

Challenges to Materials Policy

In accordance with 75 ILCS 10/8.7 Illinois Library System Act – State Grants, the Rochester Public Library District shall protect the intellectual freedom of the library user, and shall prevent censorship of its library materials, ensuring items are not withdrawn from its library collection merely because individuals or groups object to the material.

Libraries are democratic institutions and are obligated to provide free choice of materials to all. Please read our [Collection Management Policy](#).

Libraries provide materials and information resources across the spectrum of political and social points of view and on a wide range of subjects.

Patrons are free to reject for themselves materials that they disapprove of, but they must not use self-censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

If a Rochester Public Library District resident wishes to comment on a library item for the purpose to have it removed from the library, a '[Request for Reconsideration of a Library Material](#)' form is available online and at the circulation desk.

The procedure to challenge materials:

1. Patron should submit the completed form to the Library Director in person or mail it to him/her at Rochester Public Library, P.O. Box 617 Rochester, IL 62563
2. For “no” responses on the question, did you read/listen/view the material in full, no further action is needed. The resolution is simply that the material in question was not considered in full and therefore cannot be put through the reconsideration process.
3. For responses to the questions that are copied and pasted, no further action is needed. The resolution is simply that the material in question was not considered in full and therefore cannot be put through the reconsideration process.
4. Patrons are allowed up to 5 submitted active challenges.
5. The Director will reconsider the material then present the request and his/her opinion to the Library Board of Trustees during a public meeting.
6. The patron will be notified of the date and time of that meeting and invited to comment.
7. The patron will be notified of any action taken as a result of the meeting.
8. The decision on the challenged material will remain in place for 4 years.

Adopted: February 7, 2008

Updated: December 13, 2018

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