

Kimball Library Reconsideration Policy

The Kimball Library affirms that allowing for public comment is an essential part of any collection development policy. By providing a process for reconsideration of materials, the Library recognizes the importance of varying points of view among the community we serve.

The Kimball 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 represent a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The Library also selects a wide variety of library materials that satisfy the diverse interests of our community. The Library upholds the right of the individual to secure these resources, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to some. The library's varied collection is available to all; however, it is not expected that all of the collection will appeal to everyone.

For Atkinson residents who are library patrons and wish to request the withdrawal or reclassification of materials currently owned by the Library, the first step is having a conversation about the concerns with the Director. If the patron is not satisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the Director will provide them with a packet of materials to include the library's mission statement, selection policy, the Library Bill of Rights and the reconsideration form in order to request a formal reconsideration of the library resource. The Library can accommodate one request at a time.

Once the Director receives the completed reconsideration form, a committee will be formed to review the reconsideration request and the material in question, to consider whether its selection follows the criteria set forth in the collection development policy. Within 15 business days, the Director will send a letter to the concerned patron informing them of the decision.

The evaluation work will be guided by the following principles:

- Libraries have diverse materials reflecting differing points of view and a library's mission is to provide access to information to all users.
- All library users have a First Amendment right to read, view and listen to library resources.
- The Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association are guiding documents.
- Any Atkinson library user has the right to express concerns about library resources and to expect to have the objection taken seriously.
- A questioned item will be considered in its entirety, not on portions taken out of context.
- Parents or guardians have the right to guide the reading, viewing and listening of their children but must extend the same right to other parents and guardians.

If the individual is not satisfied with the director's decision, a written appeal may be submitted within 10 business days to the Board of Trustees. The Board will consider the appeal at their next regularly scheduled board meeting. The meeting is open to the public. The Board reserves the right to limit the length of public comment. The decision of the Board is final. The title will remain in circulation while the reconsideration process unfolds.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees 6/15/2022