

MONTGOMERY CITY –COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

All items selected under the Montgomery City-County Public Library's Collection Development Policy are considered constitutionally protected until such time as they are determined unprotected by judicial action in courts of jurisdiction and after all appeals have been exhausted. In the event that a patron charges that a particular item is not protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution, the burden of proof rests with the complainant. Items under question, which meet the criteria for selection set forth in the Collection Development Policy, will remain in the active collection until such determination is made.

DEFINITION

Reconsideration of library materials is the act of reviewing items currently in the collection, after receipt of a patron's formal complaint, utilizing the Library's Collection Development Policy and reputable reviews to determine whether or not the items will remain in or be removed from the collection.

POLICY POINTS

Any staff member receiving a patron complaint against an item in the collection will immediately refer the patron to the Librarian-in-Charge. The Librarian-in-Charge will listen respectfully to the complaint, making no judgmental comments, and inquire of the patron if he wishes to file a formal complaint.

For patrons filing a formal complaint, the Librarian-in-Charge will supply the patron with the appropriate paperwork along with the assurances that the complaint will be reviewed by the appropriate personnel and that the patron will receive a letter from the Library Director indicating the results of the review.

If the patron is not satisfied with the results of the review, he may elect to request in writing that the item be reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees at their next scheduled meeting. The decision of the Library Board will be final.

During the review process, the Library Director will be the sole spokesperson for the Montgomery City-County Public Library. No other staff or Board member will comment on the complaint until the conclusion of the review process.