



**Be Prepared  
for a**

**First Amendment “Audit”**



### 3 Types of Public Forums

Public Forum: Parks, sidewalks  
unfettered speech, no expectation of privacy

Limited Public Forum: Libraries, Schools, Courts  
Can have a certain amount of restrictions on speech, expression  
No expectation of privacy  
Can limit any kind of expression that inhibits the purpose of the forum

Non-Public Forum: Military bases  
very limited speech/expression

**As a limited public forum, libraries provide no reasonable expectation of privacy.**

- Anyone can record inside a limited public forum, in the public spaces.
- A person can be recorded or photographed: an adult, a child, a staff person.
- They cannot go into non-public spaces (staff areas); they cannot record in restrooms.

## **“Auditors”:**

- Can be intimidating
- May appear knowledgeable
- Are looking for a reaction from you
- Are doing it for YouTube and money

## Library Rules Policy

“1. Customers shall respect the rights of other persons and shall not behave in any manner which can reasonably be expected to disturb other persons. Customers shall not interfere with the use of the library by other customers, nor interfere with staff’s performance of their duties. Examples of prohibited behavior include but are not limited to:

- harassment, engaging in threatening, unwanted speech or behavior
- noisy or boisterous activities
- staring at another person
- following another person about the building
- singing/talking loudly to others or in monologues
- audio equipment audible to others
- loitering in library buildings, entrances and parking lots
- disregarding staff instructions/requests
- excessive personal belongings which presence interferes with use of the library by others

## In Most Cases...

- Auditors will not directly film patrons (they have no control over patron's reactions)
- They are usually aware of sensitivity towards filming minors (that's seen as creepy)
- Their goal: to focus on employee's and their reactions

## What to do:

1. Understand that a person has the right to record or photograph in the library
2. Avoid interactions if possible; just ignore.
3. If you interact, demonstrate a professional demeanor and ask how you may assist them.
4. If you are uncomfortable, seek assistance from a colleague or manager.
5. Address the violation of a rule (causing a disturbance, inhibiting library usage for others, intimidating patrons or staff by their activity)
6. If we treat their presence as if we do not even notice them, they will leave, and they will not have “content” for their YouTube channel.