

Stillwater

Public Library

Policy Title: Request for Review Policy
Date adopted: 05/10/2022
Date amended: 01/10/2023
Date last reviewed: 01/10/2023

Purpose

Stillwater Public Library (the “Library”) welcomes patrons’ expressions of opinion regarding Library materials, programs, displays, exhibits, website content or related resources. If a patron has a concern about a Library resource, this policy provides the framework to request a review of the resource in question.

Principles

The Library believes in the freedom of information and will not restrict a user’s right to read, listen to, or view library materials. The Library strives to provide access to a wide range of resources representing varying points of view, without promoting a single perspective. The Library upholds the right of the individual to secure these resources, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to some. The Library supports the American Library Association’s (the “ALA”) [Library Bill of Rights](#), [Freedom to Read](#), and [Freedom to View](#) statements.

The Library recognizes that materials may be controversial and that any given item may offend some. Only individuals can determine what is most appropriate for their needs and can define what material or information is consistent with their personal or family values. Individuals may apply those values to the use of library materials only for themselves. They may not restrict the freedom of others to read or access library materials. Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility for their children's use of library materials.

Library resources should reflect different philosophies and points of view. Inclusion of a particular resource does not constitute endorsement or advocacy of the ideas or statements found therein. Library resources are available to all; however, it is not expected that all resources will appeal to everyone.

Request for Review

Patrons who wish to request the withdrawal, reclassification, or discontinuation of a Library resource are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Library Director or a Supervisor as a first step. If the patron prefers to bypass this option or if a more detailed examination would be helpful to either party, the Library will provide the patron with information that includes the:

- Library’s Collection Development and Management Policy and/or any other applicable Library policies
- [ALA’s Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [ALA’s Freedom to Read Statement](#)
- [ALA’s Freedom to View Statement](#)
- Library’s *Request for Review* form

Review Responsibilities

Library patrons may request a review of a Library resource by submitting a written *Request for Review* form. Resources under review will remain accessible until a final determination has been made.

Within 30 days of receiving a written *Request for Review* form, the Library Director will review the request and resource in question with the Supervisor overseeing that area, and then the Library Director will send a written response to the patron who submitted the form, explaining in detail the staff decision regarding the request.

If the patron is not satisfied with the Library Director's response, the patron will have 30 days from the date of the response to contact the Library Director and appeal the staff response to the Library Board at the earliest possible regularly scheduled board meeting, at which time trustees will publicly review the request and take final action on it. To be included on an upcoming board agenda, the appeal must be received at least seven days in advance of the next meeting, otherwise the request will be delayed until the subsequent meeting.

In making its decision, the Library Board will consider the patron's written request, the staff response, applicable policies and professional reviews, as well as the ALA's [Library Bill of Rights](#), [Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights](#), [Freedom to Read Statement](#), [Freedom to View Statement](#), and [Guidelines on Intellectual Freedom](#).

The final decision on appeals rests with the Library Board. The patron will be notified in writing of the Library Board's decision.

A *Request for Review* about a particular item will not be considered by the Library Board more than once within a 24-month period, even if subsequent requests come from different people during that time. The 24-month period begins on the date the *Request for Review* form is received by the Library.

Associated Policies and Documents

- Stillwater Public Library: Circulation Policy
- Stillwater Public Library: Collection Development and Management Policy
- Stillwater Public Library: Internet Public Use Policy
- [ALA's Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [ALA's Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [ALA's Freedom to Read Statement](#)
- [ALA's Freedom to View Statement](#)
- [ALA's Guidelines on Intellectual Freedom](#)

The most current policy supersedes any and all previous policies issued relative to this subject.