

RECONSIDERATION POLICY:

The Flint Memorial Library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom, which allows every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. The Library provides free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. These principles are further explained in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement from the American Library Association.

Access to library material shall be controlled only to the extent necessary to protect them from damage or theft. Material is neither included nor excluded due to the race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political and social views of the author. Inclusion of materials does not imply agreement with or endorsement of content. Individual items, which in and of themselves may be controversial or offensive to some patrons or staff, may be selected if their inclusion will contribute to the range of viewpoints in the collection as a whole, and to the effectiveness of the Library's ability to serve the needs of the community.

The library recognizes parents and legal guardians as the parties responsible for the reading and viewing habits of children. The selection of materials for the collection is not restricted by the possibility that children may obtain materials their parents or guardians consider inappropriate.

New books and other materials are selected by the Library Director and staff following the general guidelines of the Collection Development Policy. If a patron feels that any library material does not conform to the Policy, a Request for Reconsideration form may be completed. No action will be taken unless this form is submitted.

Please note that only residents of the Town of North Reading are able to request reconsideration of any materials in the Library's collection. The Flint Memorial Library can only address materials that are housed in its own collection. The Library bears no responsibility for borrowable materials held by another library.

Any resident of the Town of North Reading asking for the withdrawal of library material must submit a Request for Reconsideration Form to the Library Director. The material will not be removed or relocated from the Library during the review process. The director, with appropriate professional staff, will review the reconsideration form and the material in question, to consider whether its selection follows the criteria stated in the Collection Policy. The Director will make a written ruling on the request

within 30 days. If the individual is not satisfied with the Director's decision, the person may make a written request to the Board of Library Trustees within 30 days of receiving the decision. The Trustees' will review and respond within 90 days. The Trustees' decision is final. The contested material will not be considered for review again for five (5) years after the completion of the review. Please note that submitted Requests for Reconsideration will be forwarded to the Town Administrator, MLA, MBLC, and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees

9/14/22

Flint Memorial Library
Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

A formal review of any title or material is initiated only upon the submission of this form to the Library Director.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____ North Reading, MA

Telephone _____ Email _____

Have you read the Library's Collection Development Policy? Yes ___ No ___

Type of Material: Book ___ DVD ___ Other (please specify) _____

Title _____

Author _____

1. What brought this material to your attention?

2. Have you read/viewed the entire work? Yes ___ No ___ If not, which parts?

3. What concerns you about this material? Please cite specific examples, page numbers, etc.

4. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information or offer a different viewpoint on a certain topic?

Signature _____ Date _____