

Requests for Reconsideration Policy

The Northland Public Library Authority Board believes reading is an individual, private matter. While anyone is free to select or reject materials for him or herself, s/he cannot restrict the freedom of others to read or inquire. Parents have the primary responsibility to guide and direct the reading of their own minor child. The library does not stand in loco parentis.

There should be 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 the Northland Public Library 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 and enlightenment.

Opinions may differ regarding the appropriateness of materials in any library. Resolution of conflicts between freedom of expression and information and the community's right to restrict certain materials' use is often a difficult task. In an attempt to insure the rights of all parties, Northland Public Library has established procedures for dealing with complaints against materials housed within the library.

The Northland Public Library professional staff, in accordance with its primary obligation of providing the information, within budgetary limitations, which best accommodates all the people in the community, is responsible for the selection of resources for Northland Public Library. The Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement will always be important foundation statements underlying selection questions.

After a complaint has been lodged, at least 3 members of the selection committee responsible for that area will read or review the questioned material and research reviews and evaluations within professional literature. The consensus analysis of the item and a recommendation for action will be referred to the Executive Director and an answer will be sent to the complainant. No items shall be removed from Northland's collection without a court order if the Executive Director deems it appropriate for the collection.