



# The Beacon Falls Public Library

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## Challenging a Book at Beacon Falls Public Library: Procedure, Cost, and Timeline

**Procedure:** At the Beacon Falls Public Library, we value diverse perspectives and encourage open dialogue. If you have concerns about a specific book in our collection, you have the right to express your opinion through our formal reconsideration process.

1. **Complete the Reconsideration Form:** To challenge a book, fill out the official Reconsideration Form available at the library's circulation desk or on our website. Only one form per household will be accepted at a time.
2. **Full Completion Required:** Ensure that the form is fully completed with accurate contact information and a detailed explanation of your concerns regarding the book.
3. **Read the Material in Full:** To provide an informed perspective, you must read the material being challenged in its entirety before submitting the form.
4. **Form Submission:** Submit the completed form to the library staff at the circulation desk or through the designated online submission process.

**Estimated Cost of Challenge:** The overall cost analysis for the book challenge incorporates a comprehensive assessment of tangible and intangible expenses. This assessment encompasses the financial expenditure incurred through the procurement of books for the committee members and the intrinsic investment of time required for the committee's engagement with the challenge.

**Timeline from Form Submission to Decision:** Our goal is to address challenges in a timely and respectful manner while ensuring a thorough evaluation process. Here's an estimated timeline:

1. **Form Review:** The library staff will review the submitted form for completeness and adherence to our guidelines within 10 business days.
2. **Evaluation Period:** Once the form is deemed complete, the book in question will be reviewed by a designated committee of library staff, considering the selection criteria and principles of intellectual freedom.
3. **Committee Deliberation:** The committee will deliberate on the challenge, considering factors such as the book's content, relevance, and alignment with our collection development policy.
4. **Decision Notification:** Within 60 days of the completed form submission, the committee's decision will be communicated to you in writing. This notification will include the rationale behind the decision.

Please note that throughout this process, your privacy will be respected, and your identity will be kept confidential unless you provide express permission for its disclosure.

If you have any questions or require further information about challenging a book, our staff is available to assist you.

The freedom to read, along with the freedom to hear and to view, is protected by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution and shall not be restricted or abridged based on the content or viewpoint expressed in the materials in the Beacon Falls Public Library collection.

**Part 1: The basic information.**

Date:

Name:

Public Library Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone number:

Email:

Type of material being addressed:

Title:

Author:

Original year of publication:

How did you learn about this material:

Did you read/listen/view the material in full?

**Part 2: Understanding the material being challenged.**

Explain the purpose of this material.

What positive qualities does the material present?

What are your concerns about the material, including citations and quotes?

How has the material been assessed in professional review sources (include citations)

Provide citations in support of your objection.

Explain how the material fails to meet Intellectual Freedom standards.

Who would be negatively impacted by this material and how (citations and evidence required)

What would you replace the material with (include titles and professional reviews of replacements)

Why do you believe you should be able to restrict the reading choices of the CT state library community?

The CT library community always has the right to educate themselves and their children about the books that may be best for them.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\*Forms that are not signed will be void.

**Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Beacon Falls Public Library on 08/28/2023.**