

DeKalb Public Library Video Surveillance Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

The DeKalb Public Library Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Library to utilize video surveillance and recording of the Library premises. The DeKalb Public Library operates a video surveillance system to provide a safe and secure environment for its patrons and staff. The primary purpose of security cameras is to discourage inappropriate and illegal conduct. When necessary, recorded images from the Library's cameras may be used to provide assistance to law enforcement officials for the purpose of prosecuting criminal activity.

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Library Director to establish reasonable procedures governing video surveillance in the Library.

Approved by the Board of Trustees 07/2025

DeKalb Public Library Video Surveillance Procedures

PROCEDURES:

1. Use of Security Cameras and Audio and Video Images Taken by the Library

Surveillance cameras are installed in selected interior and exterior locations where Library patrons and staff have no reasonable expectation of privacy. Information obtained through video surveillance will be used exclusively to assist with the investigation of incidents, including theft, vandalism, personal injury or property damage, and for security and law enforcement purposes, which must relate to the protection of the Library patrons, staff and the public, or deterrence or detections of criminal activity. Video surveillance of the Library premises will be conducted in a professional, ethical, and legal manner, in accordance with the following principles: a) video surveillance must be conducted in accordance with the laws of Illinois; b) video surveillance will be used by only Library employees authorized by the Library Director; c) appropriate signs and notice of video surveillance will be posted outside of the Library to notify the public that the Library is under video surveillance.

2. Authority and Responsibility

The Library Director will provide input on the placement of cameras on the DeKalb Public Library District premises. The Library Director is responsible for monitoring the surveillance systems. The Library Director and contracted IT services are responsible for hardware and software specification, configuration, and maintenance. Staff will notify the Library Director of any equipment failures or other problems.

3. Access

Access to surveillance footage is restricted to the Library Director and the Library Board President. The Library Director may authorize access to surveillance footage to staff, to the extent required by their job responsibilities. The Library Director may authorize access to surveillance footage to law enforcement in relation to suspected criminal incidents related to the Library. Access to live or recorded video surveillance footage by law enforcement shall only be granted in conjunction with a court order, unless the information is requested by a sworn law enforcement officer who represents that it is impractical to secure a court order as a result of an emergency where the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that there is an imminent danger of physical harm. The information requested must be limited to identifying a suspect, witness, or victim of a crime. In accordance with the Library Records Confidentiality Act, 75 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.*, the information requested without a court order may not

include the disclosure of registration or circulation records that would indicate materials borrowed, resources reviewed, or services used at the Library.

4. Monitoring

Video surveillance of the premises is conducted at all times when the Library is open during normal business hours. Library premises may also be subject to video surveillance after hours.

Video surveillance is reviewed on an incident related basis. Periodically, cameras may be monitored in real time by authorized staff. From time to time, the Library's video surveillance may be monitored in real time by law enforcement. However, there is no expectation that footage is monitored 24/7/365 by Library personnel or law enforcement for security or other purposes.

5. Restrictions and Limitations

All cameras shall have audio capture capabilities disabled. No audio may be recorded, streamed or transmitted at any time. Cameras shall not be installed or operated in areas where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy (i.e., restrooms, rooms reserved for nursing, child care areas).

6. Storage

Video surveillance will typically be kept for no less than 30 days and destroyed in accordance with the Local Records Act, 50 ILCS 205/1, *et seq.* Video surveillance systems will be designed with a targeted retention range of approximately 30 days. However, this may vary widely since data storage usage depends on image quality settings, frame rates, scene traffic, and other variables. As video footage grows over time, the oldest recordings are automatically purged from the storage media to make space for newer recordings.

7. Signage

Signs are located outside of the DeKalb Public Library notifying patrons that the building and premises are under video surveillance.

8. Request for Copies

All requests for copies of video surveillance are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including the exemptions to disclosure obligations. According to FOIA, requests must be made in writing and are subject to state and federal laws as related to confidentiality and dissemination of information related to minors. Nothing in this provision preempts the dissemination of video surveillance to law enforcement. DeKalb Public Library District also complies with the Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act.

9. Exports and Archives Procedure

The Library Director or designee will be notified of all requests for exported video footage to be furnished to law enforcement or other outside agencies, or for archival beyond normal time periods. The same applies to requests from law enforcement for remote access to the library district's surveillance systems when applicable.

When footage extraction or archival is requested, the specific dates and times must be as specific as possible and limited only to particular views and time windows, because high resolution video footage uses very large amounts of storage space. The Library Director will maintain a record of export requests, including dates, times, locations, requestor, subject, and recipient of the footage.