

3.3 REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS POLICY

In its selection of materials and in support of our core values “advance literacy, inspire curiosity, seek information” the North Branford Library Department endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. The library believes in freedom of information and will not restrict a user’s right to read, listen to, or view library materials. The library intentionally provides access to a wide range of materials representing varying points of view, without promoting a particular perspective.

Materials available in the library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. Selections for the library are made solely on the merits of the material in relation to the development of a collection that satisfies the diverse needs and interests of our community. The library upholds the right of the individual to secure these resources, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to some. The library’s varied collection is available to all; however, it is not expected that all of the collection will appeal to everyone. The choice of library materials by a library user is an individual matter. While a person may reject materials for oneself, he or she may not restrict access to those materials by other library users. Responsibility for materials selected and read, heard or viewed by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians. Library selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors.

In some cases, a North Branford Library Department cardholder (patron) may take issue with specific library materials they find in some way to be inappropriate for the collection. Patrons who object to the presence of certain materials in the collection or wish to seek a reclassification of materials currently owned by the library are encouraged to discuss their concerns with a Librarian. This staff member will discuss the Materials Policy and the application of selection principles. Overdrive electronic/audiobooks are selected by the LION eMaterials Committee, which is composed of librarians from member libraries. Individual member libraries do not have the authority to remove items in the LION collection.

If the patron is not satisfied with the response of the Librarian to their request, the Librarian will give the patron the following documents:

- The North Branford Library Department Materials Policy
- The Library Bill of Rights
- The Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association
- “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form

If, after reviewing these documents, the patron wants to proceed with their request, a signed “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” may be submitted to the Library Director. This will begin the formal reconsideration process.

In order to request that a material be reconsidered, a patron must:

- Be a resident of North Branford; as North Branford resident taxes pay for the materials held by the library, only residents may request that a material be reconsidered.
- Have read, viewed, seen, or heard the material in its entirety.
- Have reviewed the North Branford Library Department Materials Policy, the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association.
- Completed the North Branford Library Department “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form. Only completed forms will be reviewed by the library. The library does not respond to anonymous complaints in writing, phone calls, or other means.

The material in question will remain active in the collection during the review process. The library will not consider the removal of an item on grounds of obscenity or for any other reason covered by law unless a court of competent jurisdiction has ruled against it. An item will be considered for removal only once every five years, unless substantial content changes have been made.

The Library Director will read and examine the challenged material, consider the specific objections voiced by the complainant, weigh the merits of the material as a whole in itself and in relation to the collection. A written response will be issued by the Library Director within ninety (90) days of receiving the formal objection, containing the decision and recommended action regarding the challenged material.

If the Library Director’s response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the patron may request, in writing, that the matter be presented to and reviewed by the Library Board. The patron should provide written and/or verbal arguments as to why the material in question should be removed or reclassified. A decision will be made by the Library Board within sixty (60) days and, once a decision has been rendered, the patron will receive written notification from the Library Board. The decision of the Library Board is final.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form

If you have found library materials about which you have concerns, please complete this form and return it to the Library Director.

Material for reconsideration

Title: _____

Author/Producer: _____

Type of Material: _____

Book Magazine/Newspaper DVD Audio CD Electronic Database

Other: _____

Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work or a portion of the work? All Part

Please describe your concerns regarding this material (use other side or additional pages if needed):

Are there any specific pages/sections that illustrate your concerns?

How did this material come to your attention?

What materials of quality or relevance on this subject would you recommend?

Have you read the library's criteria for selection, as stated in the North Branford Library Department Materials Policy?

What action do you recommend that the library consider (i.e. should the material be removed or reclassified?):

Contact Information

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Approved by the Library Board March 9, 2022