



ESSEX LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Challenged Resources Policy

It is the Essex Library's goal to provide our community with library resources that reflect a wide range of views, expressions, opinions and interests. Specific acquisitions may include items that may be unorthodox or unpopular with the majority or controversial in nature. The Library's acquisition of these items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather makes available its expression.

The Essex Library provides free access to materials in a number of formats including print, media and electronic to all customers. Library patrons make their own choices as to what they will use based on individual interests and concerns. The Essex Library supports the right of each family to decide which items are appropriate for use by their children. Responsibility for a child's use of library materials lies with his or her parent or guardian.

The Essex Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and its Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements. In considering a complaint, the Library may seek advice from other groups who are concerned with intellectual freedom, such as the local media, the Connecticut Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom.

Concerns or complaints about library resources are to be brought to the attention of the Library Director. If the concern is not resolved through discussion with the Director, the complainant will be offered a ***Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources*** form. Upon receipt of the completed Statement of Concern, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Library Director and the librarian responsible for selecting the material, or other library resource such as programs, displays, etc., will reconsider the material identified in the Statement of Concern. This review will include an evaluation of the reasons for selecting the material, published professional reviews when available, and the information provided by the complainant.
2. The Library Director will decide whether to retain or withdraw the questioned resource, and communicate that decision in writing to the complainant. The Library Director's response will include the procedure for appealing his or her decision.
3. If the complainant believes the Director's response is inadequate, a written appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees. The appeal will be considered at an open meeting of the Board of Trustees, with comment welcomed from the complainant and other interested citizens. No decision on the appeal will be made at that board meeting.
4. The Board's decision to retain or withdraw the questioned resource will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. Their decision will be communicated in writing to the complainant.

*Adopted by the Essex Library Board of Trustees
May, 2018*



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***STATEMENT OF CONCERN
REGARDING LIBRARY RESOURCES***

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Do you represent yourself? _____

Do you represent an organization? (please identify) _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

Book Display Movie Magazine Library Program Music

Newspaper Artwork Other (please specify) _____

Title _____

Author/Artist/Producer/Provider _____

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. Have you examined the entire resource? _____

4. What concerns you about this resource? [Use additional pages if necessary]

- 4.a What do you believe is the purpose of this resource?

- 4.b For what age group should this resource be recommended? _____
5. Overall, do you believe there is any value in this resource? _____
6. Are there resources you can suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic? [Use additional pages if necessary]

7. Are you aware of any critical reviews dealing with this work? Please cite review source, author, volume number and/or date of publication and page numbers.

8. What do you believe may be the result of using this resource?

9. What would you like the library to do about this resource?

10. Additional comments: _____

The Essex Library Association adheres to the principles of the **Library Bill of Rights**, the **Freedom to View** and the **Freedom to Read** statements adopted by the American Library Association. **Copies of those documents will be made available free of charge upon request.**

Anyone submitting this **Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources** form to a Library staff member will receive a response within ten working days.