

## **THEFT AND MUTILATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

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Theft and mutilation of library materials and damage to library property are covered by sections 720 ILCS 5/16B & 720 ILCS 5/21-1.3 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes: Criminal Offences. These statutes apply to such instances as theft, tearing out pages from books and periodicals, highlighting and making other non-erasable annotation marks in books, obliterating or removing library marks of identification, and damage or defacement to library property (e.g., graffiti in the bathrooms).

Upon discovery of damage, the library will call on the Office of Public Safety and cooperate fully in cases where it determines criminal prosecution is warranted.