

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PATRON CIRCULATION RECORDS

The Code of Virginia 2.2-3705(A)(10) (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) states that the following records are excluded from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act:

“(8) Library records which can be used to identify both (i) any library patron who has borrowed material from a library and (ii) the material such patron has borrowed.”

Patron circulation records exist for the sole purpose of maintaining and conserving public property and are generally deleted soon after the timely and proper return of materials. Therefore, it is the policy of the Library Board that the Library shall not provide to a third party the details, nature, or purpose of information pertaining to an individual patron, unless required by court order, subpoena from a governmental agency or as otherwise required by law, or as necessary to protect the Library's interests in pending litigation.

Therefore, to protect the privacy of individual Library patrons, the Library shall not reveal patron circulation records except as required by law or as necessary to protect the Library's interest in pending litigation. A parent or guardian of a child under 18 may have access to their own child's circulation records. In the event that the Library is served with a discovery order or a subpoena requesting production of Library circulation records, or a court order directing that the Library provide such records, the Library Director shall inform legal counsel for the Library and the President of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library Board of Trustees, and shall take appropriate action after having been advised by legal counsel as to the available options

An individual patron is not required to provide the Library with his/her Social Security number.