

## **Reconsideration of Library Material, Program, or Display Policy**

Ford City Public Library believes in freedom of information for all and does not practice censorship. The selection of library materials, programs, or displays (hereby referred to as “works”) is predicated on the patron’s right to read and freedom from censorship by others. Library works may be deemed controversial and any given work may offend some person. Selections for the Library are made solely on the merits of the works in relation to the development of the collection and provision of programs and resources that serve the needs and interests of a diverse population.

- The Library holds the choice of reading and viewing materials as a purely individual matter. Patrons are free to reject books and other works of which they do not approve. Patrons may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others.
- Responsibility for works 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, as the library exists to serve all ages and demographics.
- No items are sequestered to control access.
- A formal process for handling challenges will be followed to assure that challenges are handled in an attentive and consistent manner

If a patron would like to challenge the merit of having a work in the Library’s collection or roster of programs and resources, s/he will need to complete and submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Material, Program, or Display form.

- The Request for Reconsideration will be referred to an official review committee including the Library Director to determine whether retention of the item would be in violation of the Library’s Collection Development policy.
- The Director will respond in writing to the patron regarding the committee’s decision.
- An appeal of this decision may be made in writing to the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board will reconsider the decision based on whether or not the item conforms to Library policies. In addition, the Library Board may, at its discretion, appoint an independent advisory panel to review the Request for Reconsideration and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board shall then make the final determination of the matter, notifying the patron in writing of this action.