



Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

The Meriden Public Library offers a broadly based and diverse collection of resources to satisfy the community's intellectual curiosity, provide enjoyment, and enhance the quality of life for all ages. The Library has a responsibility to serve the public and with that comes the responsibility to try to serve as many needs and interests as possible.

All Library materials are chosen according to the Library's Collection Development and Maintenance Policy that is guided by the Library Bill of Rights. All Library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, "materials" refers to all physical and digital content in the Library's collection. "Displays" include temporary or permanent visual installations curated by the Library. "Programs" include in-person, virtual, and hybrid events sponsored or hosted by the Library. "Resources" refers to materials, displays or programs the Library provides.

The Library Board recognizes the right of individuals to question materials, programs or displays. Any Meriden resident with a vested interest who wishes that a specific item, program or display be reconsidered is asked to complete and submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. In accordance with Public Act 25-168 sections 322 and 323, Meriden Public Library abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No Library material, display or program will be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of the origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program.
- Library materials, displays and programs will only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the Collection Development and Maintenance policy or the Library Display and Art Exhibit policy and Library Program policy.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for Meriden residents to challenge any Library material, display or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.

- The individual completing a reconsideration form must include specific information about which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. The Request for Reconsideration form must include the individual's full legal name, address and telephone number.
- Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes.
- Any Library material being challenged will remain available in the Library according to its catalog record and be available for a resident to reserve, check out or access until a final decision is made by the Library Director.

Parent Responsibility

Responsibility for the reading, listening and viewing habits of children rests with their parents or legal guardians. The Library maintains several age-appropriate collections for children and teens. Materials may be reassigned among these sub-collections based on the age appropriateness of the content. Selection of adult material will not be inhibited by the possibility that books may inadvertently come into the possession of children. The removal, exclusion or censoring of any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive is prohibited.

Review Process

The patron will be given a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form to complete, detailing their objections to the material. This form can be obtained on the Library's website or in the Library.

The completed form will be given to the Library Director who will then meet with the appropriate staff to evaluate the request for reconsideration form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate the challenged material against the Library Collection Development and Maintenance policy, and make a written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material no later than sixty days from the date of receiving the request. The Library Director will provide a copy of the decision and report to the patron who submitted the form.

If the patron who submitted the reconsideration form is dissatisfied with the Library Director's decision, the patron may appeal the decision in writing to the Library Board of Trustees. The patron will be notified of the date and time of the meeting at which their appeal will be heard.

After evaluating the challenged material under the Collection Development and Maintenance policy, the Library Bill of Rights, and all applicable state laws, the Library Board shall:

- A. consult with the (i) Library Director, (ii) State Librarian, or State Librarian's designee, (iii) a representative of the cooperating Library service unit as defined in section 11-9e of the general statutes, (iv) president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee, and (v) president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee,
- B. the Board will decide whether Library policies have been followed and whether to withdraw the material in question,
- C. provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the Library material, and
- D. provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the Library Director.

Once a decision has been made by the Library Director or the Board of Trustees on the reconsideration of any Library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for reconsideration for a period of three years. This policy permits a Library Director to consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged Library material. The Library Director will summarize the previous decision in response to any new request for reconsideration for the same material during that three-year period.

The Library is prohibited by state statutes from removing, excluding or censoring any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.

Any librarian or staff member of a public library who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

Approved by the Meriden Library Board of Trustees, October 27, 2025.