

Reconsideration of Materials/Programs

Purpose:

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

Policy: Orange County Public Library (OCPL) welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the materials in the collection or programs offered by the library. It is the role of any public library to offer materials with differing points of view. 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 be an Orange County resident holding a borrower's card in good standing. Good standing is defined as a valid, unexpired and non-probationary account not blocked for fines or fees owed over \$10 or blocked by linkage to blocked family members. Each cardholder is limited to a submission of no more than 3 reconsideration forms per month as the completion of a reconsideration process requires considerable staff time and resources. Reconsideration forms which are substantially duplicative of a prior submission will not be considered within 4 years of the decision being made on the prior submission.

After consulting with a Reconsideration Committee composed of library staff, the Library Director will respond to the patron's request for reconsideration in writing (either by email or regular mail) as promptly as possible given the ability to access the material under consideration and the library's overall staffing needs. The response will indicate the action to be taken and reasons for or against the request. Items under review will not be removed from the circulating collection during the review period. Upon completion of the reconsideration process, the decision to remove an item from the collection does not guarantee that the item will not be reacquired after 4 years or more have passed, especially if the item is requested.

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 their 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 6/1998; amended 3/2006, amended 10/2014, amended 08/2019 ,04/2022, 10/2023)