



The [recently updated Michigan Library Privacy Act](#) goes into effect on March 28. There are a number of positive changes for libraries, including making assumptions explicit about sharing of library data for library business purposes, and other updated definitions.

One change libraries and law enforcement both have been clamoring for is the ability for libraries to share surveillance video to the police without a warrant so long as no records of library materials usage are included in the released video. Thankfully this provision was included in the update!

Most of our policies simply refer to upholding the Privacy Act, so no changes are needed. However, after discussing this matter with our resident Trustee attorney, Ben Jewell recommends a small change to our [Policy for Responding to Requests from Law Enforcement Officials](#).

Currently this very short policy reads:

The Branch District Library makes every effort to respect the privacy of its patrons. No private information will be released to law enforcement agencies without a subpoena, warrant, or other proper legal request. The Library Director, or the Director's designee, are the only Library Staff authorized to respond to such requests.

Ben recommends changing the second sentence to future-proof the policy:

The Branch District Library makes every effort to respect the privacy of its patrons. No private information will be released to law enforcement except as is required by or in compliance with State and Federal Law. The Library Director, or the Director's designee, are the only Library Staff authorized to respond to such requests.

I will contact local law enforcement after the updated Privacy Act goes into effect to discuss the change.

Submitted by John Rucker