

# **POSEYVILLE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM POLICY**

## **PURPOSE**

The mission of Poseyville Carnegie Public Library is to bring the community together by filling the informational, technological, and recreational needs and wants of residents. This policy supports that mission by informing library users about the principles that guide the process of selecting library materials.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The terms “library materials” and “collections” as used in this policy include, but are not limited to, books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, audio books, eBooks, and software.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Board of Trustees of Poseyville Carnegie Public Library adopts and declares that the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Statements will guide the development of the library’s collections. Specifically, the library will adhere to and support the:

- Library Bill of Rights (ALA, 1996)  
(<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>)
- The Freedom to Read Statement (ALA, 2004)  
(<http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/statementspols/ftstatement/freedomreadstatement>)
- The Freedom to View Statement (ALA, 1990)  
(<http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/statementspols/ftvstatement/freedomviewstatement>).

The ALA documents will be cited throughout this policy to further show how Poseyville Carnegie Public Library uses the documents to guide the selection of library materials.

## **STATEMENTS ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

The Poseyville Carnegie Public Library promotes free, open, and unrestricted access to library materials regardless of age, race, sex, religion, or ideas (ALA, 1996).

The library will make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority (ALA, 1996; ALA, 1990; ALA, 2004). Materials of doubtful long-lasting value will be included based upon their timeliness, such as campaign biographies, books/works on current media topics, or works of fiction which have caused a widespread discussion or curiosity.

Poseyville Carnegie Public Library will not censor any material in its collection (ALA, 1996; ALA, 2004). No markings will be placed on materials to show any potential controversial contents. No items will be removed or not selected based on content alone (ALA, 2004).

The library will not limit its collection to books suitable only for children or adolescents, and will also consider its adult audience (ALA, 2004). The library believes that parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to determine what, if any, print or non-print material is inappropriate for their children.

The library recognizes privacy and confidentiality as essential components of intellectual freedom.

## **RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

The library serves a pluralistic community and library materials that are acceptable to one patron may not be acceptable to another. The Board of Trustees believes that individuals may reject for themselves library materials which they do not approve; however individuals do not have the right to restrict the freedom of others to use those materials (ALA, 2004). Nevertheless, the library permits patrons to request the materials be reviewed for reconsideration.

Requests for reconsideration of any library materials shall be handled as follows:

1. Patrons desiring reconsideration of any materials should complete the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form that is provided by the library. The director and Board will not reconsider any materials without the proper form. The completion and signing of the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form will identify the patron who has checked out specific library materials. As a result of lodging a written objection, the patron loses her/his right to privacy protection. Confidentiality of library circulation records are waived as to the materials described in the objection.
2. When the form is submitted to the library a library staff member will sign and date the receipt of the form and refer the request to the Library Director.
3. The director will review the form and contact the patron for an informal interview. During the interview the library director will discuss the library’s Intellectual Freedom Policy and Collection Development Policy with the patron in an attempt to resolve the objection.
4. If after the informal interview the matter is still not resolved, the patron will be offered the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Board at the next scheduled meeting. The patron may decline to appear at the meeting and still have the objection raised and his/her formal objections be discussed.
5. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Poseyville Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees the patron’s objections will be discussed. A review of the materials will take place at that time, if possible. The Board reserves the right to review the material over the course of one month in order to fully evaluate whether or not the challenged material meets the criteria of the Poseyville Carnegie Public Library Collection Development Plan.

6. Upon making a decision regarding the retention or removal of the item the Board of Trustees will inform the patron in writing of said decision. The decision of the Board will be final.

#### Works Cited

American Library Association (ALA). "Library Bill of Rights." *ala.org*. Last adopted January 23, 1996. ALA, 2012. Web. <<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>>.

American Library Association (ALA). "The Freedom to Read Statement." *ala.org*. Last adopted June 30, 2004. ALA, 2012. Web. <<http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/statementspols/ftstatement/freedomreadstatement>>.

American Library Association (ALA). "Freedom to View Statement." *ala.org*. Endorsed January 10, 1990. ALA, 2012. Web. <<http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/statementspols/ftvstatement/freedomviewstatement>>.