

ID Requirements for Library Card Registration

The following information was collected in March of 2009 by Heidi Baker of the Special Populations Committee. Information was collected from several questions posed to the Libnet and REFORMA-CO listservs:

Since this came up in a meeting with Spring Institute regarding their work with refugees and immigrants, it would be interesting to see if there's any uniformity (ha-I DO know better) or differences in what you all accept:

- Matricula Consular ID
- Any photo ID
- ???

Do any of your libraries accept Matricula Consular ID cards for Library Card registration purposes? Thanks!

Jennifer J. Hoffman, Denver Public Library

-----Responses-----

The Arapahoe Library District asks for a Photo ID (Drivers License, Passport, Student ID, etc.) as well as verification of some form of the current address (DL, household bill, car registration, lease, etc.).

Andrew Roth, Coordinator of Patron Services and Material Handling
Arapahoe Library District

While I believe it is very important to get library cards into the hand of individuals, I would be hesitant to accept just a piece of mail as form of ID. I have recently moved and received mail for several past occupants at my address. If this mail was presented at a library it would appear to be very credible proof of identify - bank statements, investment information or retirement information, and cell phone bills.

I would say that since most libraries are using collection agencies to report delinquent accounts that go on to credit reports that I would want something besides just a piece of mail to receive a library card. Just think of the individual who stole tens of thousand of dollars worth of merchandise from the Denver area libraries using multiple library cards a few years back. How would this have played out in the news if it was found out that the individual had stolen somebody's identity to do this and was able to do this because the libraries had issued the cards based only on a piece of mail?

I would say the question is how to balance getting individuals library cards and protecting other individuals from identity theft that could affect their credit ratings.

Amy Phillips

Colleagues,

As I write this I'm wearing my hat as a long-time member of REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

At the national REFORMA website there is a resource called the "Librarian's Toolkit For Responding Effectively To Anti-Immigrant Sentiment -- May, 2006. The toolkit includes "Recommendations to Enable, Encourage, and Increase Access to the Library by the Latino Community" and also includes "Best Practices for Issuing Library Cards to the Latino Community." One of the document's recommendations is to accept alternative forms of identification for library card registration purposes, and specifically recommends the acceptance of the Matricula Consular ID when combined with a document that establishes place of residency (such as a utility bill, lease agreement, printed checks, etc.).

Any library that wants to increase use by the Latino community, and especially the immigrant Latino community, should seriously consider accepting the Matricula Consular (either by itself or in combination with other documents) for library card purposes.

Here is the link for the toolkit (specifically Part I which is the most appropriate for this discussion):

<http://www.reforma.org/ToolkitPartI.htm>

Lando Archibeque, Social Science Bibliographer
Auraria Library
(And a Past-President of REFORMA-Colorado)

Name and proof of current address required but it can be any form (piece of mail, rental agreement, pay stub, anything!).

If they don't have that, we put them on a "limit 2 items" account.

Babette D. Reeves, Children and Youth Librarian
Southern Peaks Public Library

DPL does not accept the Matricula Consular IDs - the reason being that in Mexico, citizens don't have to verify identity to get this ID.

Barbara Pierson
Denver Public Library

Pikes Peak Library District does not accept them (Matricular Consular IDs) for identification purposes or to initially obtain a library card.

Esther Dorado Gonzales
Pikes Peak Library District

At Arapahoe Library District, we will accept any photo I.D. as long as it has the photo and the name of the person. I really like this policy. I feel like we are embracing library access to ALL!

Rita Puig
Arapahoe Library District

I believe this law was passed in 2003, and it didn't specifically mention the Matricula Consular card, but it was drafted in response to it. I button-holed my state rep at a community event in 2003 and gave him an earful about it, and when I mentioned it he said, "Oh you're referring to the Matricula Consular law..."

It's also why we don't take the Matricula card at Westminster. Our city attorney said we couldn't.

Karen Bary
Westminster Public Library

I actually forwarded the original request to Ruby. It came on what I think is the circulation supervisor email list. Interesting that DPL and PPLD have both replied that they do not accept it but Rita says Arapahoe does. It seems to me we may want to consider clarifying this with Colorado libraries - I don't know enough to have an opinion - maybe we could discuss at next meeting which I can actually attend because you are coming down our way. I will forward a couple of replies but let me know if this is not worth considering.

Monica A. (Kirby) Birrer, Library Director
Spanish Peaks Library District

I want to respond to Monica's original inquiry. It is true she had initially forwarded me an email regarding this question and I forwarded it to the listserv because the library districts in the state of Colorado vary from organization to organization regarding proving proof of residency in the state, thus there is a variety of requirements across the board - as obviously demonstrated by the large response from our Reformistas.

There are no set guidelines that ALL libraries in Colorado must follow, or loosely follow when issuing library cards. There are only recommendations. However, I believe that as a whole libraries in Colorado do what they can to provide services to everyone. Lando's recommendation to view the resources on Reforma National website is an excellent one. I encourage you all to take time and gather information from this tool kit.

The truth is that the subject of what constitutes as valid ID when issuing library cards to Spanish speaking patrons in an ongoing one - and in being so, leading to a very important and valid discussion over that last 24 hours. We as Reformistas are the first line in advocacy for all of the Spanish speaking libraries

in the community. It is crucial we are "in the know" of policies in place all over the state and educate and inform each other so we are able to serve those who most desperately need and deserve library services.

I do want to take this a step further and suggest to those who are very familiar with the recommendations of both the state of Colorado and Reforma National to consider putting a panel together and seriously think about presenting this issue at in the FALL at CAL. I have been in touch with Jan Zinkle a Reformista involved with the planning of the upcoming conference and she said she had the opportunity to speak with Stacy McKenzie - Chair of the planning committee for the 2009 conference. When Jan inquired about how Reforma could be more visible and contribute to the event, Stacy recommended presenting and sponsoring a pre-conference event. I think in ADDITION to proposals to the CAL Conference on Friday and Saturday, this would be a very, very good opportunity for Reforma Colorado to have a captive audience and this is an excellent way to do so. It is a wonderful opportunity to "educate" others in the library profession that may be confused, misinformed, or complete unaware of policies and procedures in place regarding this very important issue and the truth about Consulate cards.

I thank Jennifer for the original question and Monica for her interest in it. I also want to thank the Reformistas that responded. We should work together to recognize issues and do our part to educate everyone about what Reforma is and why we are here. I really feel this discussion has demonstrated that.

Ruby Nugent, University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Library

FWIW ... we accept any photo ID plus something that establishes a local address if the photo ID doesn't do so. Sometimes, in the absence of a photo ID, we accept a preponderance of evidence of I.D. and a local address (mail received, eyewitness, phone call, letter jacket from H.S., etc.). Sometimes, "How's your Mom?" is enough for me, if they seem interested enough in my reply.

Jeffrey Donlan
Salida Library

Hi all:

Please go to the boulder Public Library Website <http://www.boulder.lib.co.us> click on the right hand corner (how do I get a library card, then scroll down to Courtesy Card, it lists the following. That's what we use. I also use the attached form when doing group tours or when working with a new person(s) in the community. I usually ask them to update their information when ready, if they know for how long they'll be in this specific situation-of not having a permanent address or any other situation, I have the courtesy card ends at the time they want, but also ask them to call me for extension.

Courtesy Account

If you have photo identification but do not have documentation of a current Colorado mailing address, are temporarily residing at the Boulder Shelter, or have a General Delivery address, you may apply for a courtesy account. You may borrow up to three items at any time though you may not place holds on library materials with a courtesy account. Courtesy accounts expire within three weeks, some exceptions may apply. Please ask for details at any circulation desk. All other borrowing policies apply.

¡Le invita a usar la biblioteca!

