

POLICY: PATRON REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Approved: September 14, 2010

Revised: June 23, 2015, October 26, 2021, June 27, 2023

The suitability of specific materials, displays, programs or events in the Webster County Library (WCL) may occasionally be questioned. Patrons are free to enjoy, dislike or ignore any resource of the library. The library does not endorse opinions contained in materials within the collection nor those of presentations. The library believes that censorship is purely an individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject materials/presentations personally, that individual cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of other persons. The library adheres to the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

Parents, guardians, and minor caregivers are responsible for monitoring library card use and applying any restrictions they deem appropriate to their minor’s access to materials, programs, displays, or other library resources.

This form may be used to request review of only one item, display or program.

Materials being reviewed will not be removed from circulation during this process. Passages will not be taken out of context and the material will be evaluated in its entirety. A title will be reviewed only once within a five-year period unless the content has undergone major revisions.

Displays will not be dismantled while being reviewed.

For your Request for Reconsideration to be reviewed, you must be a current card holder of the Webster County Library and resident/property owner in the Library District. The form below must be complete and signed. An incomplete or anonymous request will not be reviewed.

In the event your request is appealed to the Library Board of Trustees, please be advised, it will become a matter of public record, however, your name and address will be redacted.

If you wish to request review of a library material, display, or program, please complete the form below and return it to: Library Director, Webster County Library, PO Box 89, 219 W. Jackson, Marshfield, MO 65706.

Name _____ Library Card Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Material/Display/Presentation on which you wish to comment: Branch _____

Material Type:

___ Book ___ Audiobook ___ Magazine ___ Newspaper

___ Music ___ Video ___ Program/Event ___ Display

Barcode of an Item: _____

Author/Producer/Presenter: _____

Title/Program/Subject of Display: _____

Did you read, view, or listen to the entire item or event? ___ Yes ___ No

What do you find objectionable about the item/display/event? Please cite specific passages, page numbers, etc.

Please state specifically what you believe to be the primary harm which might occur from use or viewing of this item/display/presentation?

Is there anything positive, valuable, or meaningful about this item/display/event?

What would you like the library to do?

- Withdraw an item from the collection.
- Reclassify (move) to another part of the library _____
- Other _____

Signature _____ Date _____

PROCEDURES

For Materials

A Committee of two Library staff members and one Library Trustee will meet to review your request. For reviews of library materials, they will examine the library material in question, consult reviews and determine whether the material conforms to the Library's Materials Selection & Collection Management Policy. Within 30 days of receipt of the reconsideration request, the committee will respond in writing with their review and recommendations for any action to be taken.

For Displays, Presentations or Events

The Director will review your request in consultation with other appropriate staff members. You will be notified of the outcome of your request in a timely manner.

If the response from the Committee or Director does not resolve the issue, you may request, in writing, that the matter be presented and reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees. A decision will be made by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting and once a decision has been rendered, the patron will receive written notification from the Board. The Library Board of Trustees will serve as the final arbiter.