

EMMAUS PUBLIC LIBRARY

STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT LIBRARY RESOURCES POLICY

The Emmaus Public Library fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. Resources available in the library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The library also selects a wide variety of library resources that satisfy the diverse interests of our community. The library upholds the right of the individual to secure these resources, even if the content may be considered controversial, unconventional, or unacceptable to some. The library's varied resources are available to all; however, it is not expected that all of the resources will appeal to everyone.

Patrons who have a concern about library resources are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Library Director. The Director will discuss the Collection Development Policy and/or Library Program Policy and the application of selection principles.

If the patron is not satisfied with the response to their request, the Director will provide the patron with the following documents:

- Emmaus Public Library Statement of Concern Policy
- Emmaus Public Library Collection Development Policy and/or the Library Program Policy
- Emmaus Public Library Statement of Concern About Library Resources form

If, after reviewing these documents, the patron wants to proceed with their request, a signed Statement of Concern About Library Resources form may be submitted to the Library Director. This will begin the formal reconsideration process.

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

- Be a resident of the Borough of Emmaus, the Borough of Macungie, Upper Milford Township or have active borrowing privileges at Emmaus Public Library;
- Have read, viewed, seen, or heard the resource in its entirety;
- Have reviewed the Emmaus Public Library Collection Development Policy and/or the Library Program Policy;
- Completed the Emmaus Library Statement of Concern About Library Resources form. Only completed forms will be reviewed by the Library Director. The library will not respond to anonymous complaints in writing, phone calls, or any other means. The material in question will remain in the collection or on the calendar during the review process.

The Library Director will: examine the challenged resource; consider the specific objections voiced by the complainant; and weigh the merits of the resource as a whole in itself, and its relevance to the Library's mission and strategic goals. A written response will be issued by the Library Director within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal objection, containing the decision and the recommended action regarding the challenged resource.

If the Library Director's response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the patron may request, in writing, that the matter be presented to the Library Board of Trustees for their review and consideration. The Board of Trustees will review the request and the item, and will render a decision during a scheduled board meeting. The individual filing the Statement of Concern form will be informed of the date and time of the board meeting at which the request is to be reviewed and will be informed in writing of the disposition of the request. The decision is final and will preclude all other requests for the same resource for five calendar years.

Adopted July 16, 2024