This policy promotes an environment that encourages all customers to use Mid-Columbia Libraries (MCL) in a safe and respectful manner, and supports staff members’ actions when people’s behavior or activities are unreasonably interfering with others’ use of the library. It is the intent of MCL that enforcement of this policy will be conducted in a fair and reasonable manner.

All persons using the library are responsible for their safety, the safety of children in their care, and the security of personal belongings. MCL is not responsible for the safety of the customers against their own acts or the acts of other library customers.

The following behaviors and activities are not allowed:

1. Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local, or other applicable law, or library policy;
2. Disrupting or interfering with the normal operation of the library, or disturbing library staff or customers, including, but not limited to, using abusive or threatening language or gestures, creating unreasonable noise, or talking/behaving loudly or boisterously;
3. Bringing animals inside library buildings, with the exception of service animals or for a library-approved event;
4. Entering or being in the library barefoot, without a shirt, with a wet bathing suit, with offensive body odor or personal hygiene, or being otherwise attired so as to be disruptive to the library environment;
5. Interfering with the free passage of library staff or customers in the library, including, but not limited to, placing objects such as bicycles, skateboards, backpacks, or other items in a manner that interferes with free passage;
6. Consuming beverages except from approved containers: covered containers, bottles with screw-on tops, and thermos bottles;
7. Using audible devices without headphones or with headphones set at a volume that disturbs others;
8. Library customers may not use cell phones or other devices in a manner that disturbs others;
9. Soliciting, canvassing, distributing literature, selling, or begging; and
10. Leaving unsupervised or apparently unattended minor (under the age of 18 years) children anywhere on library premises if the child’s safety, well-being, comfort or behavior may be an issue.

Library privileges will be denied to anyone who defaces, mutilates, destroys, wrongfully takes, or wrongfully retains library materials or other library property. After appropriate restitution, library privileges may be restored subject to all other rules of the library.

Library staff, board members, and local law enforcement officers have the right to intervene to stop prohibited activities and behaviors. Failure to comply with the library’s established rules and policies could result in removal from the premises and expulsion from the library for a period of time, or in arrest or prosecution (RCW 27.12.290).

Other restrictions may be imposed by the building owner as library buildings are owned by cities or private landlords.