 96 ▪ Any other illegal acts or conduct in violation of Federal, State, or local law,
- 97 ordinance or regulation.
- 98 ▪ Harlingen Public Library maintains the right to remove from the library facility any
- 99 individual who contributes to a disruptive, unsafe, or unwelcoming environment.

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101 Failure to comply with the Patron Behavior Policy may result in penalties up to and
102 including the exclusion from the Library for the day, permanently or in arrest. Theft of
103 Library, patron, or employee property is a serious offense and will result in permanent
104 exclusion from the Library and arrest. Communication of threats, physical violence or

sexual offenses will result in permanent exclusion or in arrest. Any person who is asked to leave the Library as a result of a violation of these guidelines and refuses to do so shall be subject to permanent exclusion from the Library and/or arrest. Any person who enters or remains on the Library premises during the period in which he/she has been banned from the Library will also be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.

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