

On Thursday, May 13, 2010 I went down to the story pit at 10:25am. Cheryl decided it would be good if I spoke with the toddler story-time parents at about 10:35. At that time, after she had gotten story-time started, she introduced me. I thanked her, reintroduced myself (full name) and identified myself as the manager of the Main Library.

I told the parents I was there to answer any questions they had about the newly revised CABQ policy for registered sex offenders using the Main Library. I gave a brief review of what the new policy was (one mother did not know it had been changed). I told the parents (in no particular order) that:

The Main Library staff had about a 40 minute lead time before Mayor Barry signed his Administrative Order;

This was the first week of the policy - it's new for the Library staff in addition to the parents and that we're monitoring activity at the Main Library very closely and that we DO NOT want any incidents whatsoever;

That Thursdays and Saturdays were chosen because there are two fulltime CABQ Security guards here all day and that isn't the case for Tuesdays or Fridays. Mondays were not mentioned by anyone;

Patrons entering the Library, regardless of age, are noted by the two Security guards, the two people at the Circulation Desk, and the two people at the Information Desk, and other staffers who are working in the stacks;

I am a mother of a son and daughter, who took her kids to story time;

The new policy is for registered (and I stressed that word) sex offenders; they have to sign in at the Security desk when they enter and exit the Library;

The staff of the ABC Library System works diligently to provide a safe, quality experience for all patrons;

Unaccompanied adults are not allowed in the children's/young adult areas other than those doing college research or work with children's literature, etc.

The ABC Library System is not responsible for sidewalks, buses, parking garages, and city parks that parents may pass through or use on their way to the Library. These are public spaces which are available for everyone to use.

At Joani's request I made available copies of the Albuquerque Journal article from last week, and the Library's Policy regarding children/young adults in the Library.

I received the following questions:

1. What is the new policy?
2. How were Thursdays and Saturdays chosen?
3. Why the Main Library?
4. How can the new policy be changed/rescinded?
5. Who do we complain to?



6. If CABQ does not change the policy will the Library change story-time? I told them that the ABC Library System is operating under a court order, that the current order was being challenged by the City, and that the Library was not able to change the policy. I also told them we have a bit more flexibility in our programming.

I spoke for about 20 minutes – the kids were getting rambunctious by the end. I assured them we wanted to hear all comments, questions, compliments, criticisms.

I thanked them, the toddlers, Cheryl and Madame Zelda (her puppet) and left.

One mother followed me out of the story pit and told me that she supported all people being able to use the Library; another mother told me that the squeaky wheel is making all the noise and that not all the story time parents feel the same way. I thanked both of these women.

Cindy Williams, MLS

14 May 2010