

Silas Bronson Library Review and Reconsideration Policy

The Silas Bronson Library (“Library”) welcomes expressions of opinions concerning materials, programs, or displays. All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in Section 46a-64 of the General Statutes. A Waterbury resident with a vested interest who wishes that a specific item, program, or display be reconsidered is asked to complete and submit a Request for Reconsideration Form. The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individuals residing in Waterbury. In accordance with Connecticut Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323, the Library abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No Library material, display, or program shall be removed or programs be cancelled because of the origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in such material, display, or program or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display, or program.
- Library materials, displays, and programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the Collection Development Policy or the Display Policy or the Program Policy.
- The review and reconsideration process for challenging any Library material, display, or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.
- The individual completing a Request for Reconsideration Form must include specific information about which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. The Request for Reconsideration Form must include the individual’s full legal name, home address, and telephone number.
- Under Section 11-25 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Requests for Reconsideration are not confidential patron records.

- Any Library material being challenged will remain available in the Library according to its existing catalog record and be available for a resident to reserve, check out, or access until a final decision is made by the Library Director.
- The Library Director may consolidate multiple Requests for Reconsideration of the same challenged Library material.

Review Process

The Library Director, along with appropriate staff, will evaluate the Request for Reconsideration Form, read the challenged material in its entirety or view the display or program in their entirety, evaluate the challenged material, display, or program against the Collection Development Policy, Display Policy, or Program Policy, and make a written decision on whether or not to remove or cancel the challenged material, display, or program not later than sixty days from the date of receiving such request. The Library Director shall provide a copy of the decision and report to the individual who submitted the form.

The final authority regarding the removal or retention of Library materials, displays, or programs resides with the Library's Board of Agents. Any appeal of the decision of the Library Director should be directed to the Board of Agents.

The Library's Board of Agents, after evaluating the challenged material under the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, shall consult with the library director, State Librarian, or State Librarian's designee, a representative of the cooperating library service unit as defined in section 11-9e of the general statutes, the president of the Connecticut Library Association, or the president's designee, and the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or the president's designee who shall deliberate on such a request for reconsideration, provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material, and provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the Library Director.

Once a decision has been made by the Library Director or the Board of Agents on the reconsideration of any library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for reconsideration for a period of three years. The Library Director shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new Request for Reconsideration during that three-year time period.

The Library is prohibited by Connecticut State Statutes from removing, excluding, or censoring any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.

Any Library employee who, in good faith, implements the policies described herein shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.