



Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

Purpose

The Hamden Public Library does not promulgate particular beliefs, views, or actions, nor does the selection of a resource, provision of programming, or display presentation express or imply an endorsement of a particular, view, or action. The Library serves as a place for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information, exploration of ideas, and promotion of free expression. All collection development, library displays, and library programming are curated and developed by professionally trained librarians in accordance with protections against discrimination set forth in section [46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes](#): All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

The Library is committed to being inclusive in these endeavors, not exclusive. As such, the Library provides a process for individuals with a vested interest to challenge any library and other educational material, display, or program

Policy for Review and Reconsideration

Any Hamden resident who wishes that a specific item, program, or display be reconsidered is invited to complete and submit a Reconsideration Form. In accordance with [Public Act 25-168, Sec. 322,323](#), Hamden Public Library abides by the following statutory requirements.

- No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of the origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program.
- Library materials, displays and programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance, the display, and/or program policies.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for Hamden residents to challenge any library material, display or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.
- The individual completing a reconsideration form must include specific information about which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the

reasons for such objection. The Request for Reconsideration form must include the individual's full legal name, address and telephone number,

- Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes.
- Any library material or display being challenged will remain available in the library according to its catalog record and be available for a resident to reserve, check out, view/interact with, or access until a final decision is made by the Library Director.
- The Library Director is permitted to consolidate any requests for reconsideration of the same challenged library material.
- Once a decision has been made by the Library Director or the Hamden Public Library Board of Trustees or other governing board on the reconsideration of any library material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for reconsideration for a period of three years.

Process to Review and Reconsider:

Any Hamden resident may express an opinion, ask for review, and seek reconsideration with regards to materials, programs, or displays. The resident will be invited to complete the entirety of the reconsideration form and return it to the library. Staff will provide this form along with a copy of relevant library policy. Library policies for collection development and maintenance, programming, and displays are also on the Library's website.

The Library Director will notify the resident that the form has been received and is under review. The Library Director, along with appropriate staff, will:

- Notify the resident that the form has been received and is under review;
- Evaluate the request for reconsideration form;
- Read the challenged material in its entirety;
- Evaluate the challenged material against the collection development and maintenance policy.

A written decision on whether or not to remove the challenged material will be made within sixty days of from the date of receiving the form. At such time the Library Director shall provide a copy of the decision and report to the resident.

The resident may appeal the decision in writing to the Hamden Public Library Board of Trustees. The final authority regarding the reconsideration ultimately resides with the Trustees. The Trustees shall:

- Engage in consultation with the Library Director, the Connecticut State Librarian/designee, representative staff of the cooperating library service unit [defined in [CT State General Statutes 11-9e](#)], the president of the Connecticut Library Association or designee, and the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards or designee.

- Deliberate on the request to reconsider.
- Provide a written statement of the reasons for the reconsideration or refusal to reconsider the library material.
- Provide any final decision that is contrary to the decision of the Library Director.

The Library Director shall summarize the previous decision in response to any new request for reconsideration during that three-year time period. The Library is prohibited by state statutes from removing, excluding or censoring any book on the sole basis that an individual finds such book offensive.

Regardless of the decision rendered by the Hamden Public Library Board of Trustees any librarian or staff member who, in good faith, implements policies described for Collection Development, Display, and Programming shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

Approved by the Hamden Public Library Board of Trustees: Nov. 5, 2025