



Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy

Policy Statement

The Shelby Township Library recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection. The library further recognizes that democracy functions only if the full range of human ideas is accessible to the people and if proponents of various points of view are able to fully and openly make their cases, however popular or unpopular those points of view may be. This principle is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which protects the free expression of ideas. It is also exemplified by public libraries which provide access to those ideas in accordance with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. Therefore, the library collection, protected by the First Amendment, is a marketplace of ideas which are contained in diverse material.

Regulations

1. The patron's choice of library material for personal use is an individual matter. While a person may reject material for themselves and their children, they cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to material for any others. Responsibility for the use of material by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians.
2. A Shelby Township resident who objects to an item already in the collection or made electronically accessible by the library should discuss the reasons with a librarian for an explanation of the library's criteria for selection, acquisition, or access.
3. If a resident's concern remains unresolved, they may address an objection to the presence or absence of a work by completing the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material* form. Only one work may be considered per form and forms must be complete and signed to be reviewed.
4. The librarians, Library Director and the Library Advisory Commission will review the resident's *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material*. The resident will be informed of the Commission's decision regarding the request for reconsideration. The decision of the Library Advisory Commission is final.
5. Items previously reviewed and retained by the Library Advisory Commission shall not be reconsidered for removal.

Approved by Library Advisory Commission 01/18/2024

Adopted by Board of Trustees 02/06/2024