

Security Camera Policy

Purpose

SOCPLS will use security cameras to enhance the safety and security of library patrons, staff, and property while also protecting individuals' right to privacy. Security cameras will be used where needed to discourage violations of SOCPLS' library policies and when necessary will provide law enforcement assistance in prosecuting criminal activity. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the placement and use of video cameras as well as the access and retrieval of recorded images at all SOCPLS branches.

Cameras may be installed in locations where staff and patrons would not have an expectation of privacy. Examples include common areas of the library such as entrances, near book and media collections, computer stations, public seating, delivering areas, and parking lots. Cameras will not be installed in areas where staff and public have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms.

Access to Video Footage

A stored video recording is considered a library record pursuant to section 39-3-365 of the Mississippi Code and only released consistent with that code. Authorized individuals may use a still shot or selected portions of recorded data to law enforcement review for assessing the security risk of a specific individual or for investigating a crime on library property.

For investigations initiated by law enforcement agencies, recorded data will be made available to law enforcement upon presentation of a valid court order establishing probable cause to review the data. Any such review by law enforcement will be with the knowledge and approval of the Library Director.

In all other respects, recorded data will be accorded the same level of confidentiality and protection provided to library users by Mississippi law, SOCPLS policies, and the American Library Association policies on confidentiality and privacy.