

4.6 Library Access for Registered Sex Offenders (against a minor) Pella Public Library

Adopted: 9/8/09; Revised 9/12/2017.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Library is in compliance with Iowa State law that excludes registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors from public libraries.

The law states that a sex offender convicted of a sex offense against a minor shall:

- Not be present upon the real property of a public library without the written permission of the library administrator.
- Not loiter within three hundred feet of the real property boundary of a public library.
- Not be employed by or volunteer for a public library.

The Code provides an exception to this prohibition if the library administrator provides written permission. This policy adopts the definitions of Iowa Code Chapter 692A, as amended. The Library Director acts as “library administrator” for purposes of Iowa Chapter 692A.

The Library Director may only give written permission as the result of a vote at a meeting of the Board of Trustees with a quorum present. Individuals convicted of sex offenses against minors may request written permission to be in the library by submitting a written request to the Library Director. The request will be considered at the next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. The decision of the Library Board will be communicated to the applicant in writing immediately following the meeting.

Issuance of a library card to a registered sex offender convicted of sex offenses against minors does not constitute written permission from the library administrator for that offender to be present on library property.

Registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors remain entitled to some library services. They may access information resources via email, telephone or online. They may make arrangements for a person of their choosing to select, check out, and return materials using their library card. Under any of these circumstances, sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors will remain responsible for all activity on their card. Patrons barred from library property under the law will not be served by the library’s Homebound service.

Registered sex offenders convicted of sex offenses against minors may not loiter, as defined under Iowa Code Section 692A.101(17), as amended, within three hundred (300) feet of library property.

Violations of this policy will be immediately reported to law enforcement, and violators will lose all library privileges.

A background check will be performed using the National Sex Offender Registry on all employees, potential employees, and volunteers, including library board members or potential library board members, who are or will be working on library property.