

## MATERIAL REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION POLICY

The Cheshire Public Library welcomes residents expressing their opinions or concerns regarding items in our collection. If a Cheshire resident with a vested interest would like to see a specific item, program, or display be reconsidered, they should fill out a [Request for Reconsideration Form](#) and submit it to the attention of the Library Director. All Library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-64 (2019). In accordance with Public Act 25-168 Sec.322, 323 Cheshire Public Library abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No library material, display, or program shall be removed from the Library or programs 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 policy or the display and program policy.
- The review and reconsideration process for Cheshire residents to challenge any Library material, display, or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on projected characteristics.
- The individual completing a reconsideration form must specify which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide the reasons for such objection. The Request for Reconsideration form must include the individual's full legal name, address, and telephone number.

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- Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under CT Gen Stat § 11-25. (2024)
- 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.

### **Review Process:**

The Library Director and appropriate staff will evaluate the Request for Reconsideration Form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate the challenged material against the collection development and maintenance policy, and make a written decision no later than sixty days from the date of receiving such a request. The Library Director shall provide a copy of their decision and report to the individual who submitted the form.

The final authority regarding the removal or retention of library materials ultimately resides with the Library Board. Any appeal of the decision of the Library Director should be directed to the Library Board in writing. The Library Board after evaluating the challenged material under the collection development and maintenance policy shall consult with the Library Director, State Librarian, or State Librarian's designee, a representative of the cooperating library service unit as defined in CT Gen Stat § 11-9e , the president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee, and the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee who shall deliberate on such a request for reconsideration, provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material, and provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the library director.

Once a decision has been made by the Library Director or the Library Board, on the reconsideration of any Library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for

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reconsideration for a period of three years. The Library Director shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new request for reconsideration during that three-year time period. The Library Director can consolidate any request for reconsideration of the same challenged library material.

Any librarian or staff member who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this policy 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.

The Cheshire Public Library is prohibited by state statutes from removing, excluding, or censoring any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such a book offensive.