

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2022

Library Closure Update

Kalispell, MT – On Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022, ImagineIF Libraries staff discovered books in the book return that appear to have been damaged by a firearm. Out of an abundance of caution for staff and the community, the Director made the decision to close the Library while the Kalispell Police Department investigated. The damaged books do not appear to have any connection to controversial subjects, but Library staff and trustees do not take this situation lightly and prioritize the safety of staff, patrons and the community. The Library is working with Law Enforcement Agencies across the valley to ensure that ImagineIF spaces remain safe and secure.

All Library branches resumed normal operations Thursday, August 4th, 2022. The Library regrets the disruption that this incident has caused to library users, including children and families planning to attend ongoing Summer Experience and Early Literacy programming.

“We would like to assure you that all ImagineIF staff are well-trained to respond to incidents of violent threats and intimidation,” said Library Director Ashley Cummins. “We work closely with all Law Enforcement agencies to implement policies and procedures, including weapons and customer conduct. We are also in the process of installing security cameras and developing policies to protect the health, safety, and privacy of our users.”

ImagineIF Libraries' mission is to provide safe and fair access to information for everyone in Flathead County. For more information, visit www.imagineiflibraries.org.

###