

George Hail Free Library Privacy Policy

In accordance with RI General Laws [§ 11-18-32](#) (criminalizing the dissemination of library borrowing records), [§ 11-49.3](#) (imposing on municipal agencies that store or collect personal information about Rhode Island residents an obligation to implement and maintain a risk-based information security program that contains reasonable security procedures and practices), and [§ 38-2-2 sub-§ 4\(U\)](#) (library records that, by themselves or when examined with other public records would reveal the identity of the library user requesting, checking out, or using any library materials, are not public records), and as part of our commitment to intellectual freedom, it is the policy of the George Hail Free Public Library to protect the confidentiality of patron records and the privacy of patron interest and inquiry. Privacy is essential to free speech, free thought, and free association. Confidentiality extends to all records with identifying information about patrons, including their borrowing records, requests for information, materials, and their loan transactions. It also includes their use of library computers, all electronic and print resources they access and items related to library programs and services. The Library will keep patron records confidential and will not disclose this information except as necessary to Library staff and vendors for the proper operation of the Library, upon written consent of the user, pursuant to a subpoena or court order, or as otherwise required by law.

Approved the George Hail Free Library Board of Trustees on April, 2025