

New Lebanon Library Challenge of Library Material Policy (Adopted 4/11/2009)

In the interest of protecting the individual's right to have access to materials, the New Lebanon Library supports the First Amendment to the US Constitution, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View. The New Lebanon Library provides a resource for the various opinions which apply to important, complex, and controversial questions, including unpopular and unorthodox positions. Language, situations, or subjects which may be offensive to some community members do not disqualify material which, in its entirety, is judged to be of value. Materials are not marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of contents, and no materials are sequestered, except to protect valuable items from injury or theft.

Should any Library patron raise a question about any material provided by the Library being in any way objectionable, the complainant must file a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form with the Library Director. The Library Director will then evaluate the material in question and consider the merits of the completed request form. A decision will be made regarding whether or not to add, withdraw, or reclassify the material within a reasonable amount of time, with written reasons for the decision conveyed to the patron.

If the patron is dissatisfied with the decision or the written reply, he or she may appeal the decision to the Library Board. The Board will review the challenged material which will:

1. consider the specific objections to the material raised by the complainant.
2. weigh the values and faults of the material as a whole.
3. where appropriate, solicit advice or opinion from the library director, library staff, other library directors, the Mid-Hudson Library System, the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom, and the New York State Intellectual Freedom Committee. The subcommittee will also refer to the library's collection development policy.
4. will decide whether or not library policies have been followed and whether to add, reclassify, or withdraw the material in question.
5. issue a written report within 90 days to the Director containing its recommendations concerning the challenge.

The Director will review the report and notify the complainant.