



Displays, Exhibits, And Distribution Of Literature

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New Castle County Government is committed to serving the public. Our intent is to increase awareness of the range of information available in the library collection and to make available information of interest to the community.

However, the use - by individuals or organizations - of the libraries' facilities for displays of materials is not a right, but a privilege. Each library maintains a current list of its display, handout, and bulletin board areas accompanied by the designation as a "Public Forum" or a "Non-Public Forum." **PUBLIC FORUM** spaces are those spaces created by government designation for the use of the public at-large for assembly or communication. Materials cannot be excluded from public forum spaces on the basis of content unless the exclusion is necessary to serve a compelling governmental interest which cannot be served by a less restrictive action. **NON-PUBLIC FORUM** spaces are those spaces dedicated to library or government use.

No poster, display, exhibit, pamphlet, brochure, leaflet, or booklet shall be exhibited, displayed, or placed in the library for distribution without permission from the General Manager of the Department Of Community Services. Final authority for all materials displayed and made available in handout and bulletin board areas rests with the General Manager of the Department Of Community Services.

Handout permission will be granted, subject to - and based on - the following conditions:

1. Library display and exhibit space is reserved for library-related activities. These areas are non-public forum spaces limited to library or governmental use.
2. Handout and bulletin board areas are reserved for public information and are deemed public forum areas.
3. No organization or individual shall be permitted to place in the library any box, receptacle, or canister which solicits donations, nor shall any poster or display be permitted which advocates or solicits consideration of any product or item sold by any commercial or charitable enterprise. The General Manager of the Department Of Community Services may grant exceptions for library fundraising.
4. Pamphlets, leaflets, or materials announcing events or programs may be posted on the handout or bulletin board areas. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to limitation of space and conformity with library policy. Materials may not be posted for longer than

Library Policy





four weeks.

5. Political or religious editorializing or recruiting is forbidden.
6. New Castle County Libraries neither advocate nor endorse viewpoints of handouts, booklets, posters, pamphlets, leaflets, or other materials that may be placed in handout or bulletin board areas.
7. Library staff - with the approval of the General Manager of the Department Of Community Services - may generate displays of arts and crafts.
8. Aggrieved patrons may have the decision of the General Manager of the Department Of Community Services reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer of New Castle County.
9. New Castle County Libraries endorse the American Library Association's (ALA) Bill Of Rights (**APPENDIX A**).



APPENDIX A

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 18, 1948, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.