



# Stanislaus County Law Library

Bruce E. Ramsy, President ~ Honorable Marie Sovey Silveira, Secretary ~ Janice A. Schmidt, Director

## Patron Conduct Policy

The Law Library provides access to legal information for the judiciary, members of the State Bar, public officials, and to all residents of the county for the purpose of education and research. To allow patrons of the Library to use its facilities to the fullest extent during regularly scheduled hours, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following rules and regulations:

1. While in the Library, patrons are expected to be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public law library. Patrons not engaged in reading or using the Library materials may be required to leave.
2. Patrons shall respect the rights of other patrons and staff, and shall not disrupt Library operations or disturb others while using the Library. This includes soliciting or volunteering legal advice from other users, interfering in transactions between Library staff and other patrons, or unreasonably utilizing staff resources. Solicitation of any kind is prohibited on the premises, including, but not limited to the distribution of literature, goods, or services.

*It is a misdemeanor for anyone to intentionally interfere with the lawful business of the Library, by obstructing or intimidating Library staff or patrons, or refusing to leave the Library premises after being requested to leave by the office manager or supervisor of the Library, or by a police officer at the request of the office manager or supervisor of the Library. (Penal Code § 602.1, subdiv. (b).)*

3. The Library shall not be used in lieu of an office for the practice of law or any other professional business activity. The use of unoccupied conference rooms must be arranged with staff.
4. Quiet shall be observed in all public areas of the Library. Loud talking is prohibited. Cell phones must be set to vibrate, and all calls must be taken outside. Use of electronic, electrical or other mechanical devices such as computers, copiers, tape recorders, or dictating machines is permitted in designated areas only. Permission for use of these items is granted by the Library staff and may be revoked at any time. Children must be supervised at all times and their behavior monitored so as not to disturb other patrons.
5. Appropriate clothing, including shirts, and footwear must be worn by Library patrons at all times. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other persons, as determined by Library staff, shall be required to leave the Library. Restrooms are for patron use only. Bathing, shaving or washing clothes in the bathrooms is prohibited.
6. The use of electronic cigarettes and tobacco products is prohibited while in the Library. Food and beverages may only be consumed in a pre-designated area. No persons shall be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance as defined by California law.
7. Patrons shall not scratch, mar or otherwise deface furniture or equipment in the Library. The mutilation of books or other Library materials or the annotation, marking, disfiguring of their pages is prohibited. Abusing or defacing books is a misdemeanor under California Education Code sections 19910 and 19911.
8. Animals are prohibited in the public areas of the Law Library. Properly identified, harnessed service animals (as defined in 28 CFR § 36.104(d) and 36 CFR § 36.302(d)) for the disabled are exempt from this rule, provided they are behaving in a manner consistent with their use as a service animal. 5
9. Carts, bicycles, carriages, luggage, large packs, or other large containers or quantities of belongings may not be brought into the Library. The Library is not responsible for unattended items or personal belongings.
10. Patrons shall not disrupt or harass other patrons or Library staff; this includes verbal or non-verbal conduct likely to frighten, embarrass, anger, or annoy another person to the extent that ability to use or work in the Library is unreasonably curtailed.

In an effort to prevent the theft of books and Library materials, the Library staff may examine all briefcases, backpacks, or other containers prior to any patron entering or leaving the premises. Further, Library staff is vested with the authority to remove a person from the premises if that individual is violating any of the Library rules and regulations.

Any patron who violates these or other rules and regulations adopted by the Library Board of Trustees may be subject to the loss of their Library privileges as determined by the Library Director. A patron whose privileges have been suspended may have the suspension reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees in accordance with its adopted appeals procedure.