

HOW CAN PARENTS WORK WITH THE LIBRARY UNDER THIS LAW?

We understand that some parents will be concerned about such privacy being given to their very young children, and that although fines are still your responsibility, we cannot legally tell you what items are out. There are a few ways we can work together so your child can enjoy the feeling of having their own card while still giving parents some control.

- **The law allows staff to release title information to another person if we have “consent of the user”.** In other words, if we call and your child tells us to inform you of the titles then we can do so. We will still need to speak to your child to confirm that they wish to have the titles released.
- Please work with your children to determine what books they have out; **if they are not home when we call, you can request that a written overdue notice be sent to them listing all items owed.** It will come addressed to your child.
- You can check your child’s account at any time (with their consent) from your home computer by going to <http://www.barringtonlibrary.com>. Simply go to the *Search Our Catalog* page and click on the My Items button. Fill in User Name (your child’s last name) and Patron

Pin Number (his/her library card number). Once in his/her account you can see what is currently checked and out also be able to renew items (if an item is overdue you will need to call the library).

- You may decide that your child is not old enough to carry this responsibility. That is certainly your right as a parent and **you may choose to take out materials for your children on your card only.** Please be aware that children who come to the library alone will need their own card, as we do not allow people to use each other’s card without that person’s consent. Usually, by the time your child is coming alone; they can handle the responsibilities of a card of their own.

WHY IS THIS LAW IN PLACE?

This law was developed to secure the privacy of **ALL patrons**. The library believes that all patrons, regardless of age, have the right to explore topics of their own choosing without fear. The staff will not release records to any family member, whether it is a husband, brother, sister; parent etc. without the card holder’s expressed consent.

HOW EXCITING...YOUR OWN LIBRARY CARD!

We want your children to feel at home in the library and welcomed at all times. Often, a library card of their own gives them a sense of pride and “feeling grown-up” that is very exciting. We are happy to give them this opportunity to a whole new world of reading and fun.

Children can get their own Library card:

- At age 6 or above
- With parental consent
- Parents must sign the blue library card
- Parents take full responsibility for all fines and damage fees on their children’s cards



Barrington Public Library Privacy Policy What it Means to You & Your Child

RESPONSIBILITY & PRIVACY COME WITH A LIBRARY CARD

The library wants all parents and children to understand that a library card comes with responsibilities. The library follows RSA 201-D: 11 which basically says that ALL PATRONS, regardless of age, who have a valid library card, also have the right to COMPLETE privacy of their borrowing records. What does this mean to you and your child? If you choose to give children their own card, and materials are checked out on that card:

- You will not be told the titles of items checked out on your child's card; we can only tell your child what they have out.
- If your child has overdue items, we will call and ask to speak with them about the overdue items.
- If a call does not get the items back, an overdue letter will be sent to your child, listing all items overdue with any current fines.
- If that does not get the items back, we will send a bill addressed to "the parents of"

the child which lists the cost of lost items but NO TITLE INFORMATION.

- Fines are assessed at \$1.00 per day for DVDs.
- Fines for books, magazines and audio books will be assessed at .10 per day/per item after a 2-day grace period.

The Library works very hard to make everyone feel that they can learn, explore and read without being judged; this includes our younger patrons as well. We understand parent concerns about what their children are reading but cannot divulge that information unless the child has given us permission to do so. Please talk to your children about what you consider to be acceptable materials; the librarians will not make those decisions for you or your child. It is your right as a parent to decide what your children read and view.

CHECKOUT & RENEWALS

- 3-week loans on books, magazines and audio books
- 2-week loan on materials being used for Current School Projects

- 1-week loan on DVDs/Video Games
- DVDs may be renewed only ONCE for an extra 7 days
- SILC DVDs and audio books MAY NOT be renewed
- Other items may be renewed up to 2 times if no one is waiting for them

Please keep this information in mind when staff calls and asks for your son or daughter concerning overdue items. It is their job to keep this information confidential, and by signing for your child's library card you have agreed to abide by the policies set forth in this pamphlet. We appreciate your understanding and will work with you to insure your child's card is used well and often.

Flip the page for ways to work with the Library to ensure privacy and parental controls.