Rutherford Free Public Library
Code of Conduct

So that the Rutherford Free Public Library may provide an atmosphere conducive to the use of
Library services and facilities, the public is required to comply with a Code of Conduct.
Participating in any illegal activity or in any of the following activities is not allowed on Library
premises, including buildings and grounds. In cases of disruptive behavior, identification
including name, address, and phone number may be requested.

Any visitor not abiding by the regulations set forth in this policy may be required to leave the
Library premises and may forfeit their Library privileges. Library employees will contact the
police if deemed advisable. The Library Board of Trustees authorizes Library staff and law
enforcement officers to enforce the Library’s published Code of Conduct policy up to and
including the long-term suspension of Library privileges, permanent banning from the Library, or
prosecution. A patron whose privileges have been suspended or revoked may have the decision
reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees.

1. Do not leave anyone who is unable to care for themselves unattended in the Library
without supervision of an adult. All children under the age of 9, as well as dependent
persons of any age, must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver over the age of 13 at
all times when visiting the Library.

2. Smoking, vaping, chewing tobacco, and the use of alcohol and drugs are prohibited on
Library premises. Patrons may not strike matches or lighters in the Library. Patrons may
not use the Library while intoxicated.

3. Do not film or record Library patrons or staff without their permission.

4. Do not engage in sexual or lewd acts, or inappropriate displays of physical affection.

5. Patrons shall not assault, harass, or annoy others in the Library. This includes noisy or
boisterous activities, staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person,
following another person around the building with the intent to annoy that person,
playing audio equipment so that others can hear it, singing or talking loudly, using
profanity or obscene gestures, unauthorized filming, displaying print or nonprint
materials of an offensive nature to others, or by behaving in a manner that can be
reasonably expected to disturb others. Patrons shall not interfere with another person’s
use of the Library or with Library personnel’s performance of their duties.

6. Knives with blades longer than 3” are not allowed in the Library or on Library property.
Individuals carrying guns must have a concealed weapons permit on their person.

7. Use of cell phones or other electronic devices in a disruptive manner is prohibited,
including but not limited to talking loudly or playing audible sound without headphones.
Ringers should be turned off upon entering the Library.

8. Do not sleep in the Library.
9. Do not bring animals into the Library, except certified service animals or if needed as part of an approved, organized program.

10. Do not wear wheeled footwear or cleats, or use a skateboard, scooter, or hover board in or on Library property.

11. Patrons shall not enter the building without appropriate clothing, including a shirt, bottoms, and shoes. Visitors whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons or Library staff may be asked to leave.

12. All Library materials, backpacks, oversized handbags, overcoats, luggage, shopping bags and packages are subject to inspection by authorized personnel, and items left unattended are subject to seizure.

13. Patrons shall not deface or mar Library materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, recordings, or other items in the Library's collection. In addition, they shall not deface, mar, or in any way destroy or damage Library furnishings, walls, machines, or other Library property. Using restrooms as laundry facilities, bathing facilities or gathering places is prohibited.

14. Patrons may not enter non-public areas without permission.

15. Do not use fire exits, except in an emergency.


17. Do not misuse Library computers as defined in the Computer Rules Policy.

   Patrons whose actions violate state or local law will be prosecuted.

Adopted by the Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees on July 17, 2023.