

BAY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS POLICY

In order to represent the diversity of thought within the community, it is important that the Bay County Library System provide materials and access to information that represents different points of view on public issues of a controversial nature. The public library has a responsibility to serve the whole community – the minority as well as the majority. That responsibility includes providing information that some patrons might find offensive or otherwise unacceptable.

The Library Board of Trustees believes that no citizen in a democracy has the right to prevent another from reading, viewing, or listening to a specific work by demanding the removal of such from the library collection. However, patrons are invited at any time to share their comments and concerns about the content of library materials. The presence of materials in the library does not imply approval of its contents by the library. Library items will not be sequestered except for the purpose of protecting them from theft or damage or for special use by library staff. Our collections will not be inhibited by the possibility of controversial materials coming into the hands of children. The responsibility for what a child reads, views, or hears lies with the parent, legal guardian, or caregiver.

The Bay County Library System subscribes to the principles embodied in the following statements of the American Library Association, copies of which are appended to and made an integral part of this policy: Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View.

Reconsideration Procedure:

Only patrons who reside in Bay County, Michigan may submit a request for material reconsideration. The patron should submit a completed Request for Reconsideration of Materials form at any branch or the administrative office. The request will be reviewed by the Managing Librarian of the owning branch, and the Department Head or selector who has responsibility for that part of the collection. The Managing Librarian will notify the patron of their decision in writing.

If the patron is unsatisfied with the committee's decision, an appeal may be made in writing to the library Director, who will review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Library Board of Trustees. The Board will prepare a written response to the patron.