

LAMAR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

MATERIAL RECONSIDERATION POLICY

Bill of Rights

All libraries are forums for information and ideas. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. We are to remain neutral in all matters. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views. Libraries which make spaces and meeting rooms available to the public should make such facilities available regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting use. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In accordance with the First Amendment of the Constitution, we protect freedom of speech and the press. To uphold the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, we continuously strive to provide materials to all people regardless of race, sex, religion, gender, background, age, origin, or views. All people are equal and therefore will be represented.

Mission Statement

Through consistent acquisition, organization, and preservation of information, LCLS offers services in an environment that will support the community's educational, cultural, recreational, and professional interests. The Lamar County Library System will accelerate inquiry, creativity, and learning for global impact and the public good. We will advance student success, catalyze research and individuality, provide adventure, and nurture curiosity while amplifying the diverse voices of our communities. We will empower staff and patrons to experiment with new programs fearlessly, to journey out and create new knowledge. The mission of the Lamar County Library System is to serve and enrich the lives of Lamar County residents and surrounding communities by: cultivating knowledge, promoting curiosity, and inspiring lifelong learning. Some of the fundamental principles of our institution is liberty, justice, and freedom. The library is committed to providing individuals with the freedom to read and access materials.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy will guide the library in maintaining a collection that meets the diverse needs and interests of the community it serves within the budgetary constraints and limitations of the library. It will set the guidelines for how and when the collection will be evaluated and possibly reconsidered.

Guidelines and Procedures

LCLS selects a wide variety of library materials that satisfy the diverse interests of our community, and we uphold the right of the individual to secure these resources. A person who wishes to request the reconsideration of library materials must file a formal written request for reconsideration by emailing hq@lamarcountylibraries.org or by visiting our website www.lamarcountylibraries.org to receive a *Request for Reconsideration of Materials* form. If request is by email, a reconsideration form will be sent and must be returned within ten days to be considered by the Advisory Committee. All sections must be complete for request to be considered.

Materials must be read in full, be understood, and points of contention must not be copied and pasted from outside the filer's own work. Any individuals seeking to challenge materials must be an LCLS patron, have an active card, and be in good standing with our library system. A *Request for Reconsideration of Materials* form must be completed separately for each material challenged, and each will be reviewed individually in accordance with this policy. Only one form/challenge can be active per household at a time. Once a decision by the committee has been made on a challenged material, this decision remains in place for three years. Minimum representation on this committee will be:

1. Library staff from each branch
2. Assistant Director
3. Board of Trustees Member
4. Friends' of the Library Member

After receiving a formal challenge, the Director will inform the Board of Trustees. The Director will then appoint an Advisory Committee. The challenged material will remain in our facilities until the challenge process is completed. Once appointed, the Advisory Committee will have thirty days to:

1. Read in full the challenged material;
2. Read reviews of the material from professional resources;
3. Examine the reconsideration form and any other information submitted by the patron complainant;
4. Form opinions based on the material as a whole and not on isolated passages, scenes, or segments;
5. Review MISS Code.
6. Make a determination on the reconsideration request and write a formal opinion and decision in response to the challenge.

The Director can extend the thirty-day period based on appropriate circumstances, including but not limited to the length of the book or material, and shall inform the patron complainant of the extension.

If the committee determines that the challenged material violates the constitutional or other legal rights, the committee shall accommodate the request. If the committee determines that the challenged material is unsuitable, pervasively vulgar, or inappropriate to the age, maturity, or grade level of the patrons accessing the material, the committee shall take appropriate action, including but not limited to removing the material from the institution

or modifying access to the material. Books and other materials may be removed from the library collection only for legitimate reasons and are subject to the limitations of the First Amendment.

The Committee shall provide a copy of its determination in writing to the patron and will include the timeline for appeal. The determination will be binding for three years from the date of its issuance at the library system in which the complaint was filed, and no further challenges to the material at this library system will be permitted during the three-year period unless the determination is overturned on appeal.

Appeal

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the determination of the Advisory Committee, they may appeal to the Lamar County Library System Board of Trustees. The appeal must be made in writing to the Board with a copy to the Director of the Lamar County Library System within five days of the Advisory Committee's determination and should specify the reasons for appeal.

In addition, the Director or Committee member is authorized to refer a determination to remove a book by the Advisory Committee to the Lamar County Library System Board of Trustees if there are concerns about whether the removal was lawful.

Once an appeal is filed, the Board of Trustees will have thirty days to:

1. Read in full the challenged material;
2. Read reviews of the material from professional sources;
3. Examine the reconsideration form as filed with the library;
4. Form opinions based on the material as a whole and not on isolated passages, scenes, or segments;
5. Review MISS Code; and
6. Meet in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meetings Act in order to make a determination on the appeal.

The Director may extend the thirty-day period based on appropriate circumstances, including but not limited to the length of the book or material and shall inform the complainant of the extension.

If the Board determines that the challenged material violates constitutional or other legal rights of the patron, the Board shall take appropriate action. If the Board determines that the challenged material is unsuitable, pervasively vulgar, or inappropriate to the age, maturity, or grade level of the patron, the committee shall take appropriate action, including but not limited to removing the material from library use or modifying access to the material.

Books and other materials may be removed from the public library collection only for legitimate legal reasons and are subject to the limitations of the First Amendment. The determination of the Lamar County Library System Board of Trustees for the challenged

material is binding for three years. No complaints against the challenged material will be reviewed through this process during that three-year period.

*Forms that are not fully completed and signed will be void.

- Date Submitted
- Resource Title
- Author(s)
- Call Number
- Publication Date
- Format
 - Print
 - Digital/Non-Print
- Please describe why, in your opinion, the named resource is objectionable.
- Why does this resource not fall within the collection development policy of the Library?
- To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific, citing pages, and/or sections.
- Did you read, view, or listen to the entire resource?
- Is there anything good about this resource?
- Are you aware of the evaluation of this work by critics?
- What do you believe is the theme of this work?

- Would you like the resource to
 - Be removed
 - Be balanced with other materials
- If you wish the resource to be balanced, please list titles of resources that could be added to the collection to provide a balanced view.

- Your Name
- Library Card Number
- Email
- You represent
 - Your self
 - Organization
 - Other Group

- Name of Organization

If you are requesting a reconsideration of Hoopla Digital materials, please fill out our Digital resource form.

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I hereby affirm that I have read in full and understand the material challenge policy. I have filled out the *Request for Reconsideration form* truthfully and completely, and I hereby consent to have this material reviewed by the advisory committee.

Signature: _____

Date:

