Big changes are coming to your child’s Shreve Memorial Library card. A new Louisiana law (Louisiana Act No. 436) affects how all minor library patrons can access library services. Shreve Memorial Library has new policies and procedures that must be followed in order to comply with the law. Parents and guardians need to know that their children’s card access will change on June 1, 2024. Do you have questions about how this new law affects your child’s access? We have answers for you!

WHAT IS LOUISIANA ACT NO. 436?

Louisiana Act No. 436 is a new statewide law implemented as La. R.S. 25:255. Each library in the state must have a library card system that allows a parent or guardian to decide whether their minor child may check out digital content and sexually explicit material physically available in the library. The library is also required to have a community standards statement to use when acquiring new materials and a procedure in place that will allow a library patron to request reconsideration regarding the placement of library materials.

Since the library is required to have a card system that allows the parent or guardian to decide what their child has access to, all parents and guardians will have to make a decision on what type of card they’d like their child to have at Shreve Memorial Library. Otherwise, the child will have a card that will only allow them to access the age-appropriate physical collection in the library, with no access to library digital services.
What are the new types of cards available for minors (those under 18) at Shreve Memorial Library?

In the past, Shreve Memorial Library had a Juvenile card (for those age 0-10) and a YA card (for those age 11-17). Now, the library will have three types of Juvenile cards and three types of YA cards. These cards will be standard, digital, and access. All previously held Juvenile and YA cards will become standard cards on June 1, unless the parent/guardian visits the library and asks for a different card type for their child. The parent/guardian is always free to change what level of access their child has.

1. Juvenile & YA standard cards: The standard cards issued to Juvenile and YA cardholders will provide access to the library’s physical collection for that age range. So, a child with a Juvenile standard card will only be able to borrow items from the Juvenile physical collections at the library, while a child with a YA standard card will be able to borrow items from the Juvenile and YA physical collections.

2. Juvenile & YA digital cards: The digital cards issued to Juvenile and YA cardholders will provide the same access to the physical collections as the standard cards. These cards will add on the age-appropriate collections in the library’s digital services, Libby/Overdrive and Hoopla. Therefore, if a child has a Juvenile digital card, they will be able to access the juvenile collection in the physical library as well as the juvenile collection in the digital services. If a child has a YA digital card, they will be able to access the Juvenile & YA collections in the physical library and the Juvenile & YA collections in the digital services.

3. Juvenile & YA access cards: The access cards will not restrict access for either Juvenile or YA cardholders. That means that minors with this card type will be able to borrow materials from the Juvenile, YA, and Adult physical collections and the Juvenile, YA, and Adult digital collections. Parents are responsible for guiding their children in the selection of library circulating materials. These cards will still have limitations in terms of borrowing more expensive materials. For example, these cards will not be able to borrow hotspots, Nintendo Switch consoles, STEAM Kits, or Interlibrary Loan items.

When you register your child for a library card, you will be asked what type of access you’d like them to have, and Shreve Memorial Library staff will ensure that your child has that profile based on your answers. You will be required to sign a statement if you register your child for the digital or access card. If your child already has a card and you’d like to change their access, simply visit a library branch and talk with circulation staff to update your child’s registration.

What happens when my 10-year-old child turns 11? How will that affect their access?

When a child turns 11, the library will automatically assign the child a YA card in their current designation. So, if the child has a Juvenile standard card, that card will automatically become a YA standard card on their eleventh birthday, and the same will happen with both the digital and access card types. When a child turns 18, the library will automatically assign the individual an adult profile. If a parent wants to change their child’s access level, they should visit any branch of Shreve Memorial Library.

How will the new law affect student cards through the school?

All Caddo Parish students will still have a virtual library card tied to their student ID number. However, these cards will only have access to physical collections at Shreve Memorial Library, with no digital access. This is because parents must approve of access to the digital collections. If parents want their children to have a different type of access to Shreve Memorial Library, they will need to register their children for a regular Shreve Memorial Library card and request the appropriate type of card listed above.

If the parent has approved for the child to use the Internet and digital library resources at school, the student will have the ability to access the age-appropriate Libby/Overdrive collection through the school using the Sora app.

What do I do if I want to ask the library to reconsider an item in the library collection?

If you believe an item in the library does not belong in the library or is in the wrong library collection, you can fill out a Request for Reconsideration form. This form is available at any branch of Shreve Memorial Library or online at this link: https://www.shreve-lib.org/DocumentCenter/View/10078/Patron-Request-for-Reconsideration-of-Library-Materials-20230906?biddid

Once you fill out the form, you can take it to a library branch or submit it online here: https://www.shreve-lib.org/FormCenter/Public-Forms-Category-4/Patrons-Request-for-Reconsideration-of-L-148

On the form, you will be asked to provide details about the item and why you think it should be moved to a different section of the library or removed from the library. If the material contains sexually explicit content, the Request for Reconsideration will go to the Library Board of Control for a vote on the item in a public forum. The Board will provide you with an answer about your request following the determination. If the material does not contain sexually explicit material, a committee of Acquisitions and Public Service librarians will look at the material and your request. From there, the committee will make a decision about the material and send you a letter informing you about the decision.