



LIBRARY MATERIAL REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION REQUEST POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish a policy and procedure for gathering input about particular items. All library materials within the collections of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Bridgeport Public Library welcomes expressions of opinion concerning materials, programs or displays. A Bridgeport resident with a vested interest who wishes that a specific item, program or display be reconsidered is asked to complete and submit a Library Material Review and Reconsideration Request form. In accordance with **Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323**, Bridgeport Public Library abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of the origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program 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 policies.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for library cardholders/city residents to challenge any library material, display or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.
- The individual completing a reconsideration form must include specific information about which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. The Library Material Review and Reconsideration form must include the individual's full legal name, address and telephone number.
- Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Review Process:

The City Librarian, along with 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 on whether or not to remove the challenged material not later than sixty days from the date of receiving such request. The City Librarian shall provide a copy of the City Librarian's decision and report to the individual who submitted the form. The City Librarian may consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged material.

The final authority regarding the removal or retention of library materials ultimately resides with the Library Board of Directors. Any appeal of the decision of the City Librarian should be directed to the Library Board of Directors.

After evaluating the challenged material under the collection development and maintenance policy, the Library Board of Directors shall:

- (A) consult with (i) the City Librarian, (ii) the State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee, (iii) a representative of the cooperating library service unit as defined in section 11-9e of the general statutes, (iv) the president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee, and (v) the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee,
- (B) deliberate on such requests for reconsideration,
- (C) provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material, and
- (D) provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the City Librarian.

A resource that has previously been reconsidered by request shall be exempt from additional requests for reconsideration for three years following being retained in the library's collection despite a formal request for reconsideration. The City Librarian shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new request for reconsideration during that three-year time period.

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

Library material being challenged shall 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 City Librarian.

Any librarian or staff member of Bridgeport Public Library who, in good faith, implements the policies described herein 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.

Approved by the State Library 10/23/2025;
Approved by the Library Board of Directors 11/19/2025