

Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy

Policy Statement

The library board recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection. The board of trustees further recognizes that democracy functions only if a range of human ideas is accessible to the people and if proponents of various points of view are able to fully and openly make their cases, however popular or unpopular they may be. This principle is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which protects the free expression of ideas. It is exemplified by public libraries which provide access to those ideas in accordance with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. Thus, the library collection, protected by the First Amendment, is a marketplace of ideas which are contained in varied and divergent materials.

Regulations

1. The customer's choice of library materials for personal use is an individual matter. While a person may reject materials for himself or herself and for his or her children, he or she cannot exercise censorship to restrict materials access to any others. Responsibility for the use of materials by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians.
2. A resident who objects to an item already in the collection or made electronically accessible by the library should discuss the reasons with a librarian for an explanation of the library's criteria for selection, acquisition or access.
3. If a resident's concern remains unresolved, any customer in the library's service area may address an objection to the presence or absence of a work by completing the *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources* form.
4. The professional staff and the library trustees will review the customer's *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources*. The customer will be informed of the trustees' decision regarding the request for reconsideration. The decision of the library board is final.
5. Items previously reviewed and retained by the library board shall not be reconsidered for removal.
6. The library collection will be organized and maintained to facilitate access. Any labeling, sequestering or alteration of materials because of controversy surrounding the materials will not be sanctioned.

Approved: October 13, 2008

Rochester Hills Public Library Board of Trustees

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