

Luther Area Public Library Confidentiality of Library Records

Pursuant to “The Library Privacy Act” (1982 PA 455) patron’s records are confidential in nature and such records will not be made available to any other individual or to any agency of a government without written authorization of the patron.

A parent may request a form from the librarian permitting the library to release their child’s records to them (Form-Release of Minor Child’s Library Records Attached)

The Library will resist the issuance of enforcement of any process, order of subpoena until such time as the proper showing of good cause has been made in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Any request for the release of library records will be referred to the Library Director. The Library Director is the only person authorized to release library records.

Library Privacy Act Amendment Signed Into Law – 1996 PA 188

Public Act 188 of 1996 was signed into law to amend the Michigan Library Privacy Act. The Act now permits disclosure of library records if the library receives “written consent of the person liable for payment for or return of the materials identified in that library record.” MLC 3971.603 (2). If a parent or legal guardian signs to accept legal responsibility for return of his or her child’s library materials and to accept financial liability for that child’s library fines and other charges, the parent or guardian may authorize the disclosure of that child’s library records.

If parents come into the library and want to know what books their children have checked out, library staff may give the titles to the parents IF:

- (1) The parents signs to accept responsibility for his or her child’s library “debts,”

AND

- (2) The parent signs a disclosure form giving consent on behalf of the child for the release of the child’s library records. {It is also a good idea to have the parent verify that he or she actually is the child’s parent or legal guardian.}

Approved by the Luther Area Public Library board on: February 16, 2012