

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

646



FROM: County Library

SUBMITTAL DATE:
August 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Library Cards for Foster Children Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve a change in County Library policy to permit foster children to receive library cards without liability to foster parents.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the 5,092 children in foster care in Riverside County are able to receive County Library cards only if foster parents assume liability for overdue fines and lost materials. With the cooperation of the Department of Public Social Services, Riverside County Library seeks to remove this barrier to library use by this underprivileged group by revising borrower policy to permit foster children, with appropriate DPSS documentation, to register for a County Library card. This card will provide full access to County Library materials and services, including filtered Internet access.

Riverside County Library and the Department of Public Social Services jointly assume responsibility for the program. DPSS will monitor client usage and publicize and promote the *Library Cards for Foster Children Program* among foster parents and children. Fines and lost materials charges, which are expected to be modest, will be absorbed into the County Library budget. This policy has been reviewed by County Counsel and will become effective September 1, 2005.

Nancy Johnson

Nancy Johnson
County Librarian

FINANCIAL DATA

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	NA
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	NA
Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2005-2006

SOURCE OF FUNDS: County Library budget

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	[]

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature

Gary M. Christman

Dep't Recomm.: Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Policy

 Consent
 Consent

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

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POLICY

Library Cards for Foster Children Program

To encourage library use by children in the Riverside county foster care system, the Riverside County Library System (RCLS) has developed a Foster Child Library Card program in conjunction with the County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services/Children's Services (DPSS). In this program RCLS will waive all fines and fees that foster children may accrue through overdue or lost materials or lost library cards.

To make foster children in their care eligible for the Foster Child borrowing privileges, foster parents or caregivers must accompany their foster child/children to a County Library when the children apply for a library card. The foster parents or caregivers will use their Foster Care, Relative Care, or Group Home Agreements to identify themselves as valid foster caregivers, along with a second form of identification, preferably a photo ID. Although they will not be billed for fees on books overdue or lost by foster children in their care, foster caregivers will be required to sign the children's library card application to accept their responsibility for guiding their foster children's book selection, reading, and internet use.

The children and young adult sections of each County Library provide materials appropriate for use by and with children from pre-school through high school. Children also will have access to the entire library collection to meet individual needs.

Recognizing the importance of the Internet in supporting foster children's informational and education needs, Department of Public Social Services/Children's Services has authorized children registered in the Foster Care Library Card program to have Internet Access on library public access computers.

It is the responsibility of adult caregivers to monitor and guide their foster children's book selections and Internet use. Library staff does not impose content restrictions. It is also the responsibility of the foster caregivers to make every effort to return all materials to the public library.

In the event that excessive materials are lost by selected individuals, the County Library reserves the right to notify DPSS regarding the losses and/or limit the individual's borrowing privileges.