

FACILITIES PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

Meriwether County encourages the use of its facilities for the intended purpose of conducting the County's legitimate business. To preserve that purpose, we ask that patrons to Meriwether facilities be respectful of each other and Meriwether County's employees in a manner that does not disrupt other patrons or staff. The facilities of Meriwether County are "limited public forums" and Meriwether County may regulate and prohibit activities that fall outside of or disrupt the intended purposes of the County's legitimate business.

Any behavior that disrupts the legitimate business of the County government is prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, any behavior that interferes with:

- The use of facility property, materials, and services by other patrons;
- The ability of Meriwether County employees to conduct the County's legitimate business and perform their own duties as employees of Meriwether County; and/or
- The safety of facility patrons and employees.

Examples of prohibited activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Leaving unsupervised or unattended children who are unable to care for themselves;
- Directing profane, obscene or abusive language at patrons or staff;
- Directing racial, ethnic, religious, gender, or sexual-orientation epithets at patrons or staff;
- Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing property belonging to Meriwether County, another patron, or staff;
- Littering;
- Soliciting and/or panhandling patrons or staff;
- Gambling;
- Blocking entry or exit to a facility or obstructing space within a facility;
- Trespassing or remaining on facility property after being directed to leave;
- Fighting, physical abuse or assault;
- Engaging in or soliciting a sexual act or indecently exposing oneself;
- Vandalization;
- Being legally under the influence, possessing or selling of alcohol or drugs;
- Bathing, shaving, or washing clothes on the facility premises;
- Having of animals, except as permitted by law;
- Smoking, using tobacco or electronic nicotine delivery system within facility premises;
- Using sports equipment in facilities or on facility property;
- Entering unauthorized workspaces or office space not designated for public assembly or public debate;
- Taking photographs and/or recording videos of Meriwether County employees or patrons without first obtaining their express permission;
- Possessing weapons of any kind, except as allowed by law;
- Violating other posted facility policies and/or guidelines;

In addition, patrons must comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Suspected illegal activity will be reported to law enforcement. Violations of law may result in the patron being expelled from the facility, arrested, prosecuted, and/or other legal action, as appropriate.

The Meriwether County Board of Commissioners authorizes the supervisor of each facility and law enforcement to enforce this Patron Code of Conduct. The rules of public behavior will be prominently posted in the applicable facilities and will be made available electronically on the Meriwether County website. Patrons who violate this Patron Code of Conduct will be given notice of their violation. A violation may result in a patron's expulsion from the facility and/or arrest and criminal prosecution or other legal action, as appropriate. Although Meriwether County reserves the right to require anyone violating the Patron Code of Conduct to leave facility property immediately, Meriwether County employees will generally follow these steps when a violation occurs:

- Staff or law enforcement will verbally bring to a violator's attention any act or omission that violates this Patron Code of Conduct or related policies and ask that the individual change his or her behavior to conform to the rules;
- If the violator refuses to change his or her conduct, staff or law enforcement will direct the individual to leave facility property.
- If the violator refuses to leave after being directed to do so, staff or law enforcement may seek to charge the violator with criminal charges.

Meriwether County employees may, in their discretion, call the police for assistance as needed. Violations of the law may result in a patron being expelled from the facility, arrested, prosecuted, and/or result in other legal action, as appropriate.

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