

Lima Public Library Reconsideration of Materials Policy and Form

The Lima Public Library welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the continued appropriateness of materials in the collection, especially concerning outdated materials. Suggestions 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 tastes and views. Staff is available to discuss concerns and identify alternate materials that may be available. If a patron's concern is not satisfied through discussion with staff, a formal written request for reconsideration of materials may be submitted to the library director. Copies of this form are available at the circulation desk.

The Lima Public Library is not a judicial body. Laws governing obscenity, subversive materials, or other questionable matters are subject to interpretation by the courts. Therefore, no challenged material will be removed solely for the complaint of obscenity or any other category covered by law. No materials will be knowingly added to the library collection that has been previously determined to be in non-compliance with local laws.

Challenged materials that meet the criteria for selection in the collection development policy of the Lima Public Library should not be removed under any legal or extra-legal pressure. The Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/files/content/ala/oif/statementsspols/statements/librarybillsrights.htm>) states in Article I that "Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation," and in Article II that "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, but constitutionally protected expression is often separated from unprotected expression only by a dim and uncertain line. The Constitution requires a procedure designed to focus searchingly on challenged expression before it can be suppressed. An adversary hearing is a part of this procedure.

Therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal, to regulate or suppress materials in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not abridged.

For a request for reconsideration to be deliberated, this form must be completed in full. The patron submitting the request must be a resident of the chartered area served by the Lima Public Library and hold a valid borrower's card. The director will respond, in writing within thirty days of receipt, to the patron's request for reconsideration. The response will indicate the action to be taken and reasons for or against the request. An item will only be evaluated for reconsideration once in a twelve-month period.

Lima Public Library Request for Reconsideration of Materials Form

Date: _____

Patron's name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: ____

Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Do you represent self? ___ Organization? _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

___ Print ___ Video ___ Magazine ___ Audio Recording ___ Newspaper

___ Electronic Information/network

___ Other _____

Title: _____

Author/Producer _____

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. Have you examined/read the entire resource?

4. What concerns do you have about the resource? (Use other side or additional pages, if necessary)

5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

6. Date received by library director

Revised by the American Library Intellectual Freedom Committee: June 27, 1995

Approved by: Lima Public Library Board of Trustees

Date: November 16, 2022