

Challenged Materials Policy

In its selection of materials, the Skowhegan Free Public Library endorses the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement, as adopted by the American Library Association. The Library will challenge censorship or attempted censorship. The library's philosophy is that a person can reject for oneself materials found to be distasteful, but cannot exercise the right of censorship to restrict another citizen's choice in reading matter. Responsibility for what children read rests with their parents or legal guardian, not the library. Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal, to regulate or suppress materials in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not abridged.

In order to request that a material be reconsidered, a patron must:

- Be a resident of Skowhegan or a paying non-resident card holder; as Skowhegan resident taxes and non-resident registration fees pay for the materials held by the library.
- Have read, viewed, seen, or heard the material in its entirety.
- Have reviewed the Skowhegan Public Library Collection Development Policy and the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.
- Complete the Skowhegan Free Public Library "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form. Only completed forms will be reviewed by the library. The library does not respond to anonymous phone calls, rumors, or voiced concerns according to the reconsideration process.
- Individual titles may only be reviewed once every five years, unless substantial content changes have been made.
- Complaints will be considered by the Skowhegan Free Public Library Trustee Board. The board recommendations will be sent to the Library Director who will make the decision regarding the material. The Library Director will notify the customer of the decision. Material under reconsideration will remain accessible in the library until a determination has been made.
- No duly selected materials whose appropriateness is challenged shall be removed from the library except upon the recommendation of the Library Trustee Board, with the concurrence of the Library Director.
- If the decision is to remove the materials or reclassify to a new location, records will be removed/changed and all copies of the material will be discarded/changed within 7 days. Upon the item being removed entirely, the Director will contact the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom for notification and record of the removed item.

Approved 3/16/21