

# Fort Dodge Public Library

## Request for Reconsideration/Expression of Concern

### Policy

Fort Dodge Public Library strives to provide all patrons with fair and equal access to library materials, resources, and programs. The Library's role is to provide opportunities that will allow individuals to freely examine subjects and make their own decisions. The choice of library materials or resources by users is an individual matter. While patrons may reject materials, resources, or programs for themselves, they may not restrict the freedom of access to these things by others.

The Library Board of Trustees and the Fort Dodge Public Library Director recognize that some patrons may take offense with the inclusion of specific items, programs or practices and they may wish to express their concerns. Any resident of Fort Dodge, rural Webster County, or a jurisdiction contracting with the Fort Dodge Public Library may request that an item in the collection, library resource, program or policy be reconsidered. The Library's goal is to deal with patrons' concerns as promptly and courteously as possible as detailed in the following process.

### Expressions of Concern/Request for Reconsideration

- Fort Dodge Public Library staff will listen to the concern and direct patrons to the appropriate member of the Library management team.
- The management team member will discuss the concern with the individual or group. After discussion with the Library staff member, a patron who requests further action will complete a *Statement of Concern about Library Resources* form. The completed form will be submitted to the Library Director.
- The Director will contact the patron and schedule an appointment to discuss the completed *Statement of Concern* form.
- After discussion with the Director, an individual or group seeking further action will have its *Statement of Concern about Library Resources* form considered by the Library Board of Trustees at a regular meeting. Please note: the Board meeting will be conducted in open session, as required by Iowa law, and the *Statement of Concern* form will be made public.
- At the meeting, the individual or group may present their comments to the Board if they so choose.
- The Director will present a response.
- The Library Board of Trustees will make a final ruling on the concern and send a written response to the patron or group.

This policy has been developed in concert with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, as well as The Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, and ALA resources on Intellectual Freedom and Challenged Resources.