Boulder Public Library

Card Application Form- Solicitud para una tarjeta

Last Name-Apellido: _____

First Name-Nombre: _____

Date of Birth- Fecha de nacimiento: mes____/dia____/año____

Address-Dirección postal: _____

City/State/Zip- Ciudad/Estado/Código: _____

Do you live in the Boulder City limits?-¿Vive usted en la ciudad de Boulder? _____

Telephone number-Teléfono: _____

E-mail address (optional)-Dirección e-mail (opcional): _____

I hereby assume responsibility for all materials charged to me, and agree to observe all Library rules and regulations-Tomo la responsabilidad para todo llevado prestado de la biblioteca, Estoy de acuerdo en seguir las normas de la biblioteca.

Applicant's Signature-Firma

Signature of parent (if 12 or under)- Firma del padre o de la madre (si tiene 12 años o menos)

Ghada Elturk
Boulder Public Library

Dear REFORMA,

It is inaccurate information that you do not need to verify identity. To receive a Matricula Consular ID is not simple. You need to provide proof of citizenship and identity in Mexico. This means showing a birth certificate and passport (or other government issued photo identification). I know this for two reasons 1) I am Mexican and I have had to go through this many times and 2) the Mexican law requires it as demonstrated below. I copied this text from Mexican Consulate website.

Note: to obtain a Matricula Consular Card, the Mexican government even requires proof of residency in Colorado.

REQUISITOS

1. Comprobante de nacionalidad mexicana, original y copia. Puede ser cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Acta de nacimiento.
- Certificado de nacionalidad mexicana.
- Carta de naturalización.
- Declaratoria de nacionalidad mexicana.
- Pasaporte mexicano.

2. Comprobante de identidad, original y copia por ambos lados.

Puede ser cualquiera de los siguientes:

Credencial para votar emitida por el Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE).

Cartilla del Servicio Militar Nacional.

Pasaporte mexicano.

Licencia de manejo de México o de los estados de Colorado o Wyoming vigente.

Certificado de estudios en México con fotografía, expedido por autoridades educativas oficiales.

Cualquier identificación oficial con fotografía, como las expedidas por el IMSS o el ISSSTE u otros documentos expedidos por los gobiernos de México o Estados Unidos.

3. Comprobante de domicilio en Colorado o Wyoming, original y copia.

The Poudre River Public Library District (formerly the Fort Collins Regional Library District) does accept the Matricula Consular Card in conjunction with proof of address, such as a utility bill, etc..

Jimena Peña, Bilingual Outreach Coordinator/ Promotora Bilingüe
Poudre River Public Library District/ Distrito Bibliotecario Poudre River

At Aurora Public Libraries, we accept the consular IDs as photo ID, but require additional proof of address.

I think the law that Heidi is referring to is the Colorado Secure and Verifiable Identity Document Act (CRS 24-72.1-101) Relevant parts of that law follow this message...it doesn't mention libraries the Matricula specifically, but I can definitely see how it could be interpreted that way-don't know if there have been any court cases and I am not a lawyer so...

I do think this is a GREAT cause/educational opportunity for CO REFORMA to pursue...

Colorado Secure and Verifiable Identity Document Act
24-72.1-102. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(3) "Public entity" means an agency, department, board, division, bureau, commission, council, or political subdivision of the state.

(4) "Public official" means an elected or appointed official, an employee, or an agent of a public entity.

(5) "Secure and verifiable document" means a document issued by a state or federal jurisdiction or recognized by the United States government and that is verifiable by federal or state law enforcement, intelligence, or homeland security agencies.

24-72.1-103. Identity documents - verifiable.

(1) A public entity that provides services shall not accept, rely upon, or utilize an identification document to provide services unless it is a secure and verifiable document.

Tracy Treece, Reference Librarian
Aurora Public Libraries

Reformistas de Colorado,
Just wanted to add something to Tracy's comment...

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Orlando.Archibeque@ucdenver.edu