

## **Fort Dodge Public Library Registered Sex Offenders and Library Access**

### **Iowa Code**

Iowa Code Chapter 692A prohibits a sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor from being present upon public library real property without the written permission of the library director, or from loitering within 300 feet of the boundary of the real property of a public library.

- A “sex offender” is someone who is required under Chapter 692A to be on the Sex Offender Registry.
- “Sex offense against a minor” means an offense for which a conviction has been entered for a sex offense classified as a tier I, tier II, or tier III offense under Chapter 692 is such offense was committed against a minor, or otherwise involves a minor.
- “Loiter” means remaining in a place or circulating around a place under circumstances where a reasonable person would believe that the purpose or effect of the behavior is to enable a sex offender to become familiar with a location where a potential victim may be found, or to satisfy an unlawful sexual desire, or to locate, lure, or harass a potential victim.

In addition, the law prohibits a sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor from being employed by or from acting as a contractor or volunteer at any public library.

There are two exceptions to this law. A sex offender who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor may be present: 1) during the period of time reasonably necessary to transport the offender’s own minor child or ward to or from the library; and 2) during the period of time necessary to vote in a public election if the polling place is located in the library.

### **General Policies**

The Fort Dodge Public Library director will not give written permission required by Iowa Code 692A.113(f) for a registered sex offender convicted of a sex offense against a minor to be present on library property.

Individuals may appeal this decision, as it relates to them, to the Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

A registered sex offender convicted of a sex offense against a minor may still be eligible for library service if they are a resident of Fort Dodge, unincorporated areas of Webster County, or a community contracting with the Fort Dodge Public Library for library service. He/she may register for a library card via a representative of his/her choosing.

When acting on behalf of a registered sex offender, such representative must be prepared to present his/her own valid identification to library staff along with the registered sex offender’s library card. This representative may select, check out, and return materials for him/her.

The registered sex offender is expected to comply with all other library policies and procedures and will be held responsible for all activity on his/her library card.

A registered sex offender may also access information resources in writing, by telephone, email, or through the library's online resources and databases.

### **Enforcement**

The responsibility for compliance with this law rests with the offender. However, if a library staff member has knowledge, or receives information, that a person who has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor is on library property, the Fort Dodge Police Department will be contacted.

Volunteers and applicants for employment will be screened as appropriate for compliance with the law.

Adopted 02/22/2010  
Revised 10/24/2011  
Revised 09/25/2017