

Materials Request for Reconsideration Policy

Date Approved : 6/13/2023

Adopted by the Superior Library Board

Date Amended:

Intellectual freedom is the right of all individuals to read, view, or listens to whatever materials they choose and to speak and write the beliefs and opinions they hold. Intellectual freedom is the basis of democracy and is the core concept upon which libraries are built.

The Superior Public Library staff, library board, Nebraska Library Association and the American Library Association believes in the freedom to read. Intellectual freedom, or the right to access information from all points of view without restriction, is a core value of librarianship. Public libraries should not be expected to interfere with the parental decisions to restrict one child's information consumption at the expense of limiting access for the entire community.

Sequestering of Library Items

The Library materials will not be marked or otherwise identified to show approval or disapproval of its contents and no catalogued book or other item will be sequestered, except for the express purpose of protecting it from injury or theft.

The use of rare and valued items may be controlled to the extent required to preserve them from injury or theft.

The responsibility for reading selections by children rests with their parents and/or legal guardians. Selection and housing of the library's collection will not be inhibited by the possibility that books or other library items may come into the possession of children.

Objections to library materials

The staff member who receives a complaint about any library materials will try to explain why it is appropriate for the library to have the questioned item. Anyone not fully satisfied by such an explanation will be asked to fill out a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form which will be referred to the Board of Trustees. A committee will review the request and the material and the committee will make a decision. The objector will be notified of the action of the Board of Trustees.

Procedure for a challenge of a Library Item

- A person making a complaint about a library item that they feel should be taken off the shelf will need to fill out a “Request For Reconsideration of Library Materials” form in triplicate.
- A committee of 5 people from the community will be formed to review the library item.
- The item will not be withdrawn off the shelf until after the Board’s decision, and then only if it is the decision of the Board is to remove the item will it be removed.
- The committee will not be told anything about the book or the complainant until after they have all read the book. They will then be given the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form to see what the complaint was. The committee will also be given the Library Bill of Rights and the statement on Freedom to Read issued by the American Library Association, and a copy of the collection policy that is to be followed.
- The committee will discuss the item and present their recommendation to the Library Board on whether to remove the item or not. The Complainant will not be allowed to attend any of the meetings of the committee. Their complaint is what they write on the “Request For Reconsideration of Library Materials” form.
- The Complainant will be told when the Library Board meets so they can come and hear the decision of the Library Board. They will not be able to voice their views at the meeting. If they do not come to the meeting they will receive a letter informing them of the Board’s decision.