

# Materials Reconsideration Policy | Nederland Community Library District - Policy

## 1.0 Purpose:

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The library believes in freedom of information for all, and does not practice censorship. The selection of library materials is predicated on the patron's right to read, listen, or view, free from censorship by others. Many books are controversial and any given item may offend some person. Selections for the library will not, however, be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the material in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interests of the reader.

Responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians. The Library does not stand in loco parentis. Selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors, although items are cataloged and shelved in the areas of the library that are designated for adults, teens or youth.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the collection of diverse materials may result in some complaints or requests for reconsideration. The following policy has been developed to assure that complaints are handled in an attentive and consistent manner.

## 2.0 Definitions: none

## 3.0 Policy:

The Library will consider patron objections to material in its collection by using the following procedure:

1. Patron objections must come from a community member living within the NCL District boundaries.
2. The Library Director will explain the Collection Development Policy to the patron and discuss and listen to the patron's concerns. If the patron wishes, a written Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources may be submitted to the Library Director.
3. The completed request is reviewed by the Library Director and a minimum of two other staff members. The Library Director shall make a written response of the decision to the requester within 14 days of the date that the reconsideration request was submitted. The Library Director shall also notify the Board of Trustees of each Request for Reconsideration submitted.
4. Should the requester wish to appeal this decision, a final appeal in writing may be made within 14 days, directly to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may delegate the final appeal review to a committee consisting of Trustees and other individuals who will review the selection criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy and consider other appropriate information, including professional reviews and recommendations, comments from the Library staff, and comments from the requester. The Board of Trustees shall reach a final decision by majority vote within 60 days after receiving the written appeal.

Library resources will not be removed from the collection until a final decision has been

made. 4.0 Attachments: Request for Reconsideration Form

5.0 Revision History: Originally found in the Collection Development Policy approved January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007; Revised December 4, 2019; February 28, 2023



*Approved by the Board of Trustees on February 28, 2023.*