



LIZ MURRILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

September 10, 2024
OPINION 24-0102

The Honorable Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 44243
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4243

90-C Public Records

La. R.S. 44:13

Library workshop sign-in sheets are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law.

Dear Lt. Governor Nungesser:

You ask whether certain records are exempt from disclosure under the Louisiana Public Records Law. The records at issue in your request are class rosters or sign-in sheets for a summer reading program workshop for librarians hosted by the State Library of Louisiana. You ask whether these records are specifically exempt under La. R.S. 44:13.

It is the opinion of this office that class rosters or sign-in sheets for workshops hosted by a library are not exempt from disclosure under La. R.S. 44:13(B).

Louisiana R.S. 44:13 is titled "Registration records and other records of use maintained by libraries." Subsection A defines the records and the libraries to which the exemptions apply and further provides the circumstances under which the records may be disclosed. Specifically, Subsection A provides:

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Chapter or any other law to the contrary, records of any library which is in whole or in part supported by public funds, including the records of public, academic, school, and special libraries, and the State Library of Louisiana, indicating which of its documents or other materials, regardless of format, have been loaned to or used by an identifiable individual or group of individuals may not be disclosed except to a parent or custodian of a minor child seeking access to that child's records, to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library, to persons authorized in writing by the individual or group of individuals to inspect such records, or by order of a court of law.

In addition, La. R.S. 44:13(B) provides for additional records maintained by the applicable libraries and states, "records of any such library which are maintained for purposes of

registration or for determining eligibility for the use of library services may not be disclosed except as provided in Subsection A of this Section."

The foregoing exemptions to the Public Records Act, being in derogation of the public's right to be reasonably informed, must be narrowly interpreted. *City of Baton Rouge/Par. of E. Baton Rouge v. Cap. City Press, L.L.C.*, 2007-1088 (La. App. 1 Cir. 10/10/08), 4 So. 3d 807, 817. For a record to fall within this exemption, it must (1) be a record (2) maintained for the purposes of registration or determining eligibility (3) for the use of library services. The plain language of the exemption in this instance applies only to documents related to an individual's use of library materials or registration to determine an individual's eligibility for use. Sign-in sheets for a summer workshop for librarians does not fall within this narrow exemption. Accordingly, these records fall outside the exemption in La. R.S. 44:13(B).

We trust that this opinion has addressed the issues you have raised. If our office can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,
LIZ MURRILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: 
Carey T. Jones
Assistant Attorney General

LM/CTJ