

Legal Responsibilities and Intellectual Freedom:

The selection of library books and materials is predicated on the library patron's right to read or to have access to any form of information and, therefore, his freedom from censorship by others. Many books and other materials are controversial and any given item may offend some persons. Selections for this library will not, however, be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the material in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interest of the library's clientele. This library holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that – while anyone is free to reject individually books and other materials of which the individual does not approve – the individual cannot exercise the right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

South Dakota State Law 22-24-56 requires that all libraries in South Dakota develop and implement, by January 1, 2025, a local policy that establishes measures to restrict minors from accessing obscene matter or materials. South Dakota State Law 22-24-27(11) defines obscene materials as:

- (a) The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; - 7 –
- (b) Which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and,
- (c) Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

In compliance with South Dakota law, the library does not collect materials found to violate Section 2224-27(11).

Parental Responsibility: Parents and guardians are solely responsible for monitoring and managing their children's access to library materials, including those accessed on Library computers and devices. The library encourages parents/guardians to discuss with their children what is appropriate content based on family values and individual maturity levels. Library staff are available to assist parents and children in selecting appropriate materials but are not responsible for supervising or enforcing individual restrictions on minors.

Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that books may inadvertently come into the possession of minors. We ask all patrons to use the Library responsibly and considerately, in a way that ensures a positive experience for everyone.

The Emil M. Larson Public Library abides by all current copyright legislation and does not take responsibility for the actions of individuals in their use of library materials. It is the right of any citizen of Clark County to recommend library materials for selection consideration by the Emil M. Larson Public Library, and it is the obligation of the library director to consider such recommendations with the same evaluative criteria established above. Such recommendations should be made in writing on the Citizen Request Form for Purchase of Materials. It is also the right of any citizen of Clark County to question any library material selected by the Emil M. Larson Public Library, since opinions may differ in our democracy. Such questions should be presented in writing on the Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form.