

Reconsideration Policy

Intellectual Freedom

The Beulah Public Library is committed to the principles of intellectual freedom and affirms the American Library Association's Freedom to Read statement [Appendix 1, Patron Confidentiality Policy] and the Library Bill of Rights [Appendix 2]. As such, materials representing diverse viewpoints on topics, including controversial ones, are actively collected. Selection of an item does not indicate that the Library, its Board, or its Staff agrees with the ideas and viewpoints it presents.

Reconsideration Requests

When a complaint about library items is made, the following steps will be followed:

1. Informal:
 - a. The consideration will be listened to calmly and courteously.
 - b. The Library's selection policy and commitment to intellectual freedom will be explained, to help the patron understand the value of a diverse library collection and that ownership of an item does not indicate agreement or endorsement of the ideas, values, or principles expressed therein. This will be done respectfully and in a fashion that acknowledges and restates the patron's concerns.
 - c. If the patron has recommendations for other materials on the topic, they will be noted, and if appropriate, procured.
 - d. If the patron is not satisfied, advise the patron of the library's policy and procedures for handling a reconsideration request, and provide the patron with a copy of the Library's Selection Policy and of the Request for Reconsideration Form.
2. Formal:
 - a. If the form is filled out, make sure a prompt written reply related to the concern is sent.
 - b. The item shall remain part of the collection until a decision has been made.
 - c. Notify the Director and/or the Library Board of the complaint and assure them that the Library's procedures are being followed. Present full, written information giving the nature of the complaint and identifying the source.
 - d. Notify the Chairperson of the North Dakota Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee that a reconsideration request has been filed.
 - e. The Director and staff involved in collection development shall review the request for reconsideration. This includes:
 - i. Reading/viewing/listening to the challenged item in its entirety.
 - ii. Considering the objections in terms of the Library's Selection Policy, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights, and the opinions of various reviewing sources used in materials selection.
 - f. If the reviewed material does not meet the criteria set forth in the Selection Policy, the Library shall acknowledge that the material is unsuitable and it will be withdrawn from the collection.
 - g. If the material does meet the selection criteria, the item shall remain part of the collection

