

Controversial Materials

The Board of the Fern Ridge Library District endorses the FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT and its interpretations. Materials selected under the Collection Development Policy are considered protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Public libraries preserve and enhance the people's right to a broader range of ideas than those held by any one librarian, publisher or government. On occasion, there can be diverse opinions by individuals or groups as to what is acceptable or appropriate for the collection. Library collections are not limited to only those ideas and information one person or group believes to be true, good and proper.

The Fern Ridge Library District Board believes that anyone is free to reject for himself/herself library materials of which he or she does not approve. However, the individual cannot restrict the freedom of others to read, view or hear. Parents or legal guardians have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, viewing or listening of their own minor children. The library does not take the place of the parent or guardian. Patrons who initiate comments or complaints will receive copies of the *Library Bill of Rights*, the *Freedom to Read*, and the *Collection Development Policy* and the form, *Statement of Concern about Library Materials*. The Library Director will go over these materials with the patron. It is important to understand that concerns call into question selection decisions that have been made according to policy. The process of registering complaints is designed to make sure the selection was appropriate and results in informing the patron about the philosophy and criteria used. Patrons whose concerns are not satisfied by staff are invited to the special designated community meeting of the Fern Ridge Library District Board. Their decision will be final.

Request for Material Reconsideration

If a patron or group expresses a formal interest in having a book removed from the library or its access changed, a Request for Item Consideration Form must be completed. If a formal request is submitted, this form will be reviewed and a decision on the item will be made by the Director, with input from staff. Any decisions by the Director may be appealed to the Fern Ridge Library District Board.