

Lucy Robbins Welles Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

The Lucy Robbins Welles Library welcomes expressions of opinion and suggestions concerning materials, programs or displays, especially with regard to outdated materials. Suggestions and recommendations will be considered and utilized by the library in the ongoing process of collection development.

Individuals may take issue with library materials that do not support their own views or values on a subject or that are incompatible with their beliefs. Staff is available to discuss concerns and to identify alternate materials that may be available. If the concern is not satisfied through discussion with staff, then a Newington, Connecticut resident, with a vested interest who wishes that a specific item, program or display be reconsidered, will be asked to complete and submit a Statement of Concern About Library Materials, Programs or Displays Reconsideration Form. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the CT General Statutes. In accordance with **Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323** the Lucy Robbins Welles 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 or 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 policy.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for library cardholders/town 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 Request for 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 general statutes.
- Any library material being challenged will 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 library director.
- Permit a library director to consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged library material.
- Any librarian or staff member of a public library who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section 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.

Review Process:

For a request for reconsideration to be considered, the form must be completed in full in writing with the individual's full legal name, address and phone number. The patron submitting the request must be a resident of Newington and hold a valid Newington library card. An individual shall not submit a request for reconsideration form unless this information is included. The library director, along with appropriate staff, will evaluate the request for reconsideration form, read the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate the challenged material against the Library Materials Policy and the principles of the ALA Library Bill of Rights and related statements, printed reviews, and other appropriate sources. A written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material will be issued no later than sixty days from the date of receiving such request. Petitions or letters signed by multiple parties will not be accepted for this process. The library director shall provide a copy of the Library Director's decision and report to the individual who submitted the form.

The final authority regarding the removal or retention of library materials ultimately resides with the Library Board of Trustees/Directors. Any appeal of the decision of the Library Director should be directed to the Library Board of Trustees/Directors in writing within fourteen days of receipt of the decision.

The Library Board shall:

- (A) consult with (i) the Library Director, (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 request for reconsideration,
- (C) provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material no later than sixty days from the date of receiving such request, and
- (D) provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the Library Director.

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 Library Director 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. All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the CT general statutes.

Revised October 2025

Revised June 2025

Adopted February 2022

Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Trustees