

LOCUST VALLEY LIBRARY

PATRIOT ACT POLICY

On October 25, 2001, Congress passed the “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act” (USA PATRIOT Act). This law broadly expands the powers of federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases involving foreign intelligence and international terrorism.

America’s libraries support our nation’s efforts to preserve and protect the many hard-fought freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Librarians also have a responsibility to protect the privacy of our patrons while responding to legitimate national security concerns.

Privacy is essential to the exercise of free speech and free thought; protecting user privacy and confidentiality is central to the mission of libraries. When someone checks out a book or looks at the Internet, it does not mean they agree with the information they find or that they intend to act on that information.

In most states, librarians are obligated by law to protect the confidentiality of patrons’ library records and to require that a law enforcement agent provide a court order before releasing patrons’ library records. The Locust Valley Library will adhere to the provisions of the Patriot Act upon receipt of a duly served court order.

The only records held by Locust Valley Library are current patrons’ registrations and items currently checked out to patrons.

Approved by the Board of Trustees – October 21, 2002
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Updated by the Board of Trustees on January 20, 2022.