

MATERIAL REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION POLICY

The Weston Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of hearing from the public regarding material selection. Any person with a vested interest to challenge any Weston Public Library material, display, or program may fill out the Board of Trustees approved Request for Reconsideration form and return it to the Library Director. The completion of the Request for Reconsideration form does not guarantee either accession to the collection or removal from the collection but does ensure the attention of Library staff to user opinion, interests, and concerns. The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, displays, or programs to residents of Weston.

In accordance with Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323, the Weston 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 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 Programming and Displays Policy;
- The Request for Reconsideration process for Library petitioners to challenge any Library material, display, or program shall never favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics;
- The individual completing a Request for 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 phone number. An individual shall not submit a Request for Reconsideration without this information;
- 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.

All Library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes. The Library is prohibited from removing, excluding, or censoring any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.

Review Process

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 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 Library Director shall provide a copy of the Library Director's decision and report to the individual who submitted the form. The Library Director may consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged Library material.

The final authority regarding the removal or retention of Library materials ultimately resides with the Library Board of Trustees. The individual who submitted the Request for Reconsideration form may appeal, in writing, the Library Director's decision to the Library Board of Trustees.

The Library Board, after evaluating the challenged material under the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, 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, and;
- (D) Provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the Library Director.

Once a decision has been made by the Library Director or the Board of Trustees on the reconsideration of any Library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for reconsideration for a period of three years. The Library Director shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new request during that three-year time period.

Any librarian or staff member of the Weston 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.

Adopted November 17, 2025



REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Library Board has authorized the use of this form as part of its Collection Development and Maintenance Policy. To be considered, the form must be signed and filled out in its entirety. The individual submitting the form shall not submit a Request for Reconsideration form without including such individual's full legal name, address, and telephone number. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes. A title will be reviewed by the Library Director and/or the Library Board of Trustees only once within a 3-year period. Multiple requests for the same material received during the review period will be consolidated.

Your name: _____

Address: _____, Weston, CT 06883

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Title or nature of item: _____

Author: _____ Format (book, DVD, CD, etc.) _____

Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work? _____

Which portion or portions of this material, display, or program do you object to? Please provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection.

What would you like the Library Director to do about this material, display, or program?

Patron Signature _____ Date: _____

Return to:
Weston Public Library
Attention Library Director
56 Norfield Road
Weston, CT 06883