

Training Outline for Laws and Regulations

First Amendment:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Scenario exercise:

When do federal or state laws affect the library?

Case #1:

A library user is complaining about another user viewing pornography on the Internet. Does your library have a policy to cover unacceptable use of Internet stations?

See Open Records Law: <http://www.ftrf.org/foiamem.html>

Case #2:

A member of your Board thinks you should protect the morals of the children in your community by filtering all computers in your library. Does filtering software work? What are a child's rights to access?

See First Amendment: <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/firstamendmentbasics.html>

Case #3:

Both the federal government and the Colorado state government have enacted library computer filtering laws. Discuss what your library is doing to comply.

See ALA's Children's Internet Protection Act:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/civilliberties/cipaweb/cipa.htm>

See Colorado law: CRS 24-90-601 to 606 "Internet Protection in Public Libraries"

See Colorado law: CRS 22-87-101 to 107 "Children's Internet Protection Act"

Case #4

An agent from the FBI shows up at the circulation desk wanting copies of a user's records. Do you know what to do?

See USA PATRIOT Act <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/usapatriotact.html>

Also: Colorado Law: <http://www.cal-webs.org/ifhandbook.html#confide>

How would the above scenario be different if it was local law enforcement?

Supporting documents and resources:

- Child Safety on the Internet: http://www.safekids.com/child_safety.htm
- NetSmartz Workshop (an online safety workshop): <http://www.netsmartz.org/>
- First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution:
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/first.html>
- Get Netwise: <http://www.getnetwise.org/>