Patron Behavior Policy

Unattended Children:

The Kent Memorial Library welcomes children of all ages to visit the library and use materials and services of the Library. The library staff nurtures children to develop a love of reading and learning, but is not responsible for their care, their supervision or accidents or incidents that may occur as a result of their actions. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children belongs with their parent, guardian or caregiver. Children under 10 shall remain with a parent, guardian or caregiver during the child's visit at the Library. The Library's Patron Behavior Policy applies to all patrons, regardless of age.

Policy on Disruptive Patrons:

A patron whose behavior is considered disruptive to the use of the library by staff may be asked to leave the library's premises. A patron who refuses to leave under these circumstances is trespassing. The staff member in charge shall be responsible for handling the problem and may seek assistance from library administration or a local law enforcement agency if needed.

The Library Director is authorized to suspend a patron's library privileges for violation of federal or state law, local codes, or library regulations, or for disruptive behavior. The patron has the right to appeal to the Library Commission by filing a notice of appeal with the Library Commission within 10 days of the date privileges were suspended.

Patron Code of Behavior:

- *Compliance:* Failing to comply with library regulations and with instructions or requests made by library staff with respect to library regulations is strictly prohibited.
- *Destruction:* Destruction, theft, or defacing of library property, including tampering with technology systems or computer hardware, software, and data is strictly prohibited.
- *Weapons:* The carrying of any pistol, revolver or other firearm with similar characteristics or likeness, or any weapon onto library property, except by law enforcement personnel, is strictly prohibited.
- *Unruliness:* Dangerous and unruly behavior disruptive to library users is not allowed.
- *Abusiveness:* Behavior that is abusive to library patrons and/or staff will not be tolerated.
- *Language:* Abusive or obscene language is not allowed in the library.
- *Smoking:* Use of tobacco products is not permitted in the library.
- *Food/Drink*: Food and drink are allowed in the library except in areas where that is prohibited, which include but are not limited to, the historical room and near to computers or other electrical equipment. Patrons are responsible for disposing of food trash and must clean up any spills or messes. If spills are extensive, the staff should be notified immediately.
- *Alcohol*: Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on library premises during normal hours of operation.

- *Pets*: Pets are not permitted in the library. Service animals, as defined under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), are permitted if not disruptive to other patrons.
- *Dress*: Patrons will be appropriately dressed (i.e. shirt and shoes required).
- *Skating*: Skating and skateboarding are prohibited in library buildings and on any library property. Skates must be removed before entering the library.
- *Electronic devices*: These devices may be used quietly throughout the library for an appropriate amount of time as long as they do not disturb other library patrons or staff.

Patrons and staff should be respectful of others' space and property.

The Library is not responsible for patron's lost or stolen property.