

Intellectual Freedom Policy and the Library Bill of Rights

Adopted September 2019

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom adopted by the American Library Association and as stated in the Library Bill of Rights.

The library assures equal access to all library resources by patrons within the constraints of applicable law. Patrons are free to select or reject for themselves any item in the collection. Individual or group prejudice about a particular item or type of material in the collection may not preclude its use by others.

Parents, caregivers, and legal guardians have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. Parents, caregivers, and legal guardians who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children and must actively monitor what their children are accessing. Library staff do not act *in loco parentis*; as such library staff will not assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority.

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library also shares the position of the American Library Association in affirming that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following Library Bill of Rights 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.