

# Expression of Concern Policy

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Policy Created: 9/2022

Policy Revised:

## Purpose/Objective

The West Liberty Public Library endorses the American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement. Materials selected under the Collection Development Policy are considered protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Library strives to provide a balanced collection reflecting diverse cultures and opinions. The ideals and statements in any library materials may or may not reflect the views of the West Liberty Public Library.

The Library's role is to provide opportunities for individuals to examine subjects and make their own decisions. While individuals are free to reject for themselves what they do not approve of, they cannot restrict the freedom of access to others. Parents or legal guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the use of library materials for minors in their care. The Library staff will not act in loco parentis.

## Expressions of Concern:

The Library is aware that individuals may take issue with the inclusion or exclusion of specific items, programs, or practices and welcomes the expression of concern by patrons. Patron concerns will be dealt with promptly and courteously, as detailed in the following process.

- West Liberty Public Library staff will listen to concerns and direct individuals to the Library Director.
- The Library Director will discuss the concern with the individual or group. After the discussion, any patron who requests further action will complete a "Statement of Concern about Library Resources" form.
- The Statement of Concern will be addressed at the next regularly scheduled Library Board of Trustees meeting. The Library Board of Trustees will review the Statement of Concern about Library Resources and hear any additional arguments from the patron and public, not exceeding fifteen minutes total. The Library Director will then provide any relevant information as requested by the Board of Trustees.
- The Library Board of Trustees will then discuss the matter and decide on actions to take. The Library Board of Trustees' decision is final.