

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Section 1 | Mission Statement and Objectives Approving Authority: Morris Area Public Library District Board of Trustees |
| | Access to Library Materials by Minors Effective Date: 04/13/2026 Reviewed and Revised: |

The Morris Area Public Library is committed to providing access to information while upholding its longstanding support of intellectual freedom and the principles of free expression as set forth in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility to guide their children in the use of library materials, collections, and services. The Library does not act in loco parentis (in place of a parent) and will not restrict a minor’s access to materials or services based on content when a parent or guardian is not present.

The Library’s policies regarding access to information are guided by the following statements from the American Library Association:

- Library Bill of Rights
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, including *Free Access to Libraries for Minors* and *Access to Electronic Information Services and Resources*

Article VII of the Library Bill of Rights affirms that “all people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use.” This includes minors, who are entitled to privacy and freedom from unreasonable intrusion into their lawful use of library resources.

A Reminder to Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are the only individuals who may restrict their child’s access to library materials and services. Library staff are responsible for ensuring equitable access to resources for all patrons and do not enforce restrictions based on age or content.

Organizations that provide ratings, such as the Motion Picture Association (MPA) or the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), are not government entities. Their ratings are advisory and are not enforced by the Library.

Library staff are available to assist parents and guardians in locating information such as ratings, reviews, and summaries to help them make informed decisions about materials appropriate for their children.

The Morris Area Public Library recognizes that families hold a wide range of values and beliefs regarding access to information. The Library respects these differences while maintaining its commitment to equitable access for all patrons.