

Reconsideration Request Policy

The Saugerties Public Library fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. Materials available in the library and scheduled programs present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The library also selects a wide variety of library resources that satisfy the diverse interests of our community. The library reserves the right to secure these resources, even if the content is controversial, unorthodox, or deemed objectionable by some. The library's varied resources and programs are available to all; however, it is not expected that all will appeal to everyone.

Patrons who wish to request the reconsideration of resources currently offered by the library are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Library Director or Assistant Director. If the patron is not satisfied with the response to their request, the Library Director or Assistant Director will provide the patron with information and a form to request formal reconsideration of the library resource.

The following steps are to be taken when an individual thinks that further action is necessary to address concerns about a library resource or program. For the duration of this process, any material in question will remain in circulation in the library collection. Any scheduled programs will remain on the calendar.

1. A concerned patron who is dissatisfied with earlier informal discussions will be offered a packet of materials that includes the library's mission statement, collection and programming policies, reconsideration form and the Library Bill of Rights.
2. Patrons are required to complete and submit a reconsideration form to the library director.
3. Once the Reconsideration Form is fully completed, the director along with the appropriate professional staff and the Policy & Personnel Committee, will review the form and will complete the following: read, view or listen to the resource in its entirety; check general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists; determine the extent to which the material supports the library's policies; judge the material as a whole and not in part.
4. Within 30 business days, the Director and Policy & Personnel Committee will make a decision and send a letter to the concerned person who requested the reconsideration, stating the reasons for the decision.
5. If the individual is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted within 10 business days to the Board of Trustees.
6. The appeal will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting. The decision of the Board is final.

Patron Complaint Policy approved by the Board of Directors: July 11, 2019

Patron Complaint Policy rewritten as Reconsideration Request Policy and adopted: September 7th, 2023

Review cycle every 5 years

discover, connect, grow.