

**Reconsideration of Materials**—This section revision was approved by the Library Board on 5/21/2013. pfp

The library cannot take responsibility for ensuring that the intellectual content of materials is verifiable, right, true, or guaranteed to be harmless to members of the community.

The library holds that the selection of reading, listening, and viewing materials is a purely individual matter. While each citizen is free to reject for himself/herself any materials of which he/she does not approve, no one can exercise that right for others. The responsibility for the reading, viewing or listening of children rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that controversial materials may come into the possession of children. Materials not deemed suitable for children may be added to the teen or adult collection as appropriate.

The library defends the principles of the freedom to read and use library materials. No library materials shall be removed from the collection under any legal or extra-legal pressure except after independent determination by and under orders from a judicial court of competent jurisdiction and only after an adversary hearing, in accordance with well-established principles of law.

The controversial nature of materials is not sufficient reason to remove the item from the collection, without a formal review as described below.

To have a reconsideration request considered, a citizen must:

- be a registered borrower of the Library or the parent of a registered borrower minor
- file a complete Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Materials form, available from the Library Director
- supply full name and address; anonymous complaints will not be reviewed

Upon receipt of the completed form, the Library Director will appoint an ad hoc Materials Review Committee made up of knowledgeable library staff to review the reasons for the complaint along with the item in question and to make a recommendation regarding the result of the reconsideration request. Based on that recommendation, the Library Director will make a determination about the item in question and contact the citizen to explain the result of the review. Should the citizen request further review, the Library Director will convene an ad hoc Materials Appeal Committee consisting of the Library Director, the Library Board, and other librarians or community members as the Director deems appropriate. The decision of the Materials Appeal Committee will be final.

In the event that a complainant charges that a particular item is not protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution, the burden of proof rests with the complainant.

Material under question will remain in the active collection until a final determination is made.