

Basic Laws

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Access & Usability Webinar Series: Service Animals

Course Description

Can you have a service weasel? Can you even ask if someone can have a service weasel? This course defines service animals and the rights and responsibilities of service animal handlers under the ADA, as well as the differences between service animals, emotional support animals, and therapy animals.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Emily Schuman

Presenter Credentials

Rocky Mountain ADA Center will provide trainer with specialty in service animals. The mission of the Rocky Mountain ADA Center is to provide information, guidance, and training on the American with Disabilities Act tailored to meet the needs of individuals and organizations in CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY. Trainer provided will depend on date and time of availability. All trainers have experience and credentials in working with ADA.

Presenter Association

Rocky Mountain ADA Center

Cost

\$501-\$1000

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



MSU Local Government Center - Regional Board Training

Course Description

In the Board Training, new and continuing members of boards will review basic governing information, such as: ethics and nepotism, meeting minutes, open meetings, parliamentary procedure, principles of good governance, the public's right to know and participate, rules of procedure, and more.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Dan Clark

Presenter Credentials

Dan Clark joined the Local Government Center in April 2008. He has been serving Montana since 1997. Prior to joining the MSU Local Government Center, he served as the Statewide Director for the Montana Horizons program from 2006 to 2008. Previously, Dan worked as a Montana State University Extension faculty member in Teton County from 1997 to 2006. During this time, he served as Mayor of Choteau, Montana for four years. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arizona in Agricultural Education and taught high school agriculture for three years before joining Extension.

Presenter Association

MSU Local Government Center

Cost

Uses \$4,000 for trustee development already awarded to federation

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Montana Library Law

Course Description

Public library board members have a wide range of duties and expectations. One of those expectations is to follow the law. There are many laws at the local, state, and federal level. This course focuses on state laws – the most common laws that board members need to understand.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

MSL Learn - Tracy Cook

Presenter Credentials

Tracy is the Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian for the Montana State Library.

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Next Level Montana Library Law

Course Description

In this course we want to get you to a deeper level of understanding of how different library laws apply to different types of libraries. Adhering to relevant laws helps Library Directors and Trustees make better decisions. You will learn more about the various laws and then practice some sticky decision-making based on your new understandings.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Cara Orban

Presenter Credentials

MSL Statewide Library Consultant

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Legal and Operational Issues Facing Montana's Libraries

Course Description

This webinar is an introduction to legal and operational issues for public libraries in Montana.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Legal Topics: Drafting, Enforcing, and Managing Operational Policies

Course Description

This course focuses on policy development for public libraries and the legal basis for fair and enforceable policies.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of the Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Legal Topics: Patron Behavior and Safety Policies

Course Description

This course focuses on the legal basis for fair and enforceable patron behavior and safety policies.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Legal Topics: Surveillance and Video Recordings in Public Spaces

Course Description

This course focuses on constitutional rights to privacy and how those relate to surveillance technology in libraries.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

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Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Legal Topics: Meeting Rooms and the Library as a Public Forum

Course Description

This course focuses on the legal basis for policies related to meeting rooms and the library as a public forum.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Legal Topics: Children/Minors in the Library

Course Description

This webinar provided a comprehensive overview of the legal and operational considerations for minors and children in libraries, emphasizing the importance of clear policies.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Legal Topics: Personnel Questions and Laws

Course Description

This session provides library leaders foundational guidance about the drafting, adoption, and enforcement of employment and personnel policies and related documents. Emerging and ongoing issues are presented so participants complete the session with renewed confidence in handling human resources matters.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Legal Topics: Conducting an Executive Session in a Public Meeting

Course Description

This session provided a comprehensive overview of the legal and operational considerations for conducting an executive session in a public meeting.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Kris Goss

Presenter Credentials

Kris Goss is the Director of Library Learning Hub at Helena College - University of Montana. Kris also serves as an attorney and currently works with the firm of Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, P.C. in Helena. Kris previously worked with the Montana School Boards Association and served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Prior to law school, Kris worked as the Governor's K-12 Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Communications Director in the administration of Governor Judy Martz. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

Presenter Association

Helena College

Cost

None

Open Meetings, Meeting Notice, and Closed Meetings

Course Description

Montana’s “sunshine laws” are described as among the most stringent in the nation. These laws are outlined in Article II Sections 8 (Right of Participation) and Section 9 (Right to Know) of the Montana’s constitution. The Open Meetings training addresses these sections of the constitution as embodied in the Montana Code, and what they mean for meetings conducted by local governing bodies.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Dan Clark or Ashley Kent

Presenter Credentials

Dan Clark joined the Local Government Center in April 2008. He has been serving Montana since 1997. Prior to joining the MSU Local Government Center, he served as the Statewide Director for the Montana Horizons program from 2006 to 2008. Previously, Dan worked as a Montana State University Extension faculty member in Teton County from 1997 to 2006. During this time, he served as Mayor of Choteau, Montana for four years. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arizona in Agricultural Education and taught high school agriculture for three years before joining Extension. Ashley joined the Montana State University Extension Local Government Center (LGC) in 2014 and now serves as the Associate Director. She manages LGC operations and delivers professional development for local government officials across Montana, covering topics such as open meeting and citizen participation laws, meeting management, conflict resolution, leadership development, and strategic planning. Ashley holds an MBA from the University of Montana and a bachelor's degree in business management and entrepreneurship from Montana State University, and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Before joining the LGC, Ashley worked in other departments at MSU including Human Resources and Institutional Equity. She also served as the governance leader for a regional healthcare non-profit organization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presenter Association

MSU Extension Local Government Center

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Cost

Ranges from \$0 - \$1500 depending on location and whether offered by local county

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Introduction to library laws

Course Description

What authority does a library board have? What is the library records confidentiality act and what does it mean for libraries? What other laws should library boards and directors understand? This course explains some of the most common laws impacting libraries. We will cover the power and authority of library boards, open meeting law, code of ethics, library records confidentiality act, and public participation. This course is available face-to-face or virtually. Please contact Tracy Cook (tcook2@mt.gov), Cara Orban (corban@mt.gov) or Corey Sloan (cosloan@mt.gov) to schedule.

Topic

Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries

Presenter Name

Tracy Cook, Cara Orban, or Corey Sloan

Presenter Credentials

Tracy, Cara, and Corey provide assistance, training, and support to public and tribal college libraries in Montana.

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None