
The Law

Florida Statute 257.261 Library registration and circulation records reads in part:

"All registration and circulation records of every public library, except statistical reports of registration and circulation, are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and from s. 24(a) of Art. I of the State Constitution.

Except in accordance with proper judicial order, a person may not make known in any manner any information contained in such records, except as provided in this section. As used in this section, the term "registration records" includes any information that a library requires a patron to provide in order to become eligible to borrow books and other materials, and the term "circulation records" includes all information that identifies the patrons who borrow particular books and other materials...."

Library Administration
2345 Union Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 533-4800
(239) 485-1100 (fax)

LIBRARY PATRON CONFIDENTIALITY

*Your Rights Under
Florida Law*



Telephone Reference
(239) 479-INFO/(239) 479-4636

Lee County Library System Web Site
www.leegov.com/library

Confidentiality

Your Library Card

The library card issued to you is the key to your registration and patron information. If you give your card or card number to someone, you are giving that person permission to access all the information your record contains.

If you are not carrying your library card, it is possible to access your record with photo identification. This transaction must be done in person, and it can only be done for your own record.

Your Privacy

Florida law restricts access by others to your address, phone number, demographic information, items that are currently checked out on your card, items you have requested, overdue items, charges, or any other information contained within your record.

If you want to change your phone number, place or pick up a hold, find out what is overdue on a record, etc., you must provide staff with the card or card number for that record.

Families

Children generally have the same rights under Florida law as adults. A child's record can be accessed only through the library card or card number for that record. Parents may be able to find out about overdue fines or lost materials on their children's records if:

- the parent is named in the child's record
- the child is under age 16

Patrons who do not wish their children's records to remain private should either check out their children's items on their own cards or keep the children's cards with them.
