

Claverack Free Library

Challenge of Library Material Policy

Adopted: November 2015

This policy defends the freedom to read, view, and hear.

The library believes in freedom of information for all, and does not practice censorship. The selection of library materials is predicated on the patron's right to read and similarly, his freedom from censorship by others. 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 solely on the merits of the material in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interests of the reader.

The library holds censorship to be a purely 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.

Patrons also have the right to visit web sites and listen to audio. Please review the library's "Computer Policy" for further information.

The Claverack Free Library will support the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read. Should any patron of the Claverack Free Library raise a question about any materials provided by the Library being in any way objectionable, the complainant must file a written complaint with the Library Director on a form provided for this purpose (attached). The complainant must be properly identified before the request is considered. No action will be taken before the complaint is brought before the Board of Trustees. The written complaint will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

The Board shall assign a subcommittee to review the challenged material which will:

1. consider the specific objections to the material voiced by the complainant
2. weigh the values and faults of the material as a whole
3. where appropriate, solicit advice or opinion from the library director, the library staff, other library Directors, the Mid-Hudson Library System , the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom and the New York State Intellectual Freedom Committee. The subcommittee will also refer to the library's collection development policy.
4. issue a written report within ninety days to the Director containing its recommendations concerning any complaint.

The Director shall review the report of the Board and notify the complainant.

Note: A patron is defined as one having a valid Mid-Hudson Library Card number.

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Form

Please fill out completely and return to the Claverack Free Library Director

Date: _____

Name of complainant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone number: _____

Claverack Library/Mid-Hudson Library System card number: _____

Are you making this challenge as an individual? (yes or no):

Or as the representative of an organization? (yes or no):

If you are speaking on behalf of an organization, give the name and address of the organization:

Circle the item you are challenging (fill out a separate form for each item challenged):

- Book
- Audio
- Video
- Magazine
- Newspaper
- Computer program
- Other

Title of item: _____

Author: _____

Publisher/Distributor/Producer: _____

Date of publication: _____

What brought this item to your attention?

Is your objection to this item based upon your own exposure and reaction to it, upon complaints about it made directly to you by others, or upon reports you have heard about?

Have you read, viewed, or listened to this item in its entirety? If not, what portions of it have you read, viewed, or listened to? (List portions by page number, time into tape, or other identification.)

To what specific aspects of the item do you object? Cite specific pages, passages, or scenes. Can you suggest any materials to provide additional information or other viewpoints on this topic? (Use back of page and additional page, if necessary.)

Signature

Date