

Colorado Library Law – The Quick Guide Privacy of User Records

CRS 24-90-119

Privacy of User Records

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1. Except as set forth in subsection (2) of this section, a publicly supported library shall not disclose any record or other information that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials or service or as otherwise having used the library.
2. Records may be disclosed in the following instances:
 - a. When necessary for the reasonable operation of the library;
 - b. Upon written consent of the user;
 - c. Pursuant to subpoena, upon court order, or where otherwise required by law;
 - d. To a custodial parent or legal guardian who has access to a minor's library card or its authorization number for the purpose of accessing by electronic means library records of the minor.
3. Any library official, employee, or volunteer who discloses information in violation of this section commits a class 2 petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars.

Rough, non-legal summary of statute:

Privacy of user records.

- A public library may not disclose patron records or information about library use unless:
 - needed for library operations;
 - the user consents;
 - required through subpoena or court order;
 - a custodial parent/guardian has access to a minor's library card or authorization number.
- Disclosure by a library official, employee or volunteer commits a class 2 petty offense, with up to \$300 fine if convicted.

Consult with your respective city, county, or district lawyers for legal advice on, and implications of, Colorado Library Law, or call the Colorado State Library for additional information.

Published by:

Colorado State Library, 6/28/2012

www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org

303-866-6900