

Privacy Policies

Confidentiality of Library Records

Circulation records are confidential in nature. Such records shall not be made available to any person, organization, governmental agency or other entity except pursuant to a valid order, subpoena, or other process as may be authorized by law relating to civil, criminal or legislative investigative power. This policy shall not apply to minor children, whose records may be made available to their parents or legal guardian upon written request. All requests for disclosure of information shall be presented to the Library Board of Trustees. Where it deems appropriate, the Library Board of Trustees may direct counsel for the Library and/or Library personnel to resist disclosure of such records until ordered to make disclosure by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Privacy of Library Records

Public libraries face the dilemma of having the responsibility of protecting the privacy of their patrons while responding to legitimate national security concerns. The Simsbury Public Library recognizes the confidentiality of information sought or received and materials consulted, borrowed or acquired by a Library patron.

The Simsbury Public Library strives to create a Library environment that is:

- Crime free
- A safe place
- A place for learning and pursuit of knowledge and information on any topic.
- A place where patrons can ask any question and discuss any topic.

The Library will do its utmost to uphold the privacy and confidentiality of patrons' free access to information. The Library will rely on existing laws and Library policies to control behavior that involves public safety or criminal behavior.

About the USA Patriot Act of 2001

HR-3162 became Public Law 107-56 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. The Act provides law enforcement with broader boundaries when investigating information accessed and transmitted by patrons with regards to national security concerns.

Access to patron information may include but not be limited to:

- Database Search Records
- Circulation Records
- Computer Use Records
- Inter-Library Loan Records
- Reference Interviews