



Linda A. Devlin, Director

**COL-3: Challenged Material Policy**

**Effective: 12/9/25** Supersedes: June 12, 2022, Challenged Material and Programs Policy; February 8, 2022; MNG-5, Patron Request-Reconsideration of Library Materials, November 11, 2005

**Policy Statement:** The Camden County Library System provides a method for library users to request reconsideration of library materials and programs in accordance with New Jersey's Freedom to Read Act.

**I. Regulations:**

1. Library materials are selected and retained in accordance with criteria set forth in the Library's Collection Development Policy, COL-1.
2. The Library's governing body will not remove library materials because of the origin, background, or viewpoint of the material or those contributing to its creation and will not engage in censorship of library materials.
3. The Library's governing body allows users to reserve and check out any library material, including diverse and inclusive material.
4. Individuals with a vested interest in the Library may request removal of library material using the Library's *Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials* form.
5. Requests for removal of library materials will be reviewed by a committee in accordance with New Jersey's Freedom to Read Act.
6. Challenged materials remain within the Library and will be available for users to reserve, check out, and access until there is a final decision by the review committee.
7. Material that has been challenged shall not be subject to a subsequent challenge for at least one year.

**II. Procedure:**

1. A review committee consisting of at least one member of the governing body, a librarian employed by the library, a non-librarian staff member familiar with the library material, a representative selected by the governing body, a resident serviced by the library (provided that the resident is not the individual who submitted the form), and any additional members deemed necessary will:
  - a) Review the challenged material/s.



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- b) Provide the Library's governing body with a written recommendation within 30 business days of receipt of the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials* form.
  - c) A copy of the committee's report shall also be provided to the individual with a vested interest who filed the form.
  - d) The governing body will review the committee's recommendation and make a final determination on whether the material is to be removed from library or limited in use
  - e) The governing body shall provide a written statement of reasons for the removal, limitation or non-removal of library material and any final determination that is contrary to the recommendations of the review committee.
2. A governing body determination issued in accordance with this policy shall be final and binding for a period of five years.

#### I. Definitions

- **Censorship:** Means to block, suppress, or remove library material based on disagreement with a viewpoint, idea, or concept, or solely because an individual finds content offensive, but does not include limiting or restricting access to any library material deemed developmentally inappropriate for certain age groups.
- **Diverse and Inclusive Material:** Material that reflects any protected class as enumerated in the "Law Against Discrimination", P.L. 1945, c 169 (c. 10:5-1 et seq); material produced by an author who is a member of a protected class as enumerated in the "Law Against Discrimination", P.L. 1945, c 169 (c. 10:5-1 et seq); and material that contains the author's points of view concerning contemporary problems and issues, whether international, national, or local.
- **Governing body:** A board of trustees, director, or other chief administrative officer, a county library commission, or a board of county commissioners in a public library.
- **Individual with a vested interest:** Any resident who is served by the public library or resides in a county or municipality where the library is situated.
- **Library material:** Any material including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, and software and instructional material belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of the public library.