

Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library

Material Reconsideration Policy

Purpose

One role of the public library is to safeguard the First Amendment rights of every individual. This policy states the principles of intellectual freedom the library follows and outlines the process for submitting material challenges to the library.

Intellectual Freedom

Because intellectual freedom is a foundational principle of American democracy, the public library carries a large range of materials for public use which represent diverse perspectives on different issues. Some materials may be considered offensive or controversial by some. While the library does not necessarily endorse or promote the viewpoints portrayed by any material in its collection, it also believes that an individual's choice to read, listen to, or view any material is a private matter.

The library selects materials based on the Collection Development Policy and does not restrict any patron from accessing any portion of the collection, with the exception of R-rated DVDs as stated in the library's Lending Policy. Individuals should choose or reject items for themselves and their minor child(ren) based on their own values and needs. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's material selections.

The library's collection and its patrons are protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Arkansas State Constitution.

Challenging Library Materials

Any community member who feels that an item in the library's collection is inappropriate for public use and wishes to prompt library review must meet the following requirements:

1. Patron must be a registered borrower in good standing with the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library (CCJPL).
2. Patron must request a meeting with the Library Director or person acting in the Director's stead and explain the reason for challenging a specific library material. If, after meeting with the Library Director, the patron wishes to file a formal reconsideration, they will be given a Material Reconsideration Packet. The packet includes:
 - a. CCJPL Collection Development Policy
 - b. CCJPL Mission Statement
 - c. CCJPL Material Reconsideration Form
3. Patron must supply their full name and address. Anonymous complaints will not be considered.
4. Challenges may only be made for specific titles, not subjects, topics, genres, or other broad areas of the collection.

The Process For Reconsideration

1. Individual completes a Material Reconsideration Form, which is available from the Library Director or Assistant Director, and returns the form to the Director.
2. Library Director reviews the completed form and selects a committee of staff members to read the item in question and any associated reviews and literary criticism of the work. Library Director and Assistant Director may be members of the committee.
3. The committee will then meet to discuss the material and vote to determine whether the material being challenged will be relocated within the library's collection to another area, or withdrawn from the library's catalog.
4. A member of the committee will write a summary of the reasons for the majority's decision.
5. A written notice of the committee's decision will be given by hand, or by email, to the person who submitted the request.

If the person who submitted the request disagrees with the committee's decision, that person may appeal the committee's decision to the CCJPL Board. The decision of the CCJPL Board is final.

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