

LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

The Valley Cottage Library is maintained as a public service for the benefit and free use on equal terms for all the people of the community. The purpose of the library is to provide access to books and other resources and services expressing the widest diversity of views and expressions as a means of education, information and recreation.

The Valley Cottage Library believes that a librarian and library trustees do not, and need not, endorse every idea or approve of every manner of expression in the library materials they make available to the public. Nor does it believe that any political or governmental body is qualified to determine what one person should or should not read, listen to or view. It would be contrary to the public interest for library officials to establish their own political, aesthetic or moral views as the sole standard for determining what library materials should be circulated. Likewise, it would be contrary to the public interest for the library to bow to pressure from individuals or organizations that would become arbiters of the morals or political opinion of others

The library will not attempt to judge for the library patron whether or not given library material is good, bad, subversive or immoral. This is the privilege of the library patron. The library recognizes its obligation to serve the reading, information and recreational needs of a community with varied tastes and interests and abilities. It is the clear duty of the library to select for the community as a whole. It recognizes that there is no way for a library to suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others. Each library patron is privileged to select for themselves among the library materials available and no one is obliged to read, listen to or view what they do not like. The library cannot refuse to make available any library materials published within existing obscenity laws as defined by the courts. We urge parents who have pronounced views about what their children read to monitor the library materials their children withdraw from the library but not to attempt to extend interfamily censorship to those outside their family.

The library materials of the permanent collection of the Valley Cottage Library are carefully selected from those reviewed and recommended by nationally accepted guidelines: namely, but not limited to, ALA Booklist, Library Journal, Kirkus, Horn Book. The only limitations are budgetary considerations, needs of the community, need and demand for materials in certain areas, and availability of special materials in more comprehensive collections.

All Gift materials are accepted with the understanding that the library reserves the right of decision as to usefulness to the collection and suitability according to accepted guidelines and may dispose of such gifts as it deems advisable. Gifts in the form of money are gratefully accepted.

We are in agreement and do endorse the American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement>)

And the Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>).

Adopted, Board of Trustees, June 1968

Revised, June 2013

Request for Re-evaluation of Library Material

Request initiated by _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Person making the request represents:

Name of individual Group or organization name

Author _____ Publisher _____

Title _____ Publication date _____

1. To what, in the library material, do you object? (Please be specific; cite pages, etc.)

2. In your opinion, what harmful effects might result from use of this library material?

3. Do you see any instructional value in the use of this library material?

4. Did you review the entire contents of the library material in question?

5. Should the opinion of any additional experts in the field be considered? If yes, please list:

6. In the place of this library material would you care to recommend other material which you consider to be of superior quality?

7. Do you wish to make an oral presentation of 15 minutes or less, to the Board of Trustees?

Yes No

(Date)

(Signature)

The final decision of this request rests with the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library.

Adopted Board of Trustees February 4, 1976
Revised, June 2013