



Sex Offender Policy

In accordance with its By-laws the Library Board of Control for Lafourche Parish has adopted on this 22nd 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; the effective date of the Act is January 1, 2013.
2. Protecting children from contact with persons who have been convicted of sex offenses where the victim was under 13 years of age.

Regulation:

- I. Effective January 1, 2013, persons who have been convicted of sex offenses where the victim was under the age of 13 (referred to as "sex offenders" for purposes of this policy) are restricted in their access to public library property, as follows:
 - a. Children's Areas – No sex offender shall be physically present in any area of the library designated as a "children's area" or "young readers' area."
 - b. Peak Children's Hours – No sex offender shall be physically present on public library property during peak hours of children's use of the library.
 - i. During the school year, peak hours are defined as 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
 - ii. During the summer, peak hours are defined as 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 - c. Peak hours of children's use also include hours during which children's programs are scheduled.
 - d. Sex offenders are not allowed on public library property on Saturdays.
 - e. Loitering within 1,000 feet – No sex offender shall loiter within 1,000 feet of public library property.
 - f. 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.
- II. Libraries On/Within School Property – According to R.S. 14:91.2C, sex offenders are not allowed on or within 1,000 feet of school property without the permission of school authorities. The following libraries are on or within 1,000 feet of school property:

Choctaw Branch	1887 Choctaw Road, Thibodaux, LA 70301
Bayou Blue Branch	198 Mazerac Street, Houma, LA 70364
Raceland Branch	177 Recreation Drive, Raceland, LA 70394
Larose Branch	305 East Fifth Street, Larose, LA 70373
South Lafourche Branch	16241 East Main St., Cut Off, LA 70345



- a. Sex offenders will only be allowed access to these libraries if they first obtain permission to be on school property. If they obtain this permission, the same restrictions as in section A of the policy apply.
 - b. Alternative channels of access to public library resources include:
 - i. Access to the other branches as outlined above, and
 - ii. Allowing a surrogate to check out library materials from these branches on the sex offender's library card.
- III. Exceptions to these restrictions are:
- a. Police station/courthouse/polling station/government entity – There shall be no violation of this regulation if the sex offender is reporting to a police station, courthouse, or polling station that is within the restricted area.
 - b. With special permission – There shall be no violation of this regulation if the sex offender has requested and has been granted written permission to be physically present on public library property from the library director or his designee, and the sex offender complies with any special restrictions contained within the permission.
 - c. A surrogate may be authorized to check out library materials using the sex offender's library card.
- IV. The Library Director shall be responsible for developing and implementing administrative and management procedures 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 checks.
 - b. Notice – Implement procedures to ensure adequate public notice of each library branch's 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.
 - c. Enforcement – Enforcement of policies that require a child to be accompanied by an adult.
 - d. Act 693 does not create an obligation on the part of the public library employees, volunteers, or board members to document the presence of sex offenders or report violations of Act 693.
- V. The Library Director and members of the public are invited to make recommendations to the Library Board 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 by or before June 1, Attention: Board President.