



Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources Western Allegheny Community Library

The Western Allegheny Community Library believes reading and the choice of library materials by a library patron is an individual, private matter. While a person may reject materials for oneself, he or she may not restrict access to those materials by other library patrons.

WACL's professional staff, in accordance with its primary obligation of providing the information and materials, within budgetary limitations, which best accommodate all the people in the community, is responsible for the selection of resources for WACL. The Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement will always be important foundation principles underlying our selection criteria. We are committed to providing the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national and local. No materials should ever be excluded because of the beliefs or characteristics of the writer nor be proscribed or removed from WACL because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Censorship of books urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinions or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information, intellectual freedom, and enlightenment.

WACL recognizes that opinions may differ regarding the appropriateness of materials in any library, that certain materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some library users.

The procedures outlined below have been developed to ensure that concerns expressed by members of the community regarding library resources receive thoughtful consideration and are reviewed using a consistent process. During this process, library materials will remain available to the public and library programs and displays will continue as scheduled unless otherwise determined by the Library Director for reasons unrelated to the concern.

A library patron who wishes to express a concern regarding a library resource should be referred to the Library Director or the staff member in charge. Staff will explain the library's Collection Development Policy, Programming Policy, or other applicable policy, as appropriate.

If, after discussion, the patron wishes to formally express a concern regarding a library resource, they may complete a Statement of Concern Form. A separate form must be completed for each library resource.



Statement of Concern Review Process:

1. The library patron must complete a Statement of Concern Form and submit it to the Library Director. This form may not be submitted anonymously.
2. The Statement of Concern will be referred to a committee consisting of the Library Director and two Library and Information Science professionals who will determine whether retention of the item would be in violation of the Collection Development Policy. During the review, the resource will remain available to the public and library programs or displays will continue as scheduled.
3. The Library Director will review the concern using the applicable library policies, including but not limited to the Collection Development Policy, Programming Policy, Display Policy, Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and other professional selection criteria as appropriate.
4. Within ten business days, the Library Director will provide a written response explaining the library's decision.
5. If the patron is not satisfied with the Director's response, they may submit a written request for review by the Western Allegheny Community Library Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of receiving the Director's decision. The Board may appoint a review committee consisting of the Library Director, at least two members of the Board of Directors, and, at the Board's discretion, an individual with relevant professional expertise. The review committee's decision shall be final.

The Library Board of Directors retains responsibility for the governance of the Library. Operational decisions regarding the selection, retention, organization, and presentation of library resources are made in accordance with the Library's adopted policies and professional standards.



Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources

The submission of a Statement of Concern does not automatically result in changes to library collections, programs, displays, or services. Library resources will remain available during the review process.

Patron Information

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

☐ I am submitting this statement on my own behalf.

☐ I am submitting this statement on behalf of an organization or group.

If representing an organization or group, please identify it: _____

Library Resource

I am expressing a concern regarding:

☐ Collection Item (Book, DVD, Audiobook, etc.)

☐ Digital Resource

☐ Library Program or Event

☐ Library Display

☐ Other: _____

Title or Description of Resource: _____

Approved by the Board of Trustees 3.29.2022

Updated and Approved by the Board of Trustees 10.21.2024

Updated and Approved by the Board of Directors 8.11.26



Author / Creator / Presenter (if applicable): _____

Program Date (if applicable): _____

Your Experience with the Resource

What brought the work/resource to your attention? _____

What concerns do you have regarding this library resource? Please be as specific as possible.

Did you read, view, listen to, or attend the resource in its entirety? ____ Yes ____ No

If no, please describe the portion you reviewed or attended.

If applicable, please identify the specific portions of the resource that relate to your concern. _____

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What information would you like the library to consider as it reviews your concern?

Other comments that would be helpful to the committee reviewing this request?

Library Use Only

Date Received: _____

Received By: _____

Director Response Sent: _____

Board Review Requested:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Date Closed: _____

Please return this completed form to Western Allegheny Community Library