

CONVERSE FREE LIBRARY
38 Union Street, Lyme, NH 03768
Judith G. Russell, Director
(603) 795-4622 | jrussell@lymenhlibrary.org



**CONSIDERATIONS WHEN REGISTERING A CHILD AS A USER OF THE CONVERSE FREE LIBRARY
& FORM FOR INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT**

New Hampshire has one of the strongest library-patron confidentiality laws in the country and that law applies to all, regardless of age. The Library Trustees and staff respect the law and wish to educate parents about it and its ramifications.

The law states that upon registering for borrowing privileges at the library the patron has the right of privacy about what he/she checks out. This means the library staff may not reveal the title of an overdue item or item on reserve to anyone except the person or persons on the account.

The Library Board of Trustees gives you as parent/guardian two choices for registering children under the age of 14 years:

CHOICE #1: Family Account. Parent registers his/her child (under 14 years) in a family account. Communications from the library (regarding overdues, reserves, etc.) can be shared with anyone and everyone in the family. Parents and children over 14 years may use the family account or have their own separate accounts.

CHOICE #2: Individual Account. Parent signs a form giving their child (under 14 years) permission to have his/her own account and the privileges of confidentiality that accompany it. Communications (regarding overdues, reserves, etc.) from the library will be shared only with that child.

You, as parents/guardians, are encouraged to weigh a child's delight in having his/her own library account against the knowledge that (because of the state law) you will not have direct access to your child's borrowing record, that all communication between the library and your child will be private. Regardless of how your child is registered, the library supports the Library Bill of Rights and does not serve in loco parentis. We encourage you to take a pro-active interest in your child's reading and library use.

Individual Account: I, _____, parent/guardian of
_____ (date of birth) ____/____/____ give permission for my child
to be registered independently at Converse Free Library. I understand that this means I will not have access to
information about his/her reading choices, overdue books, or books held on reserve.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return the signed form to the library. We will make a copy for your records. Thank you.