

SERVICES

480 Privacy of Patron Records/Information

480.1 Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act

Circulation and registration records are confidential as stated in Illinois law (75 ILCS 70/1-2). No such records shall be made available to the public or to any agency of federal, state, or local government except pursuant to a court order. The exception is when a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe there is imminent danger of physical harm. In this case the officer may request information regarding identification of a suspect, witness or victim of a crime without a court order but the information may not include records reflecting materials borrowed, resources reviewed or services used at the library. In this case the library will request that the officer sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the information.

The Library Records Confidentiality Act does not prohibit disclosure to law enforcement officials of information about a patron based on personal knowledge (such as a person's name), or information based on personal observation of a person on library property (such as staff observing the person using library computers). No information relative to the purpose of the person's use of the library will be given without a court order.

480.2 Confidential Relationship/Library Staff and Patrons

The relationship between library staff and patrons is confidential, including information about patron use of library materials or services, such as reference assistance and computer use. Parents or legal guardians of children under 18 may be provided with information about current materials, overdue materials and outstanding charges on their child's card.

480.3 Patron Access to Records

A library card barcode number or proper identification must be provided by a patron before any information about their record can be provided. Information is available by telephone only if a person provides a library barcode number and correct personal information such as address, phone number and birthdate. Indian Prairie cardholders may view their records online through the catalog.

480.4 Search Warrant Policy

Library staff will cooperate with Law Enforcement Officials as required by federal laws to allow access to items within the scope of the Search Warrant while at the same time seek to protect the rights of patrons in accordance with the Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act (75 ILCS 70/1-2). A copy of this policy will be provided promptly to officials upon arrival at the Library.

480.4.1 Designated Library Contact

The Executive Director will handle all requests to search Library records pursuant to a Search Warrant. In the absence of the Executive Director the Deputy Director, followed by the Librarian-in-Charge, will deal with a Search Warrant issue.

480.4.2 Identify Serving Officer

The Executive Director will request identification from the Law Enforcement Officials and record their names, badge numbers, and agencies.

480.4.3 Review Warrant for Content

The Executive Director will review the Search Warrant when served and will contact the Library Attorney for consultation concerning the scope of the Warrant and compliance procedures.

480.4.4 Request the Presence of Library Attorney

The Executive Director will ask the Law Enforcement Officials to wait until the Library Attorney is present before beginning the search. (However, the Search Warrant may be executed immediately.)

480.4.5 Cooperate with Officials

The Executive Director will cooperate with Law Enforcement Officials to help identify the records/ evidence falling within the scope of the Search Warrant.

480.4.6 No Access to Other Records

The Executive Director will not permit access to records beyond the scope of the Search Warrant, i.e. records not specifically identified in the Search Warrant.

480.4.7 Record Evidence Viewed or Taken

The Executive Director will record all records or evidence viewed, copied, or removed from the Library pursuant to the search.

480.4.8 No Disclosure of Search

No employee will disclose the receipt of the Search Warrant or the search to anyone except the Executive Director, the Library Board President and the Library Attorney.

Adopted 4/13/88, Rev. 5/17/95, 2/19/97, 3/15/00, 11/20/02 (eff. 12/1/02), Complete review & revision approved 4/18/07, rev. 11/28/07, Complete review 2/17/10, 3/21/12, complete review 3/19/14, complete review and revision approved 5/18/16, complete review 3/21/18, complete review 10/20/21, complete review and revision approved 2/21/24