THE HAYNER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER POLICY

The Board of Trustees, administration, and staff of The Hayner Public Library District acknowledge that registered sex offenders live within the communities that we serve.

Public libraries are recognized as a community gathering place and a primary point for information of all kinds to be disseminated to the public. The Hayner Public Library District acknowledges that the right to some level of access to a public library is constitutionally protected under the First Amendment right to receive information. To that end, all individuals are welcome in our libraries, provided that in so doing they do not violate the law or any library policies/procedures.

Like many other states, the State of Illinois enacted the "Sex Offender Registration Act" (730 ILCS 150/1, et seq.) which requires all persons adjudicated sexually dangerous who are later released, or found to be no longer sexually dangerous and discharged, to register with proper local law enforcement authorities so that their whereabouts are known by these authorities. The "Sex Offender Registration Act" also prohibits child sex offenders from residing within 500 feet of a school, park, playground, or other facility providing services exclusively to persons under the age of eighteen. As public libraries do not provide services exclusively to persons under the age of eighteen, registered sex offenders in Illinois can live within 500 feet of a public library.

Areas of Access Within The Hayner Public Library District Facilities

When a registered sex offender wishes to enter a Hayner Library facility, they need to be aware of the following limitations with regard to where they can go and what they can take part in while on library property.

Registered sex offenders may not:

- Loiter or linger outdoors on library property.
- Loiter or linger in other common areas of the library.
- Be present in any areas of a library facility that are primarily for the use of minors, including but not limited to the children's department (KidsSpace) as a whole, any story time room or room being used for children's programming, restrooms in or near the children's department and primarily intended for use by children, and the teen room (TeenSpace).
- Attend library programming whose audience can be reasonably expected to contain minors.

Registered sex offenders may:

- Visit library collection areas intended for adults.
- Use a public computer—however, registered sex offenders will not be allowed to utilize the internet stations located within the children's or teens' areas of our libraries.

- Request and receive quality adult reference service, place holds on library materials, check out materials with a library card in good standing, and otherwise receive access to library information.
- Attend library programming intended exclusively for adults.
- If they are the parent or legal guardian of a minor child (with proper paperwork documenting this), a registered sex offender may accompany that child into areas of a library facility that are primarily for the use of minors, into programs intended for minors, etc., so long as abuse is not suspected and the minor remains with the registered sex offender the entire time.

Expectations of The Hayner Public Library District Staff

With regard to staff knowledge of use of public library facilities by registered sex offenders, staff are not expected to regularly review the registered sex offender database. However, library staff may know that an individual is a registered sex offender because the individual has self-identified, law enforcement has provided identification, or staff may have independent personal knowledge. In such cases, the staff member in charge should be notified and should advise the sex offender of the Registered Sex Offender Policy.

If another patron advises staff that a registered sex offender is on the premises, the patron will be allowed to point out the individual and, if possible, provide the name of the alleged sex offender. The staff member in charge will then be notified and review the sex offender database to confirm whether the individual is a registered sex offender. If the individual is a registered sex offender, the staff member in charge will advise the sex offender of the Registered Sex Offender Policy. If the name of the purported sex offender cannot be obtained or the fact that the individual is a registered sex offender cannot be confirmed, the individual will not be approached and the governance of the Registered Sex Offender Policy will suffice.