

Hooksett Public Library

Youth Library Cards

Mission: The Hooksett Public Library is a community resource center providing quality, high-demand: materials, programs, information and technology.

New Hampshire has one of the strongest library patron confidentiality laws in the country and that law applies to all, regardless of age. The law states that upon registering for borrowing privileges at the library the patron has the right of privacy about what he/she checks out. The law does not specify age. This means the library staff may not reveal the title of an overdue book or book on reserve to anyone except the person or persons on the account, even though the parent(s)/guardian(s) may be legally responsible for the actions of the minors in their household.

The Hooksett Library has stated in the Hooksett Public Library Rights and Responsibilities of the Cardholder that it will uphold and adhere to the New Hampshire state law as presented in NH RSA 201-D:11. As such, the Hooksett Library has chosen to create two categories of Youth library cards:

Juvenile/Child Card: Any child up to age 13, who lives in Hooksett, may receive a shared library card with their parent/guardian. This card will act as a shared card with both the child and the parent listed as owners of the library card. Any materials checked out on this card will be the financial responsibility of the parent. The library card will be signed for by both the parent and the child. Any information regarding materials checked out on a Juvenile/Child card will be available to both parties who have signed for the card, the child and the adult. Any parent whose account is not in good standing may not use the shared juvenile/child card in place of their own.

Teen Card: Any youth between the ages of 14 to 18, who lives in Hooksett, is eligible for a Teen library card. This card shall be signed for only by the youth and will not be a shared library card with a guardian. As mandated in NH RSA 201-D:11, an individual library cardholders has the right to privacy of information regardless of age. This applies to the Teen library card, while still holding the parent/guardian financially responsible for any lost or damaged materials.

New Hampshire RSA 201-D:11 Library User Records; Confidentiality. –

I. Library records which contain the names or other personal identifying information regarding the users of public or other than public libraries shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in paragraph II. Such records include, but are not limited to, library, information system, and archival records related to the circulation and use of library materials or services, including records of materials that have been viewed or stored in electronic form.

II. Records described in paragraph I may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of such libraries and shall be disclosed upon request by or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by statute.

III. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any library from releasing statistical information and other data regarding the circulation or use of library materials provided, however, that the identity of the users of such library materials shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed to the general public except as provided in paragraph II.

Source. 1989, 184:3, eff. July 21, 1989. 2009, 273:1, eff. July 29, 2009.