

✓Children Under Age Six

A child under the age of six must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. For children 0-4, the parent must remain with the child at all times. For all children under six, the parent/caregiver must have the child within their line of sight.

NOTE: An exception is made for children attending some organized library programs. These children may be in the program area without parents or caregivers; however, parents or caregivers must remain in the library facility.

If taking the place of a parent, a caregiver must be at least twelve years old and must have with them emergency contact information for the child they are attending. They are encouraged to have similar information for themselves.

If a child under the age of six is found unattended, or violates the Code of Conduct, the parent/caregiver will be informed and asked to take responsibility for the child and his or her actions.

✓All Children Special Conditions

It may be necessary to notify appropriate law enforcement or child care protective authorities if:

- 1) an unattended child is being disruptive, or
- 2) a child is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm.

✓All Children During Library Hours

Children ages six and up may use the library on their own, however, library facilities are not to be used in lieu of childcare.

If a child wishes to leave the library, the library staff cannot legally detain him or her.

Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other library users. If an unattended child is requested to leave the premises, he or she will be encouraged to call a parent or guardian and inform them of the situation.

✓All Children After Library Hours

It is assumed that children will not be left at the library after hours. However, it is sometimes unavoidable that:

- 1) libraries must close due to unusual weather or emergency situations, or
- 2) parents/caregivers cannot be on time to collect a child.

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for children left at the library. In such circumstances, children left at the **Mesa Public Library** will be given the opportunity to contact the parents/caregivers and, will be encouraged to remain in the lobby of the Los Alamos County Police Department, 2500 Trinity Avenue, while waiting for their parent's arrival.

Children at the **White Rock Branch Library** will be offered the opportunity to contact their parents/caregiver and make suitable arrangements for pickup.

Los Alamos County Library System

Code of Conduct

(Including Guidelines for
Children Visiting the
Public Library)

To maintain a suitable environment for all library users, each member of the public shall observe the following "Library Code of Conduct". We ask that parents and caregivers also become familiar with and follow the "Guidelines for Children Visiting the Public Library."

Mesa Public Library
2400 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM, 87544-4014
505-662-8240
505-662-8245 (fax)

White Rock Branch Library
10 Sherwood Blvd
White Rock, NM, 87544-3727
505-662-8265
505-672-0334 (fax)

LIBRARY CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy 3.2.3:

Individuals on library property or individuals whose actions affect library property or those on library property will behave in ways that show respect for themselves, for other library users, for the staff and property of the Library.

Individuals should not engage in behavior that is illegal or that may constitute a danger to themselves or others, or which threatens or damages library property.

The Library will seek such assistance as is necessary and reasonable from authorized personnel in seeing that appropriate behavior is maintained. This may include assistance from law enforcement officers.

To make clear the behavior expected by those on library property and the consequences of their behavior, the Library will maintain guidelines that state the policy and contain current procedures relating to personal conduct.

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Violators of the Library's Code of Conduct may be refused entry to the library for periods of 3 days (first offense); 1 week (second offense); 2 weeks (third offense); or 30 days (fourth and subsequent offenses). Violation of the No-entry order may result in prosecution under the criminal trespass ordinance, LAC Ord. # 28-141.

Adopted by County Council, June 29, 2010

Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging in disruptive behavior such as shouting, persistent loud talking or other noise making, fighting, running, roving, throwing objects, etc.
2. Using a cell phone in a manner loud enough to disturb other library patrons.
3. Littering, damaging or vandalizing library facilities, equipment or materials.
4. Removing library materials without properly checking them out.
5. Abandoning, neglecting or leaving young children unattended or violating the "Guidelines for Children Visiting the Public Library".
6. Harassing other library users or staff, through physical, sexual or verbal abuse, including the use of offensive language.
7. Prolonged kissing, inappropriate touching of a sexual nature, or other sexual conduct.
8. Eating and drinking anything but bottled water except in designated areas or when permitted at special library functions.
9. Smoking or chewing tobacco in library facilities.
10. Possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
11. Blocking any library entrance, exit, aisle, driveway, or path.
12. Skating and scooting inside library facilities. Skateboards, scooters, etc. must be left in the lobby or kept with the patron at all times.
13. Bringing in animals, except for service animals.
14. Using restrooms, study or meeting rooms for other than their intended purpose.
15. Being in the library outside of library operating hours without permission of an authorized library employee.
16. Selling or soliciting, except as provided in the Library policies.
17. All acts which are subject to prosecution under criminal or civil codes of law or county ordinance.

If a library user chooses not to follow the "Library Code of Conduct," the following can be expected:

- A reminder will be given to the library patron that the behavior is unacceptable.
- If the patron chooses to continue unacceptable behavior, he or she will be asked to leave the library premises.
- If the library patron refuses to leave, the police may be called for assistance.
- Note that instances involving malicious destruction of property; physical violence threatened or executed; abusive language directed at library staff; or alcohol or illegal drug use may result in immediate removal with no warning given.

Guidelines for children visiting the public library

Children are welcome and encouraged to visit both the Mesa Public Library and the White Rock Branch. Library staff is concerned with the safety and welfare of children on library property, but cannot assume the role of parent or caregiver. For these reasons the guidelines contained herein have been developed to benefit children using library facilities.



Library Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 9 pm
Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10pm - 5 pm
Sunday: 12 pm to 5 pm