

IDA GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sex Offenders Against Minors Policy

Policy

The Ida Grove Public Library Board of Trustees, following Chapter 692A of Subtitle 1 of Title 16 of the Code of Iowa, prohibits the presence of sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors upon or within 300 feet of public library real property.

Iowa Code

Iowa Code Chapter 692A of Subtitle 1 of Title 16 prohibits a sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor from being present on public library real property without the written permission of the library director, or from loitering within 300 feet of the boundary of the real property of a public library. In addition, the law prohibits a sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor from being employed by or acting as a contractor or volunteer at any public library.

Definitions

"Sex Offender": someone who is required under Chapter 692A to be on the Sex Offender Registry.

"Loiter": remaining in a place or circulating around a place under circumstances where a reasonable person would believe that the purpose or effect of the behavior is to enable a sex offender against a minor to become familiar with a location where a potential victim may be found, or to satisfy an unlawful sexual desire, or to locate, lure, or harass a potential victim.

Exceptions

There are two exceptions to this law. A sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor may be present: 1) during the time reasonably necessary to transport the offender's minor child or ward to or from the library; and 2) during the time reasonably necessary to vote in a public election if the polling place is located in the library.

Other exceptions to this policy can occur only with the written permission of the library director. The library director will consider each request on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility to be on library property after consultation with law enforcement, bona fide social service agencies, and/or other appropriate governmental offices. All requests for permission to be present on library property will be made in writing to the library director before visiting the library. The library director will notify the applicant, in writing, as to the status of their request. No entry to the library will be permitted during the review process.

If a request for permission to be on library property is denied, it is the responsibility of the requester to arrange for a third party to select, check out, and return materials to the library. The library will issue a library card in the offender's name to be used by a third party. The issuance of a library card to individuals who have been convicted of a sex offense involving a minor does not permit those individuals to enter the library or to be present on library property. Individuals convicted of a sex offense against a minor must follow proper library procedures and policies to request and obtain written permission to be on library property, regardless of whether they possess a valid library card.

Enforcement

The responsibility for compliance with this law rests with the offender. However, if library staff has the knowledge, or receives credible, reasonably reliable information that a person who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor is on or within 300 feet of public library real property, the library director will be notified immediately. The library director will take immediate action to contact the Ida County Sheriff's Department to check the Sex Offender Registry status of such a person.

Volunteers and applicants for employment will be screened as appropriate for compliance with the law.

Appeals

Written appeals of the library director's decision may be forwarded to the Ida Grove Public Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees' decision will be final. No appeals for administrative discretion regarding this policy will be entertained.

Violations

Any violation of this policy will be immediately reported to law enforcement.