

***Southern Lehigh Public Library  
3200 Preston Lane  
Center Valley, PA 18034***

## **RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

The library believes in freedom of information for all. Many books are controversial and any given item may offend some person. Selections for the library will not, however, be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material in relation to the building of the collection and to serve the interests of our varied population.

The library holds censorship to be an individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject books and other materials of which he/she does not approve, he/she may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

Responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors. Materials are not labeled to show approval or disapproval or to indicate certain philosophies.

The Board of Directors recognizes that the collection of diverse materials may result in some complaints or requests for reconsideration. Procedures have been developed to assure that complaints are handled in an attentive and consistent manner.

- Patrons should address their concerns to the Director or Youth Services Librarian.
- If the matter has not been settled to the patron's satisfaction he/she should fill out a Reconsideration of Library Materials Form.
- Reconsideration of Library Materials Forms are available from staff at the circulation desk.
- Patron is asked to completely fill out the form.
- The form will be reviewed by the Youth Services Librarian and/or the Director according to which collection the book/material is located.
- The book/material will be reviewed to determine if it meets the selection criteria established by the Board of Directors and the guidelines for collection development.
- A decision will be made regarding the disposition of the challenged item.
- If a patron is not satisfied with the decision of the Library Director or Youth Services Librarian, they may make a formal presentation to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Patrons should notify the Director of their desire to do so.