Howard McCord was born in El Paso, Texas, in 1932. He is the author of three dozen books and chapbooks. He has given readings from his works at more than two hundred universities.

Poet, essayist, and novelist, he is the recipient of two Fellowships from The National Endowment for the Arts, and two from The Ohio Arts Council; a Fulbright award took him to India, where he studied at the University of Mysore; Washington State University awarded him a E.O. Holland Fellowship to "explore the back roads of the West;” the University of New Mexico awarded him the D. H. Lawrence Fellowship, and a Research Fellowship from Bowling Green State University sent him to backpack in Iceland and Lapland.

He is married to Jennifer Revis, and they are the parents of four grown children, Susannah, Julia, Wyatt, and Eva. He is also the father of two sons from his marriage with Dora Ochoa, Colman and Robert. He has five grandchildren: Jacob, Valentina, Evan, Skye, and Sophia.