



Challenged Materials Policy

The American Library Association **defines a challenge** to literature as an attempt by a person or group of people to have **materials**, such as books, removed from a library or school curriculum, or otherwise restricted.

The Preston Public Library believes in freedom of information for all, and does not practice censorship. The Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom as outlined in the [Library Bill of Rights](#) of the American Library Association. The selection of library materials is predicated on the patron's right to read and freedom from censorship by others. Library materials may be controversial and any given item may offend some person. Selections for the library are made solely on the merits of the material in relation to the development of a collection that serves the needs and interests of a diverse population. The Preston Public Library recognizes that a collection of diverse materials may result in some complaints or requests for reconsideration. The Library's [Collection Development Policy](#) guides the development and continuous evaluation of the collection to reflect the mission of the Library to provide access to resources and opportunities that impact individual lives and build community.

I. Procedures

- A. The Library holds the choice of reading and viewing materials as a purely individual matter. Patrons are free to reject books and other materials of which they do not approve. Patrons may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others.
- B. Responsibility for materials selected and read, heard or viewed by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians. Library selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors.
- C. The Library does not indicate through the use of labels or other devices particular points of view or perspectives contained in library materials.
- D. No items are sequestered to control access.
- E. A formal process for handling challenges will be followed to assure that challenges are handled in an attentive and consistent manner.

II. Process

- A. A patron objecting to library material may fill out a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form and submit it to the Library Director.
- B. The Library Director will review the request and inform the patron of the decision after comprehensive review based on professional standards.
- C. The patron may appeal the decision with the Library Board of Trustees for further consideration.
- D. The final decision rests with the Library Board of Trustees.

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