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2 DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION
3 proposed: Ruben Rendon, Library Director
4 amended: Dauna Campbell, Library Director
5 adopted: the Harlingen Public Library Board 03/03/1997
6 Revised: 02/03/ 2014,09/14/2015, 09/11/2017, 12/06/2021
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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 services
15 and facilities. The public is required to comply with this policy.
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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 using illegal drugs, possessing drug paraphernalia, or being under the
22 influence of drugs.
- 23 ▪ Consuming alcoholic beverages on library premises, unless approved by the Library
24 Director in accordance with state and federal laws and local ordinances. Sale of
25 alcohol is prohibited. All laws governing alcoholic beverages will be enforced.
- 26 ▪ Smoking, vaping, or other uses of tobacco or nicotine within the designated area of
27 the library property, including use of e-cigarettes.
- 28 ▪ Using another person's library card and/or account information to access library
29 services. (See also Library Card Policy.)
- 30 ▪ Chewing gum, consuming food, or drinking beverages in an uncovered container
31 within the library building. Beverages in covered containers are permitted except at
32 computer stations. Reasonable exceptions will be made for persons with infants
33 and toddlers.
- 34 ▪ Sleeping, running, pushing, shoving, or horseplay.
- 35 ▪ Entering or remaining on library premises without wearing shoes or sufficient
36 clothing. Attire with offensive or provocative content (text or graphics) is not
37 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 meeting room is prohibited.
41 Inappropriate use of a study room or of meeting room, including turning the lights
42 off in a study room, is prohibited.
- 43 ▪ Moving 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 ▪ Disturbing others because of loud noises, including talking, singing, crying, yelling,
51 playing a musical instrument, loud conversations on mobile phones, and/or any
52 noise producing devices.

- 53 ▪ Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any library, patron's, 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 ▪ Misusing restrooms. Changing or washing clothes, bathing, washing hair, and
59 shaving are not permitted.
- 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 items into the library building that cannot be carried in a single trip or
65 stored under a library table or chair without disturbing others. Exceptions will be
66 made for child strollers. The library staff reserves the right to inspect the contents of
67 all bags, purses, briefcases, and backpacks, etc. for library materials when alerted
68 by the library security system. If the detection system breaks down or there is a
69 general power failure, all bags, briefcases, etc. of persons exiting may be inspected
70 by library staff.
- 71 ▪ Interfering with the free passage of library patrons or staff in or on library premises,
72 including sitting or lounging on the floor when not browsing or participating in a
73 library program, or leaving personal belongings in spaces that impedes use of the
74 library facility.
- 75 ▪ Leaving personal belongings unattended. Library staff are not permitted to hold or
76 watch over patrons' personal belongings.
- 77 ▪ Entering non-public or staff areas without authorization.
- 78 ▪ Using a library business telephone or a staff computer without authorization.
- 79 ▪ Displaying a weapon in a threatening or hostile manner or unlawfully carrying a
80 weapon. Library staff has the discretion to call the Harlingen Police Department if
81 they see potentially dangerous items on a person or onsite.
- 82 ▪ Engaging in disorderly conduct, disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior, such as
83 fighting or challenging to fight, or using offensive or provocative words.
- 84 ▪ Engaging in physical, verbal, or sexual harassment of patrons or library staff.
85 Harassing behavior is deliberate and/or repeated behavior that is not welcome and
86 creates a hostile environment. Some examples of harassment include, but are not
87 limited to, spitting, constantly staring at or following another person, using
88 offensive, vulgar, or abusive language or gestures.
- 89 ▪ Kissing, petting, or any other inappropriate physical conduct.
- 90 ▪ Viewing, displaying, or distributing obscene images on library premises. Library
91 staff will call the Harlingen Police Department for incidents involving indecent
92 exposure or voyeurism.
- 93 ▪ Using obscene language or engaging in obscene or abusive acts.
- 94 ▪ Threatening the safety or rights of another person in the library. Interfering with
95 another person's authorized use of the library or with the library staff's performance
96 of their duties is prohibited.
- 97 ▪ Disturbing others because of odor.
- 98 ▪ Improperly using the library courtyard amenities, including crossing the courtyard
99 fountain wall, entering the courtyard fountain water pool or permitting children or
100 animals to do so, or climbing on the statues.
- 101 ▪ Disrupting other patrons by taking photos or video of them on library premises.
102 Photos and video for personal use are permissible, on the condition they do not
103 include the images of other library patrons who have not consented to being filmed.

- 104 ▪ Engaging in any other illegal acts or conduct in violation of Federal, State, or local
105 law, ordinance or regulation.
- 106 ▪ The Harlingen Public Library maintains the right to remove from the library facility
107 any individual who contributes to a disruptive, unsafe, or unwelcoming
108 environment.

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110 Failure to comply with the Patron Behavior Policy may result in penalties up to and
111 including exclusion from the library, revoking library privileges, or in arrest. Theft of
112 library, patron, or employee property is a serious offense and may result in permanent
113 exclusion from the library and arrest. Communication of threats, physical violence or
114 sexual offenses may result in permanent exclusion or in arrest. Any person who is asked
115 to leave the library as a result of a violation of these guidelines and refuses to do so shall
116 be subject to permanent exclusion from the library and/or arrest. Any person who enters
117 or remains on the library premises during the period in which he/she has been banned
118 from the library will also be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.