



January 2021

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree

Happy New Year! I planned on spending the weekend in New York City. I had tickets to The Rockettes and *The Music Man* with Sutton Foster and Hugh Jackman. Of course both performances were cancelled so I rang in the New Year at home. Another time, I guess.

Do you have resolutions this year? Is there something you're looking forward to this year? We've had two years with hardly any reason to look forward. I've got some big trips planned and am keeping my fingers crossed that they don't get cancelled. In February, I'm heading to Texas for a reunion with my five other Miami University roommates. One of my roomies was diagnosed with breast cancer in September and is scheduled to finish chemo in February. So far her treatment is going well and both tumors have shrunk considerably. We are meeting at her place for a much-needed celebratory weekend.

I lost another dear friend to cancer three weeks ago. She has been fighting this battle for more than 15 years. As they say, "cancer sucks." These last few months with my college roommate have been hard. She is in so much discomfort. She is scared. As her friends, we try to support her as best we can. If you or a loved one is battling cancer right now, please know my prayers are with you. My prayers are also with the researchers trying to find cures. Maybe 2022 will be the year.



Remote Resources Available

Regardless of our status, our patrons can continue to use our resources remotely.



- Email us your research requests at fcll-info@franklincountyohio.gov. We usually answer requests within the hour.
- Fastcase is an online research database similar to Lexis and Westlaw. You can access this site remotely using the username FranklinCounty and password fastcase.
- National Consumer Law Center. You have access to their 21 treatises on consumer law using the username FCLL and password 4Research.
- eBooks are available through our website. Several Matthew Bender handbooks are available. You only need your law library card number.
- We have 57 Legal Research Guides to help you on any number of topics. These guides are compiled by our Reference Librarian and contain information vital to your topic.
- The Ohio Legal Help Portal is another great resource for finding legal assistance.
- Feel free to download any of our legal forms.

Franklin County Law Library Job Opening

The law library is hiring a part-time circulation clerk. Responsibilities include working 20 hours per week at the circulation desk, checking out books and assisting patrons. The starting pay is \$15 an hour. The full job announcement can be found [here](#). If you or anyone you know is looking for a great job with a great group of co-workers, please consider applying.



Recent Reference Requests

Susanna Marlow

In a new feature, our reference librarian will share recent questions asked of her and her process of getting to the answer. Remember reference questions can be asked at fcll-info@franklincountyohio.gov or by calling 614-525-4971.

Dear Reference Librarian,
When I was 14 years old, I gave up my baby for adoption on the day of her birth. She is now 19 years old. Do I have any right under Ohio law to contact and locate her? Is there a national law about this?

Signed,
X

Dear X,
According to the attached Ohio Revised Code 3107.47, for adoptions that occurred after September 18, 1996, adoption records are open to adoptive parents when the adopted person is between 18-21 years of age. If the adopted person is 21 years or older, the records are open to the adoptee.

If you, as the birth mother, do not mind the child or adoptive parents having your contact information, you can sign a release of information with the Ohio Department of Health. You can update this release at any time. Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-48-20 describes the procedure. However, the adoption records held by the Ohio Department of Health are closed to you and the birth father. You must wait for the child or the adoptive parents to contact you.

There is a separate law, Ohio Revised Code 3107.66, which allows birth parents to request "non-identifying" information about the adoption from the adoption agency, attorney or probate court that performed the adoption.

Adoption is a state law issue, so there is no national law regarding this issue. If you need additional help, you should contact an Ohio attorney who specializes in adoption law.

Sincerely,
Reference Librarian

Tech Talk - Data Breaches

Steve Stultz, FCLL IT Coordinator

It seems to hit the news about once a month: big company data breaches. Hackers are constantly finding ways around companies' firewalls and other defenses, exfiltrating data from on-premise or cloud company servers, and publishing it online for crooks to purchase and leverage. But how often do data breaches really occur? Data security firm Rival makes note that in 2019 alone there were over 1,473 reported data breaches, exposing over 164 million sensitive records, most of which were likely made available one way or another on the public Internet or the dark web. Only a fraction of these breaches makes the mainstream news, lulling us into thinking that the problem is much less prevalent. Not only that, not all breaches are even reported, making that number likely measurably higher.



You might wonder if there is anything that you can do about these breaches, and, although you can't directly control how secure your data is on the myriad of corporate servers out there, you can take precautions. For example, always turn on two-factor authentication or verification for online accounts of yours so that if usernames and passwords are leaked, crooks can't get in without access to your second factor of authentication, usually your mobile phone. Here are some basic tips to follow:

- Turn on two-factor (sometimes called 2FA, MFA, or two-step) authentication (verification) for your online accounts.
- Don't allow browsers to save login information on public computers such as those in a library.
- Make your passwords long and strong by using a minimum of twelve characters with numbers as well as upper and lower-case letters, and add special characters when allowed. Also avoid common phrases.
- Use a [password generator](#) to help you create truly random passwords.
- Don't reuse passwords across sites or accounts.
- Use a password vault such as [BitWardern](#), [LastPass](#), or [1Password](#) to securely store passwords for you.
- Keep your operating system, third-party apps, antivirus, and anti-malware software up to date and patched.

Curious if you have been involved in a data breach? Two services come to mind that will let you search by email address (since most online accounts use your email address as a username):

- [Firefox Monitor](#)
- [Have I Been Pwned?](#)

Interested in taking a deeper dive into data breaches? [Read this article from the highly respected security firm Trend Micro.](#)

What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Angela - *The Library Policeman* by Stephen King, *Never* by

Ken Follett, and *The Judge's List* by John Grisham

Minnie - *The Last House on Needless Street* by Catriona Ward, *The Night She Disappeared* by Lisa Jewell, and *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman

Susanna - *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr, *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny, and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker



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