



## **Customer Record Privacy**

Policy Number: LS 102

Effective: April 2021

### Purpose

It is the intent of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (THPL) to protect the privacy of those who use the Library. THPL maintains and administers registration and circulation records under the provisions of Florida Statutes, Chapter 257.261, in order to protect the privacy and confidentiality of customers.

### Policy

Permanent records of specific materials borrowed or requested by a customer will only be retained once the items have been returned if a customer opts in for this service. Titles and barcode numbers of items checked out are retained in the customer's record if fines and/or charges have accrued on the items. The Library or any business operating jointly with the Library may, only for the purpose of collecting fines or recovering overdue books or other items, disclose this information. Only statistical data is gathered from library registration and circulation records. Library cardholders may allow another person to act as their agent in borrowing materials by loaning their library card or key tag for this explicit use. Staff shall not grant permission to customers who request an exception to *Florida Statutes, Chapter 257.261* by placing notes in the customer's record. Requests by law enforcement or other agencies for information from or access to library customer records must be accompanied by an appropriate judicial order.

### Procedure

Requests from law enforcement authorities for access to information regarding a customer's record are to be immediately referred to Library Administration. Customer records will not be used to collect or document information about library customers that is not directly related to circulation services as outlined in LS101, Circulation Services and LS103, Library Card Registration and Renewals. Customers may request information about their own library record by presenting their library card or photo identification to confirm identity and birth date. Parents or guardians may be given information about items checked out by their children under the age of 17 provided that they can supply a photo identification to verify their identity or other identity as listed in LS103, Library Card Registration and Renewals or present the child's library card if not associated with parent/guardian card per LS103, Library Card Registration and Renewals.

When library staff is presented with a judicial order and/or a request for information from or access to library customer records by law enforcement or other agencies, they will immediately contact Library Administration and/or their regional manager for instructions.