

Abington Public Library
Patron Privacy Policy on the Confidentiality of Library Records

The Abington Public Library is committed to user confidentiality. The confidentiality of library records is a core component of library ethics and the Abington Public Library has followed the [Code of Ethics of the American Library Association](#) since November 7, 1977.

The Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, Section 7 states: “That part of the records of a public library which reveals the identity and intellectual pursuits of a person using such library shall not be a public record as defined by clause Twenty-sixth [sic] of Section Seven of Chapter Four.”

Confidentiality extends to information sought or received, and materials consulted or borrowed, and includes database search records, reference interviews, circulation records, interlibrary loan transactions, registration records, and all other personally identifiable uses of library materials, facilities or services.

- Borrower’s records including circulation, registration and information retrieval records may not be disclosed except to:
 - The library cardholder (with card or proper ID). Please note that this is regardless of age or relationship. Parents cannot be told what materials a child has borrowed without the child’s consent.
 - Staff of Old Colony Library Network libraries acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library system and facilitating interlibrary loans.
 - Individuals who may be instrumental in the recovery of delinquent library materials.
 - Representatives of any local, state, or federal government, pursuant to subpoena or search warrant authorized under the authority of federal, state, or local law relating to civil, criminal, or investigative power. Upon receipt of any such subpoena or search warrant, the Library Director/Board of Library Trustees will consult with legal counsel to determine if the subpoena or search warrant is in proper form and if there is a valid basis for its issuance before providing confidential information.

- Abington Public Library Staff are to refer any and all requests from local, state and federal agencies for information concerning library patrons to the Library Director. If the Director is unavailable, all requests should then be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Board of Library Trustees.