



## **Library Material Review & Reconsideration Policy**

A public library will reflect within its collection differing points of view on controversial or debatable subjects. The Wallingford Public Library (WPL) does not promulgate particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of an item express or imply an endorsement of the author's viewpoint. Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents; nor will items be sequestered, except for the purpose of protecting them from damage or theft.

Comments from members of the community about the collection or individual items in the collection frequently provide librarians with useful information about interests or needs that may not be adequately met by the collection. The Library welcomes expression of opinion by patrons, but will be governed by the Guidelines for Selection and Management of Library Materials in making additions to or deleting items from the collection. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Library Director directly when they have concerns about an item in the collection.

In accordance with Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323 Wallingford Public Library abides by the statutory requirements:

- 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, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability, status as a veteran or status as a victim of domestic violence.
- No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, 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, Display, and Program Policies.
- The process to challenge any library material, display, or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.
- Reconsideration requests for library materials, displays, and/or programs are limited to "individuals with a vested interest" as any individual residing in Wallingford at the time the reconsideration form is filed.
- Request for reconsideration forms must specify which portion or portions of such material the individual objects to, and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection.
- Request for reconsideration form must include 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.
- WPL is prohibited from the removing, exclusion, or censoring of any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.
- Any librarian or staff member of a 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.

### **Procedure for Reconsideration of Library Materials**

The following steps will be used when a Library patron feels that further action is necessary to address concerns about a library resource. For the duration of this process, the material in question will remain in circulation in the library collection.

1. A Library patron who is dissatisfied with informal discussions will be offered a packet of materials that includes WPL's Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View statements from the American Library Association, along with a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form.
2. Library patrons are required to complete and submit a reconsideration form to the Library Director.
3. The Director, with appropriate professional staff, will review the reconsideration form and the material in question, to consider whether its selection follows the criteria stated in the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy.
  - a. Library Director may consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged library material.
4. Within 60 business days the Director will:
  - a. evaluate the Request for Reconsideration Form;
  - b. read the challenged material in its entirety;
  - c. evaluate the challenged material against the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy;
  - d. make a written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material;
  - e. and send a response to the Library patron who requested the reconsideration stating the reasons for the decision.
5. If the Library patron still has concerns after receiving this decision they may send any additional comments or concerns to the current President of the Library Board of Managers in writing, who will confirm receipt of their communication.
6. After evaluating the challenged material under the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy the WPL Association's Board of Managers shall:
  - a. consult with the:
    - i. Library Director,



- ii. State Librarian, or State Librarian's designee,
- iii. a representative of the cooperating library service unit as defined in section 11-9e of the general statutes,
- iv. the president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee,
- v. and the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee;
- b. deliberate on such a request for reconsideration;
- c. provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material;
- d. provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the library director.

A resource that has previously been reconsidered by request shall be exempt from additional requests for reconsideration for three years following being retained in WPL's collection despite formal request for reconsideration. The Library Director shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new requests for reconsideration during that three-year time period.

*Approved by Board of Mangers November 24, 2025.*