



## **“M” and “A” RATED VIDEO GAME POLICY**

The library recognizes that “M” and “A” rated video games may contain material that may be inappropriate for children. As with other library materials, restriction of a child’s access to the material is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Video games are rated in a similar, non-governmentally controlled manner as other formats such as movies. Video games are rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). ESRB ratings are designed to provide concise information, provided by the software producers, about the content in computer and video games so consumers, especially parents, can make an informed purchase decision. ESRB ratings have two equal parts: Rating Symbols (C, E, E10+, T, M, A), suggest age appropriateness for the game and Descriptors (Everyone, Teen, Mature) indicate elements in a game that may have triggered a particular rating and/or may be of interest or concern to children’s’ parents or guardians.

Patrons responsible for children should be aware that users of “M” and “A” rated video console games may encounter messages, materials, or graphics that they find offensive. Parents are strongly advised to monitor their children’s use of the Library’s video game collection, if they wish to control the information, messages, and graphics to which their children are exposed.

Children under the age of 18 years must have the written approval of a parent or other guardian allowing the borrowing of “M” or “A” rated video console games on file at the Frankfort Public Library District. Parents or guardians must demonstrate their approval by signing an “M” and “A” rated video game approval card in the presence of a library staff member. Once approved, the minor’s record will be flagged to indicate parental approval has been received so that approval is only required on the first request for these games. By signing the approval card, the parent or guardian explicitly gives their approval for their child to borrow “M” rated video console games.

This policy has been approved by the Library Board of Trustees of the Frankfort Public Library District on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.