

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy Regarding Confidentiality of Library Records

(Response to PATRIOT ACT)

(approved 1/8/04)

In accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 4 Section 26 and Chapter 78 Section 7, circulation and registration records identifying the names of library users, addresses, telephone numbers and the materials borrowed are not part of the public record. The intellectual pursuit of individuals using library materials is considered confidential information regardless of the borrower.

The Burlington Public Library strives to protect the privacy of its patrons. No confidential information on library patrons will be revealed to the authorities without presentation of a subpoena or other court issued order.

Upon receipt of any law enforcement request for information, the Director will notify the Board of Trustees as appropriate, and consult with the Town Counsel to determine if such request is in proper form and if there is just cause for its issuance. If the request is not in good form or does not show just cause, such defects must be corrected.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy, and to rule on situations not specifically covered herein. The Board of Trustees and the Library Director shall review this policy annually.