

## **Putnam County Public Library Patron Behavior Policy**

### **Consequences of Disruptive Behavior**

Patrons who are talking loudly, running, damaging library materials, playing on the stairs or elevator, or generally behaving in a manner disruptive to library operations will be told by staff members that the behavior must stop. If the behavior continues, the patron must leave the library.

If the patron refuses to leave, staff will be forced to call the local police department to escort the patron out of the library.

If an adult accompanies a child, the adult will be asked to attend to the child's behavior. If the behavior continues, the adult will be asked to escort the child and leave the library.

The library does not act *in loco parentis* to children. Children under the age of eight (8) must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Staff cannot supervise unattended children or be responsible for them.

### **Disruptive Behavior - Definition**

Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Running
- Climbing
- Excessive noise
- Loitering
- Gambling
- Voyeurism
- Molestation
- Using obscene language
- Fighting
- Solicitation for unlawful purposes
- Public intoxication
- Smoking (inside the building)
- Using threatening or abusive language
- Panhandling
- Making unwanted sexual advances
- Public indecency
- Carrying firearms, except for law enforcement officials
- Possessing alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Misusing library computer resources
- Vandalism

Adopted by the Library Board of Directors, August 22, 2001