

# CENSORSHIP POLICY

## Precepts of Intellectual Freedom

The WaKeeney Public Library supports a patron's right to read, free from censorship by others. Library selection is based on the merits of the material and how it fits into a collection that serves the needs and interests of a diverse population. Library materials may be controversial, and any given item may offend some individuals. Individuals are free to reject books and other materials for themselves, but they may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others to view library materials.

The responsibility for restricting the access of their children, and only their children, to certain library materials rests solely with a parent or legal guardian and not with the library or staff.

The library will not use labels or other methods to indicate warnings of controversial perspectives or content in library materials.

The WaKeeney Public Library adheres to and wholly supports the *Library Bill of Rights* and *Freedom to Read* statements of the American Library Association both of which are considered as part of our selection policy (See Appendix A).

The Board of Trustees has also adopted the ideas expressed by the American Library Association in the following statements: 1) *Statement on Labeling*, 2) *Diversity in Collection Development*, 3) *Challenged Materials*, 4) *Expurgation of Library Materials* and 5) *Free Access to Libraries for Minors* (See Appendix B).

## Process for Reconsideration of Library Materials

1. All challenges of materials are handled by the library director. An appointment may be set up in a private area of the library for the director and another staff person to explain the library's selection and censorship policies and address the complainant's concerns.
2. If the complainant wishes to continue the procedure for reconsideration of materials after talking with the director, the complainant will be requested to complete the form **"Reconsideration of Library Materials."** **The complainant must be properly identified and the complaint form must be filled out in its entirety** (See Appendix C: "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form).
3. After the director receives the completed form, the topic will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the library board of trustees. The complainant will be invited to do a presentation of up to ten minutes in length.
4. The material in question and all supporting information will be forwarded to the board prior to the meeting.
5. After a recommendation is made by the board, notification of that decision will be given to the complainant.
6. The board's decision will be final.