

MGT-7: Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy

Adopted: 9/18/2014; Last Revised: 3/17/2022

Policy Statement

The library board recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection. The board of trustees further recognizes that democracy functions only if a range of human ideas is accessible to the people and if proponents of various points of view are able to fully and openly make their cases, however popular or unpopular they may be. This principle is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which protects the free expression of ideas. It is exemplified by public libraries which provide access to those ideas in accordance with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. Thus, the library collection, protected by the First Amendment, is a marketplace of ideas which are contained in varied and divergent materials.

Regulations

1. The patron's choice of library materials for personal use is an individual matter. While a person may reject materials for himself or herself and for his or her children, he or she cannot exercise censorship to restrict materials access to any others. Responsibility for the use of materials by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians.
2. As defined in the *Library Card Policy*, a Patron who objects to an item already in the collection or made electronically accessible by the library should discuss the reasons with a librarian for an explanation of the library's criteria for selection, acquisition or access.
3. As defined in the *Library Card Policy*, objections by a Patron—Non-Resident will not be considered.
4. If a Patron's concern remains unresolved, any patron in the library's service area may address an objection to the presence or absence of a work by completing the *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources* form. No materials will be removed or reclassified without an official review.
5. A committee of relevant professional staff will review the patron's *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources* form. The patron will be informed of the decision regarding the request for reconsideration within 15 business days of receiving the form.
6. If the patron is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted within 10 business days to the Board of Trustees.
7. If the board plans to address the appeal at their board meeting, the patron will be notified of when and where the meeting will be held.
8. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to limit the length of public comments.
9. The decision of the library board is final.
10. Items previously reviewed and retained by the library board shall not be reconsidered for removal.
11. The library collection will be organized and maintained to facilitate access. Any labeling, sequestering or alteration of materials because of controversy surrounding the materials will not be sanctioned.

12. A patron who lives in the library service area who wishes to challenge a library policy or any portion of a library policy should follow procedures as outlined in MGT-15: Appeals Process Policy.