

LEOMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY RECIPROCAL BORROWING PRIVILEGES POLICY

In accordance with the State's Minimum Standards for Public Library Service (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, Section 19A & B), and further defined in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 4.00), the Leominster Public Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to all residents of the Commonwealth who reside in cities and towns whose libraries meet the standards and are therefore "certified" through the State Aid to Public Libraries Program.

Such reciprocity is not possible when a community ceases to provide adequate support for its library, resulting in the reduction of hours and services below the level determined by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

It is the policy of the Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees to discontinue borrowing and network transfer/interlibrary loan privileges to residents and libraries in communities with closed or decertified libraries. The Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees does recognize the hardship this policy places on residents of communities with closed or decertified libraries.

Public libraries forced to close or reduce hours and services due to causes beyond the community's control, such as fire or other natural disasters would be exempt from this policy. Public libraries that receive a waiver from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified, and therefore residents of these municipalities would be permitted to borrow materials.

This policy aims to address the issue of the fair and appropriate use of the City of Leominster's tax dollars spent on public library services by limiting the reliance of a municipality with a closed or decertified library on the Leominster Public Library and its resources.

The Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees will notify the affected community's Library Board of Trustees, and its selectpersons, city council, mayor and/or town manager whenever it votes to implement the above policy.

The Leominster Public Library continues to extend access to its materials for use in the library by all Massachusetts residents as required by 605 CMR 4.01(1), which states that "all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to its reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community."

The Leominster Public Library will provide immediate reinstatement of borrowing and network transfers/interlibrary loan privileges to all affected borrowers as soon as the library is recertified.

Approved July 14, 2008