

Library Access for Registered Sex Offenders Subject to Exclusionary Zones

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the library is compliant with Iowa State law that excludes registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors from public libraries. This policy adopts the definitions of Iowa Code Chapter 692A, as amended.

The Library Director acts as “library administrator” for purposes of Iowa Chapter 692A. The Library Director will not give written permission for a registered sex offender convicted of sex offenses against minors to be present on library property. Issuance of a library card to a registered sex offender convicted of sex offenses against minors does not constitute written permission from the library administrator for that offender to be present on library property. Individuals may appeal this decision, as it relates to them, to the Library Board of Trustees.

Registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors may be eligible for library service, depending on their residence address. They may register for a card directly via telephone or through a designee and arrange for a person of their choosing to select, check out, and return materials using that card. Under any of these circumstances, the sex offender convicted of sex offenses against minors will remain responsible for all activity on their card. They may access information resources via telephone or online. They are not eligible for homebound delivery of materials.

d. Registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors may not loiter, as defined under Iowa Code Section 692A.101(17), as amended, within three hundred (300) feet of library property without the written consent of the Library Director.

Violations of this policy will be immediately reported to law enforcement, and violators will lose all library privileges.

Attendance at Open Public Meetings: Sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors wishing to apply for written permission to attend an open public meeting at the library must submit a written request to the Library Director.

Library as a polling location: State law provides for an exemption for the purpose of voting. Persons prohibited from being on library property will be allowed on library property solely for the period of time reasonably necessary to exercise the right to vote in a public election if the library is named a designated polling location.

Reinstatement: Privileges may be restored to any offender whose name has been removed from the Sex Offender Registry upon written proof of said removal. Proof may include presentation of a copy of the written notice of removal. Removal must be verified by a search of the Sex Offender Registry completed by authorized library personnel. Library personnel will have up to 24 hours to verify said removal from the registry. Upon verification all rights will be reinstated.