

Gaston County Administration Building Visitor Rules

I. Purpose

The Gaston County Administration Building is the main office building for the Gaston County government. Its primary function is to serve as a workplace for County employees, as well as provide a safe and welcoming environment for all constituents to access important government services. These rules are intended to provide a safe, efficient, and welcoming environment for all visitors.

II. Rules

The following conduct is prohibited within the interior spaces of Gaston County Administration Building:

1. Possessing any weapons, except as specifically permitted by law.
2. Smoking, chewing tobacco, use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices, or carrying any lighted or smoldering pipe, cigar, or cigarette.
3. Disruptive, harassing, or unsafe behavior, including conduct which interferes with county employees or county officials in the performance of their duties, or interferes with the proper use of the Administration Building by others.
4. Abusive behavior, including use or display of obscene language, gestures, or graphics.
5. Blocking entrances, exits, fire exits, access areas or otherwise interfering with the provision of services or the use of City property.
6. Entering or remaining in nonpublic areas without authorization. Areas inside the Administration Building, including offices, hallways, stairways, and elevators are open to the public only to the extent necessary to attend to county business, or attending a county-authorized function, event, or activity to which the person is an invitee, or attending a duly noticed public meeting. Otherwise, such areas are deemed nonpublic areas.
7. Disrupting county business, events, or other county sponsored or authorized activities.
8. Leaving unattended packages, backpacks, luggage, or other personal items. Any such items may be secured by county staff.
9. Laying down or sleeping in chairs, benches, or the like.
10. Using restrooms for changing clothes, washing clothes, or bathing.
11. Posting or affixing to county property without permission from the County Manager or their designee, any signs, leaflets, posters, flyers, pamphlets, brochures, and written, pictorial or graphic material of any kind.
12. Tampering with or unauthorized use of building or facility systems or devices, including electrical, plumbing, locks, doors, or cameras.
13. Remaining in a county building after posted hours of operation or after the conclusion of an authorized “after hours” public meeting or event.

14. Creating loud noises, yelling, speaking loudly, singing, disruptive clapping, shouting, playing instruments, blowing horns or using sound amplification equipment inside the Administration Building or its grounds that impairs or interferes with business operations.
15. Carrying or displaying placards, signs, flags, or similar items that exceed 8.5" x 11" or have rigid construction, sharp edges, or handsticks.
16. Leaving children unattended.
17. Any act which could result in substantial risk of harm to persons or property.
18. Engaging in any conduct prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

III. Viewpoint Neutrality

Insofar as these rules affect protected speech, they are only intended to establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions in accordance with state and federal law. These rules shall not be construed or applied so as to discriminate against a visitor based on the substantive content of their speech.

IV. Applicability

This policy applies to the Gaston County Administration Building (128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia). Notice of these rules must be posted at each public entrance. A copy of these rules must be available upon request.

V. Enforcement

The County Manager (or the County Manager's designees) is responsible for implementing and enforcing this policy. If a person violates these rules, the County Manager may revoke or reasonably condition such person's permission to enter or remain in the Administration Building for a specified, reasonable period of time.