

HOW CAN PARENTS WORK WITH THE LIBRARY UNDER THIS LAW?

We understand that some parents will be concerned about such privacy and access being given to their 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 options.

- **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.
- **They may add a notation to their card giving you access to their information...but they also have the right to rescind this access at any time.**
- 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.** It will come addressed to your child.
- Your child can check their account <http://www.barringtonlibrary.com>. Click the *Search Catalog/View Your Items* page and click the *Log On* button. Fill in User Name

(child’s LAST NAME) and Pin Number (his/her library card number). Once in his/her account they can see what is currently checked out by clicking on the *Circulation* Button. They will also be able to renew items (if an item is overdue they 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 family on your card only.** If your child is old enough to come to the library alone, and you still wish to have them use your card, you **MUST** have a notation put on your library record stating they may use the card when you are not present. They must present the card or they will be limited to 3 items.

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 and we will not deny access to any part of our library collection based upon age.

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 access a whole new world of reading and fun.

Children can get their Library card:

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



**Barrington Public
Library**
Privacy & Open Access Policy
**What They Mean 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.
- **Your child will have access to everything in the library** like any patron; it is up to parents to monitor their own child's check outs. Staff will not act in loco parentis. They will not deny access to any item to any patron based upon age. This is a legal requirement due to first amendments rights. The library as a public government facility cannot legally abridge those rights for anyone, including children.
- 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 \$1.00 day for DVD & Video Games.
- 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 and viewing 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. **This includes rated R DVDs and rated M video games in our collection which we cannot legally refuse access to as ratings have no force of law.** It is your right as a parent to decide what your children read and view. We suggest parents use the provided ratings

labels to assist their children in selection of materials and consult sites such as www.imdb.com and www.common sense media.org to help determine what movies and games they will allow access to. Notations are **not** put on minor's cards limiting access; parents when present may limit their own child's borrowing but staff will not limit a minor's card if they are at the library alone. Please discuss your family's values with your children so they make good decisions if they are coming to the library unattended.

CHECKOUT & RENEWALS

- 3-week loans on books, magazines, audio books, and video games.
- 1-week loan on DVDs
- 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.