

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS POLICY

Policy Statement

Individuals may demonstrate, picket, or seek signatures for petitions outside the building on the grounds of the Chester County Library or the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library provided they are quiet, orderly and do not block entrances, sidewalks, driveways, parking places, or otherwise interfere with access to or use or operation of the library; and provided they do not disturb or harass those entering or leaving the library, or insistently attempt to engage them in conversation.

It is not necessary for demonstrator(s) to request or receive the permission of the Library. The presence of demonstrator(s) does not constitute an endorsement by the Chester County Library of the opinions or points of view expressed or espoused by the demonstrator(s).

General Information and Background

The Chester County Library Board of Trustees and staff have used the following guidelines, based upon constitutional principles, in developing and approving this Policy. These guidelines are taken from the American Library Association's *Guidelines for the Development of Policies Regarding User Behavior and Library Usage* (adopted 1993, revised 200, revised January 19, 2005)

- Regulation of user behavior must be approached within the framework of the ALA *Code of Ethics*, the *Library Bill of Rights* and the law, including state and local statutes, constitutional standards under the First and Fourteenth Amendments, due process and equal treatment under the law.
- Publicly supported library service is based upon the First Amendment right of free expression. Publicly supported libraries are recognized as limited public forums for access to information. At least one federal court of appeals has recognized a First Amendment right to receive information in a public library. Library policies and procedures that could impinge upon such rights are subject to a higher standard of review than may be required in the policies of other public services and facilities.

Approved 8/19/03
Reviewed 6/20/06
Revision adopted 6/17/08
Revision adopted 6/21/2016

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Affirmed by the Board of Trustees March 15, 2016

Code of Ethics of the American Library Association

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

IV. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.

V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.

VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of coworkers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the

CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY POLICY MANUAL

profession.

Adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 1981; June 28, 1995; and January 22, 2008.

The previous version of this file has long held the **incorrect amendment date of June 28, 1997**; the [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) regrets and apologizes for the error

Affirmed by the Board of Trustees June 21, 2016