

Brunswick County Library Procedures for Reconsideration Challenges

By providing a process for Reconsideration of materials, the library recognizes and respects varying points of view among the community for whom they provide service. A well-designed Reconsideration process provides structure for allowing people to voice their opinions. It also allows the library to consider a request for Reconsideration with a level of objectivity and fairness and will complete the review process in its entirety.

The Brunswick County Library System fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement of the American Library Association.

All library users have a First Amendment right to read, view, and listen to library resources. Materials available in the library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The library also selects a 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.

When library resources are Reconsidered, the principles of the freedom to read, listen to, and view are defended. Parents or guardians have the right to guide the reading, viewing, and listening of their children but must give the same right to other parents/guardians.

Patrons who wish to request the withdrawal or reclassification of materials currently owned by the library are encouraged to discuss their concerns with a library branch manager. If the patron is not satisfied with the response to the request, the manager will provide the patron with information and a form to request a formal, written Reconsideration Challenge of the library resource.

**Please review the Brunswick County Library Selection Policy provided on the Brunswick County Library policies website brunswickcountync.gov/library.

Reconsideration Challenge Procedures:

1. The Reconsideration Document will be obtained from the library branch manager. This document must be completed in its entirety or the challenge will not be evaluated. The patron must be a library card holder for thirty days prior to making a Challenge.

2. The Reconsideration Document will be forwarded to the Director of the Brunswick County Library System who will release it to all Brunswick County Library Board of Trustee members who will then evaluate the Request for Reconsideration.
3. The Challenged item will be read by the Trustees in its entirety. Reviews of additional sources will be consulted including collection policies, articles, reviews, etc.
4. Challenged materials will not be removed from the collection while under Reconsideration.
5. Passages or parts cannot be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other based on the materials as a whole.
Per policy, the Board of Trustees will meet in a closed session, which may occur virtually, and the vote will be recorded at the next Board of Trustees' meeting. Public comments can be directed to the Library Director.
6. The Trustees' recommendation is to be an objective evaluation of the material within the scope of the library's collection policy.
7. The report, presenting both majority and minority opinions, should be presented to the entire Board of Trustees and Library Director, with a recommendation to:
 - a. retain the material in its original location,
 - b. to relocate the material to an advisory location, or
 - c. to remove the material.

The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

8. The Trustees will communicate their decision to the Director of the Library who will then communicate the decision to the individual who made the challenge. The Trustee Board Secretary will draft the replies and maintain letter templates.
9. The timeframe from the submission of the challenge to the decision shall be 90 days. Only one reconsideration challenge per card holder per year will be considered. No further Reconsideration requests for the same item will be accepted for a period of 3 years.

*Adopted by the Library Board, **October 23, 2023***

*Edited to correct the title of the Selection Policy, **September 23, 2024***