

Atchison County Library

Guidelines For Public Services to Minors

POLICY

The Atchison County Library provides materials and services to a diverse constituency to meet a variety of needs: educational, informational, social and recreational.

In carrying out this Mission the Library's primary roles are those of being a resource for popular materials and reference. Equally important is our role of being a resource to foster learning and the enjoyment of reading for children.

A popular materials library features current, high-demand, high-interest materials in a variety of formats for person of all ages. As a reference library our system strives to provide timely, accurate and useful information for users. In its role as a children's library, the library encourages youth to develop an interest in reading and learning through materials and services directed both to them and their caregivers. Atchison County Library assists students of all ages in meeting educational objectives.

In supporting the mission and roles of the Atchison County Library the Board of Trustees endorses the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View statements of the American Library Association.

The library holds that parents, guardians, or designated caregivers* at least 18 years of age are ultimately responsible for the oversight of the activities of minors in gaining access to library materials and services. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers – and only parents, guardians, or designated caregivers – may restrict their minor children or those in their care – and only those minor children or those in their care – from access to certain library materials and services. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers wishing to restrict access to library materials and services should so advise their minor children or those in their care. Accordingly, library staff will assist in the provision of materials and services which are appropriate under these circumstances. When requested by a parent or guardian, the borrower's card of a minor may be restricted to the circulation of juvenile materials only.

Borrowers privileges are available at no cost to all residents of Atchison County or to anyone else who pays real or personal property taxes in this county. Out of county residents who teach in Atchison County schools may have borrowers privilege at no cost also. Non-resident privileges are available for a fee of \$25.00 per individual per year. Minors are eligible to receive borrowers privileges when they enter second grade. The parents or guardians of minors are responsible for making sure that materials checked out to their minors are returned on time and in good condition.

*A designated caregiver of a minor in this context is an individual at least 18 years of age who has been charged by the parent or legal guardian with the care of the minor during a visit to a library facility. Examples could include a teacher, a daycare provider, or a baby-sitter.