

Evangeline Parish Library Sex Offender Policy

In accordance with its by-laws, the Library Board of Control of Evangeline Parish has adopted on this 19th day of September, 2012, the following policy for the purpose of:

1. Compliance with the statutory mandates set forth in La. R.S. 14:91.2
2. Protecting children from contact with persons who have been convicted of sex offenses where the victim was under 13 years of age.

Policy:

1. 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/13” for the purposes of this policy) are restricted in their access to public library property, as follows:
 - a. **One-Room Branches:** No sex offenders/13 are allowed at any time in any one-room branch of the library system (currently **Chataignier and Turkey Creek Branches**).
 - b. **Children’s Areas:** No sex offenders/13 shall be physically present in any area of any library branch that is designated as a “children’s area” or “young reader’s area.”
 - c. **Peak Children’s Hours:** No sex offender/13 shall be physically present on public library property during peak hours of children’s use of the library. Peak hours are defined as follows for the individual branches:
 - 1) **Basile Branch:** During the school year, 3 to 5 p.m. and from one half hour before to one half hour after any scheduled children’s program (program notice posted on the door of the branch and on the library’s website). During the summer months of June and July, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and all day on Thursday due to Summer Reading activities.
 - 2) **Mamou Branch:** During the school year, 3 to 5 p.m. and from one half hour before to one half hour after any scheduled children’s program (program notice posted on the door of the branch and on the library’s website). During the summer months of June and July, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and all day on Wednesday due to Summer Reading activities.
 - 3) **Pine Prairie Branch:** During the school year, no admittance after 3 p.m. any day, and from one half hour before to one half hour after any scheduled children’s program (program notice posted on the door of the branch and on the library’s website). During the summer months of June and July, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and all day on Wednesday due to Summer Reading activities.
 - 4) **Ville Platte Branch/Main Library:** During the school year, from 3 to 7 p.m. all weekdays and from 10 to 12 a.m. on Saturdays, plus from one half hour before to one half hour after any scheduled children’s program

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(program notice posted on the door of the branch and on the library's website). During the summer months of June and July, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays 10 to 12 a.m. and all day on Tuesday due to Summer Reading activities.

- d. **Computer Use, Public Access Computers:** No sex offender/13 shall use any public access computer that is in close proximity to a children's area of a library or that is not clearly visible from the library's circulation desk.
 - e. **Library Wireless Use, Patron-Owned Equipment:** No sex offender/13 shall utilize the library wireless access in any area that is not clearly visible from the library's circulation desk.
 - f. **Loitering within 1,000 feet**—No sex offender/13 shall loiter within 1,000 feet of public library property.
 - g. **Employment**—No sex offender/13 shall apply for, work for, or otherwise provide services to a library branch as an employee, contractor, sub-contractor, or volunteer.
2. **Alternate Forms of Access:** Alternative channels of access to public library resources in the library include:
 - a. **Access to other branches:** See listings above in hours to find branches that are available on different days or hours.
 - b. **Surrogate checkout:** A surrogate, with the card owner's written permission, may check out library materials from any of the Evangeline Parish Library's facilities on the sex offender/13's card on behalf of the card owner.
3. **Exceptions: Exceptions to these restrictions are:**
 - a. **Police station/courthouse/polling station/health unit:** There shall be no violation of this policy if the sex offender/13 is reporting to a police station, courthouse, polling station, or health unit, provided that the sex offender/13 does not enter any area that is solely under the library's control.
 - b. **With special permission:** There shall be no violation of this policy if the sex offender/13 has requested and has been granted written permission to be physically present on public library property from the library director or his/her designee (e.g. the library branch manager), and the sex offender/13 complies with any special restrictions contained within the permission.
4. **Library Director:** 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. **Configuration:** To the extent possible, each library branch shall be arranged in a manner to ensure that areas devoted to children and young readers may be

easily supervised by library staff, and such areas are segregated from other library resources and facilities.

- c. **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.
 - d. **Surrogate:** Implement procedures to allow sex offenders/13 to authorize a surrogate to check out library materials using the sex offender's library card.
 - e. **Enforcement:** Implement procedures to update policies, where necessary, and **enforce policies regarding unattended children.**
5. **The Library Director and members of the public are invited to make recommendations to the Library Board of Control to improve this policy or suggest legislative changes that will allow public libraries to more effectively achieve the public purposes set forth here. Those recommendations, along with any supporting documentation, should be submitted annually to the Library Board of Control by or before September 30, Attention: President, Library Board of Control.**

Authority Note

Act 693 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature amended and re-enacted R.S. 14.91.2. The effective date of the Act is January 1, 2013.