

The Public Library of New London

Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

The Public Library of New London welcomes expressions of opinion concerning materials, programs, or displays. A Public Library of New London cardholder with a vested interest who wishes for a specific item, program, or display to be reconsidered is asked to complete and submit a Reconsideration Form.

In accordance with SB1271 – An Act Concerning School and Public Libraries, the Public Library of New London abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No library material, display, or program shall be removed, or programs be canceled, 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 shall 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 Display and Program Policy.
- 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.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for library cardholders/town 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(s) of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. The 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.
- The Library Director may consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged material to ensure an efficient and consistent review process.

Review Process:

- The Library Director, along with appropriate staff, will evaluate the Request for Reconsideration Form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate it against the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, and make a written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material no later than sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the request.
- The Library Director shall provide a copy of the decision and report to the individual who submitted the request.

- Any librarian or staff member of the 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.

Appeals Process:

- The final authority regarding the removal or retention of library materials resides with the Library Board of Trustees. Any appeal of the Library Director's decision should be directed to the Library Board.

The Library Board shall:

(A) Consult with:

- (i) the Library Director,
- (ii) the State Librarian or designee,
- (iii) a representative of the Cooperating Library Service Unit (per Section 11-9e of the General Statutes),
- (iv) the President of the Connecticut Library Association or designee,
- (v) the President of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards or designee.

(B) Deliberate on the reconsideration request.

(C) Provide a written statement of the reasons for their decision.

(D) Issue a final decision, which may uphold or overturn the decision of the Library Director.

Reconsideration Frequency:

A resource that has previously been reviewed and retained following a formal Request for Reconsideration shall be exempt from additional reconsideration requests for a period of three (3) years. During that time, the Library Director will summarize the previous decision in response to any new request regarding the same material.