



LIZ MURRILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA
70804-9005

February 6, 2026
OPINION 25-0069

Honorable Beryl A. Amedee
State Representative, District 51
5714 West Main Street
Houma, LA 70360

64-1 LIBRARIES

La. R.S. 25:225

The term "access," as used in La. R.S. 25:225 includes a minor's ability to physically encounter or use such materials.

Dear Representative Amedee,

We have received your request for an Attorney General opinion regarding the interpretation of the word "access" as used in La. R.S. 25:225.

Question: What is the proper legal interpretation of the term "access" as used in La. R.S. 25:225?

Conclusion: The term "access," as used in La. R.S. 25:225 includes a minor's ability to physically encounter or use such materials.

Louisiana Revised Statutes 25:225(A) provides:

The legislature recognizes the fundamental right of parents to make decisions as to the care, custody, and control of their children. This fundamental right includes the right to decide the upbringing and education of children under their control. Parents have the right to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their minor children. Many libraries lack adequate policies addressing the access of minors to sexually explicit materials. In furtherance of this fundamental right, it is the intent of the legislature to require libraries to adopt and implement policy language to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit materials.

The term "access" is not defined in the statute; however, the term "access" should be afforded its generally understood meaning. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "access" as "to be able to use, enter, or get near (something)." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (11th ed. 2003).

Louisiana Revised Statutes 25:225(C)(1) requires each library to adopt a policy to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit material. Pursuant to La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2), the policy must include, *at a minimum*, all of the following:

(a) A requirement that community standards for the population served by the library be considered when acquiring library material that would be accessible to a minor through donation or purchase. However, nothing in this Section shall limit the acquisition of material by a library that implements the system provided for in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph.

(b) A library card system that requires a minor's parent or guardian to select whether the minor is permitted to check out sexually explicit material physically available in the library. The provision of this Subparagraph shall be satisfied by either of the following:

(i) A library card that restricts a minor from checking out any library material in a collection that the library board of control has, through majority vote in an open meeting, identified as containing sexually explicit material pursuant to a request for reconsideration.

(ii) A library card that restricts a minor from checking out any library material that the library board of control has, through majority vote in an open meeting, identified as sexually explicit material pursuant to a request for reconsideration.

(c) A library card system that requires a minor's parent or guardian to select whether the minor is permitted to check out digital content. The library shall list in the library's policy each digital content source accessible by a minor that contains library material accessible for checkout that the library board of control has, through majority vote in an open meeting, identified as sexually explicit material pursuant to a request for reconsideration.

(d) A procedure that allows a library patron to request the reconsideration of whether a library material should be included in a library collection accessible to a minor. The procedure shall, at a minimum, include all of the following items:

(i) A process to review a reconsideration request made by a library patron. The review process shall include but is not limited to a written determination approving or denying the request, notification to the library patron making the request of the written determination, and the process to appeal the determination to the library board of control.

(ii) A requirement that a request for reconsideration of a library material that may include sexually explicit material be reviewed by the library board of control. The library board of control shall determine whether the library material meets the definition of sexually explicit material by majority vote in an open meeting.

Libraries retain discretion in implementing the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2), including the authority to impose restrictions such as requiring parental consent for the checkout of materials and/or limiting physical access to such materials. Such measures are consistent with the statute's stated purpose of safeguarding the fundamental rights of parents to direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their minor children.

Considering the foregoing, it is the opinion of this office that "access," as used in La. R.S. 25:225 includes a minor's ability to physically encounter or use such materials.

We trust this adequately responds to your request. However, if our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

LIZ MURRILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: 

Amanda M. LaGroue
Assistant Attorney General

LM: AML