

Reconsideration of Material

Board approved: July 20, 2023

Fond du Lac Public Library

Previous Policy Dated: April 20, 2023

It is a fundamental responsibility of public libraries to make differing points of view available within their collections. The Fond du Lac Public Library does not endorse particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of an item express or imply endorsements of the viewpoint of the author.

The Fond du Lac Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>) and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>).

Library material will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents, nor will items be sequestered, except for the purpose of staff use, or protecting them from theft and damage.

Comments from members of the community about the collection or individual items in the collection frequently provide librarians with useful information about interest or needs that may not be adequately met by the collection. Individual members of the immediate library community are invited to share their comments and criticism of the collection, parts of the collection, or individual items. However, the Library Board believes that no citizen in a democracy has a right to prevent another from reading/listening/viewing a specific work or using specific materials by demanding the removal of such from the Library collection.

The library welcomes expression of opinion by patrons, but will be governed by the Selection Policy (<https://fdlpl.org/policies>) and Collection Development Plan (<https://fdlpl.org/policies>) in making decisions to add or delete items from the collection.

Patrons who request the reconsideration of library material will be asked to put their requests in writing by completing the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (<https://fdlpl.org/policies>) in its entirety, signing the form, and submitting the form to the Library Director. The request may not be submitted anonymously.

The Library will then follow the Reconsideration of Library Material Procedure (<https://fdlpl.org/policies>).

Patrons wishing to challenge materials must reside within Fond du Lac County's designated service area.

The designated service area is defined as the following:

Patrons residing in the City of Fond du Lac

Patrons residing in the Town of Fond du Lac

Patrons residing in an area of Fond du Lac County not served by one of the other County Libraries

Individuals may challenge up to three items at any given time.

Challenged materials will not be removed from the collection, marked or identified as challenged, or sequestered during the reconsideration process.

Decisions on reconsidered materials will stand for five years before new requests for reconsideration will be entertained.