

Subject: Sex Offender Access to Library Property

Section: Service

Adopted: October 31, 2012

SEX OFFENDER POLICY

In accordance with its bylaws, the Library Board of Control of Franklin Parish Public Library has adopted on this 31st day of October 2012, the following policy for the purpose of:

1. Compliance with the statutory mandates set forth in LA. R.S. 14.91.2
2. Protecting children from contact with persons who have been convicted of sex offenses where the victim is less than 13 years of age

Effective January 1, 2013, persons who have been convicted of sex offenses where the victim was under the age of 13 are restricted in their access to public library property as follows:

1. Children's Areas – No sex offender shall be physically present in any area of the library designated as a "children's area" or "young reader's area."
2. Children's Programs – No sex offender shall be physically present on public library property during scheduled children's programs. The time will be posted on the entrances to the library.
3. Loitering within 1,000 feet – No sex offender shall loiter within 1,000 feet of public library property.
4. Employment – No sex offender shall apply for, work for, or otherwise provide services to a library branch as an employee, contractor, sub-contractor, or volunteer.

Exceptions to these restrictions are:

1. There shall be no violations of this regulation if the sex offender is reporting to a police station or polling station that is within the restricted area.
2. There shall be no violation of this policy if the ex-offender has requested and has been granted written permission to be physically present in the restricted areas from the library director or designee, and the sex offender complies with any special restrictions contained within the permission.
3. The library director shall be responsible for developing and implementing administrative and management procedure in furtherance of the policies stated herein. Recommended procedures include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Background checks – Implement procedures to provide that library employees, contractors, sub-contractors, and volunteers who will interact with children or will be required to work in the restricted areas may be subject to criminal background check.
 - b. Configuration – To the extent possible, each library branch shall be arranged in a manner to ensure that areas devoted to children and young readers may be easily supervised by library staff, and such areas are segregated from other library resources and facilities.
 - c. Notice – Implement procedures to ensure adequate public notice of each library branches' times and dates of peak children's hours and children's programming. Adequate notice may include posting such information in a prominent location near the library's entrance and on the library's website.

- d. Surrogate – Implement procedures to allow sex offenders to authorize a surrogate to check out library materials using the sex offender’s library card
 - e. Enforcement – Implement procedures to update policies, where necessary, and enforce policies regarding unattended children
4. The library director and members of the public are invited to make recommendations to the library board of control to improve this regulation or suggest legislative changes that will allow public libraries to more effectively achieve the public purposes set forth herein. Those recommendations along with any supporting documentation should be submitted annually to the Library Board of Control by or before December 30th, Attention Library Board President.

Authority Note:

Act 693 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature amended and re-enacted R.S. 14.91.2. The effective date for the Act is January 1, 2013.