

Reconsideration of Materials/Programs

Purpose:

To provide a formal process for patrons to voice their concerns about materials in the collection or programs they may find objectionable or inappropriate.

Policy:

Orange County Public Library (OCPL) welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the continued appropriateness of materials in the collection or programs offered by the library. It is the obligation of any public library to offer differing points of view on any topic. OCPL does not promulgate particular beliefs or views, nor does the selection of an item express or imply endorsement of the viewpoint of the author. Library materials shall not be marked or identified to indicate approval or disapproval of the contents, nor will items be sequestered, except for the purpose of protecting them from damage or theft. Items in the library's shared digital collections may have been purchased by other institutions and those are governed by the reconsideration policy of the Blue Ridge Download Consortium.

A formal written request for reconsideration of materials/programs may be submitted to the Library Director. Copies of the "Request for Reconsideration of Materials/Programs" form are available at each branch library and via a web form located on the library's website.

For a request for reconsideration to be considered, the "Request for Reconsideration of Materials/Programs" form must be completed in full. The patron submitting the request must hold a valid borrower's card. After consulting with a Reconsideration Committee composed of library staff, the Library Director will respond, in writing (either by email or regular mail) within thirty days of receipt, to the patron's request for reconsideration. The response will indicate the action to be taken and reasons for or against the request.

The decision of the Library Director may be appealed by writing to the Orange County Library Board of Trustees. The Board will consider an appeal at their next regularly scheduled Board meeting to which the patron will be invited to share his/her views and concerns. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Orange County Public Library is not a judicial body. Laws governing obscenity, subversive materials, and other questionable matters are subject to interpretation by the courts. Therefore, no challenged material will be removed solely for the complaint of obscenity, or any other category covered by law until after a local court of competent jurisdiction has ruled against the material.

(Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees 6/98; amended 3/2006, amended 10/2014, amended 08/2019 and amended 04/2022)