Policy Guidelines Policy

BOARD POLICY

Publicly supported library service is based upon the First Amendment right of free expression. The American Library Association has adopted the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and Interpretations of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS to provide library governing authorities, librarians and other library staff and library users with guidelines on how constitutional principles apply to libraries in the United States of America.

As a unit of local government delivering public library services, Pikes Peak Library District provides equal and equitable access to information for all people of the community it serves, and all policies should reflect this purpose and should be carefully examined to determine if they may result in denying, restricting, or creating barriers to access. Following the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee's recommendation, the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees shall develop policies in accordance with the following guidelines. Polices must:

A. be developed and implemented within the legal framework that applies to the library. This includes: the United States Constitution, including the First and Fourteenth Amendments, due process and equal treatment under the law; the applicable state constitution; federal and state civil rights legislation; all other applicable federal, state and local legislation; and applicable case law;

B. be developed and implemented within the framework of the Library Bill of Rights and its Interpretations;

C. be based upon the Library's mission and objectives;

D. only impose restrictions on the access to, or use of Library resources, services or facilities when those restrictions are necessary to achieve the Library's mission and objectives;

E. narrowly tailor prohibitions or restrictions, in the rare instances when they are required, so they are not more restrictive than needed to serve their objectives;

F. attempt to balance competing interests and avoid favoring the majority at the expense of individual rights, or allowing individual users' rights to interfere materially with the majority's rights to free and equal access to library resources, services and facilities;

G. avoid arbitrary distinctions between individuals or classes of users, and should not have the effect of denying or abridging a person's right to use library resources, services or facilities based upon arbitrary distinctions such as origin, age, background or views;

H. not target specific users or groups of users based upon an assumption or expectation that such users might engage in behavior that will materially interfere with the achievement of substantial library objectives;

I. be clearly stated so that a reasonably intelligent person will have fair warning of what is expected;

J. provide a means of appeal;

K. be reviewed regularly by the library's governing authority and by its legal counsel, when appropriate;

L. be communicated clearly and made available in an effective manner to all library users;

M. be enforced evenhandedly, and not in a manner intended to benefit or disfavor any person or group in an arbitrary or capricious manner;

N. if reasonably possible, provide adequate alternative means of access to information for those whose behavior results in the denial or restriction of access to any library resource, service or facility.

The Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees authorizes Library administration to adopt rules and procedures regulating the organization and use of Library materials, services, and facilities in accordance with Board approved policies and the guidelines outlined above. Administration shall develop an ongoing staff-training program designed to foster the understanding of the legal framework and principles underlying library policies, rules, and procedures. This training shall also assist staff in gaining the skills and abilities necessary to respond to potentially difficult circumstances in a timely, direct, and open manner with empathy and understanding of the social and economic problems of some Library users.