

CHAPTER 38. LAW LIBRARY

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§ 38.001 General Information

The Law Library is intended for use by persons engaged in law-related research. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Law Library patrons are provided a pleasant atmosphere which facilitates the performance of legal research.

§ 38.002 Services

- (a) **Intent to utilize resources.** Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public law library while in the Law Library. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, or using Law Library materials may be required to leave the Law Library.
- (b) **Computer research.** The Law Library provides computers to aide patrons in their legal research. Use of the computers to play games, view pornography, or for other non-law related uses is not allowed and may lead to the patron being asked to leave or restricted from using the computers.
- (c) **Circulation of Materials.**
 - (1) The Law Library circulates materials to patrons who are current members of the State Bar of Texas and who present a valid membership card.
 - (2) The Law Library may discontinue circulating materials to patrons who fail to return materials.
 - (3) Materials may be checked out for three business days. Materials marked "Reference" or "Library Use Only" may not be circulated.
 - (4) Patrons who remove materials from the library without checking the materials out may be asked to leave and restricted from returning.
- (d) **Fax Services.** The Law Library takes reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality and privacy of faxes sent from the Law Library. However, if it comes to the attention of Law Library staff that a patron is sending faxes that, in the reasonable opinion of Law Library staff, are threatening in nature, the Law Library may discontinue providing the fax service to that patron permanently. All patron faxes will contain a cover sheet with this disclaimer:

"The information contained on the attached pages, which are being transmitted by a fax machine located in a Travis County Law Library, has been prepared, assembled, and compiled by a private citizen acting in his/her own capacity, without the control, direction, endorsement, sponsorship or control of Travis County. Travis County and the Law Library staff make no representation or warranty, express or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the contents of the information contained on these pages, nor for the accuracy, completeness, usefulness, timeliness, or fitness for any particular purpose of any such information. Travis County, and its officials, agents and employees shall not be liable for any loss or injury, however arising, resulting in whole or in part from the use of any information contained in the information being transmitted or from any reliance placed thereon."

- (e) **Equipment.** Patrons shall not attempt to make repairs to Law Library computers or equipment. Patrons should instead ask staff for assistance.
- (f) **Telephones.** The Law Library provides a public access telephone for use by patrons. Calls shall be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

§ 38.003 Environment

- (a) **Disruptive behavior.** Patrons shall respect the rights of other patrons. Patrons shall not harass or annoy other patrons, or otherwise behave in a manner which may be reasonably expected to disturb others.
- (b) **Theft and vandalism.** Patrons shall not write in, damage, remove pages, or mark on Law Library books or other Law Library property.
- (c) **Noise.** To avoid disturbing other Law Library patrons, patrons shall observe silence except when requesting assistance from the reference desk staff. Noise and loud or profane language will not be tolerated. Patrons who need to converse must do so quietly so as not to disturb others.
- (d) **Solicitation.** Selling and solicitation are prohibited in the Law Library.
- (e) **Sleeping.** Sleeping is prohibited in the Law Library.
- (f) **Eating.** Eating is prohibited in the Law Library. Beverages are permitted except in the computer area.
- (g) **Children.** Unattended children are not allowed in the Law Library. In the event that a child is left unattended, Law Library staff shall notify the Travis County Sheriff's Office. Any adult who brings a child into the Law Library must supervise and monitor the child's behavior at all times.
- (h) **Cell phones.** Because ring tones can be loud, patrons' cell phones should be set to "vibrate" or turned off. Any calls should be made outside the Law Library as telephone conversations may disrupt the concentration of other patrons. Patrons who receive a cell phone call should step into the hall to hold the conversation.
- (i) **Laptop computers.** Laptops may be plugged in to draw AC power. The volume on all laptops must be set to "mute."
- (j) **Baggage.** Patrons' personal belongings should fit neatly under the table and may not take up so much space as to deny other patrons a seating opportunity at the same table. Suitcases, bedrolls, and blankets are not permitted in the Law Library.
- (k) **Hygiene.** Any patron, as well as the personal belongings of any patron, emanating an odor (including perfume) constituting a nuisance to other patrons and is detectable from more than eight (8) feet away may be asked to leave the library until the situation can be corrected.

§ 38.004 Application and Enforcement of Policy

Any violation of this policy may result in the responsible patron being asked to leave the Law Library until such time as the patron, in the reasonable opinion of Law Library staff, is able to demonstrate an ability and willingness to comply with this policy.