

Policy on the Use of the Display Case and Other Display Space

The Seekonk Public Library has an obligation to inform the people it serves about the resources and programs offered by their library. Since the display case and other display space in the building presents a unique opportunity to inform the public, these spaces are intended to be used primarily by the library. Use of the display case as well as other display spaces may be offered to others only when they are not needed by the library.

An integral part of the library's mission is to provide information about the community it serves as well as to support those local organizations that share the library's goal of improving the quality of life in Seekonk. The Seekonk Library Trust and the Friends of the Seekonk Public Library, which are non-profit organizations that exist to support the library shall be given preference over all other community organizations when scheduling use of the display space. In the case of other applications to use the display space, the library shall show preference to local, non-profit organizations over other individuals and businesses. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received.

The library recognizes that there are many people who also improve the quality of life in Seekonk through their individual efforts. These individuals may also be granted permission to use the display case. Displays by individuals must reflect the goals of the library, and not directly or prominently promote the private or commercial interest of an individual. Preference shall be given to displays that demonstrate the application and use of resources available at the library. The display case shall only be offered to individuals when it is not being used by the library or other community organizations. Applications from individuals will be considered in the order in which they are received.

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The owners display their items at their own risk. The library and the Town of Seekonk do not assume any responsibility for the safety or security of materials placed on display at the library.

The Board of Library Trustees authorizes the library director to establish appropriate rules and procedures to implement this policy. The library director shall be the sole determiner of what is acceptable for display in the library. When considering applications to use library display space, the library director shall determine if the display is compatible with the mission of the library. The library director shall also determine if the display inappropriately promotes the private or commercial interest of an individual.

People who believe that they have been improperly denied access to the display space may appeal the Director's decision in accordance with library policy on appealing the denial of services.

This policy replaces the previous policy and was adopted by the Board of Library Trustees on March 17, 2010 by a unanimous vote. Revised on January 18, 2012.