

## **Patron Privacy** **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

*April 3, 2003*

New Jersey's Confidentiality of Library Records Law (*NJSA 18A:73-43.1-3*) states that library records are confidential. In order to ensure that all patrons may use the library freely, information concerning material checked out or overdue, items on reserve, and questions asked may be given only to the cardholder. Library patrons of all ages have a legal right to privacy and confidentiality of library records.

The Library staff respects the American Library Association's statement that parents are responsible not only for the choices their minor children make concerning the selection of materials and the use of library facilities and resources, but also for communicating with their children about those choices. Librarians should not breach a child's confidentiality by giving out information readily available to the parent from the child directly.

Please feel free to ask for a full copy of the law and related information about rights of parents, available on the websites listed below.

### **Confidentiality Resources**

**Q&A re Privacy & Confidentiality**<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/privacyqanda.html>

**Minors' Free Access to Libraries**[http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/free\\_min.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/free_min.html)

**Library Bill of Rights**<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/librarybillofrights.pdf>

**Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights**<http://www.ala.org/work/freedom/interp.html>

**Statement by legal counsel re parent's rights to children's library records**

<http://graysonbarber.com/pdf/parent's%20access%20to%20kids'%20records%205-1-02.pdf>