

## FREEDOM TO VIEW POLICY

**Purpose:** The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression.

**Policy:** The Columbia County Rural Library District Board of Trustees affirms these principles with regard to the Freedom to View:

1. It is in the public interest to provide the broadest possible access to films and other audio-visual materials because they have proved to be among the most effective means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom and expression.
2. It is in the public interest to provide for our audiences films and other audio-visual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
3. It is the Columbia County Rural Library District's professional responsibility to resist the constraint of labeling or pre-judging a film on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer of filmmaker on the basis of controversial content.
4. It is the Columbia County Rural Library District's principle to protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, DVD, Blue Ray, and other audiovisual materials.
5. It is the County Library District's professional responsibility to contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's Freedom to View.
6. In accordance with Washington State Law, R.C.W. 19.188.030, we, the Board of the Columbia County Rural Library District, actively encourage parents and guardians to preview videos, DVDs, Blue Ray or any other medium of film making or to watch them with their children so they may use the opportunity to teach their children their own views on violent or improper behavior. Parents who visit the library with their children are encouraged to help them with selecting videos, DVDs, Blue Ray or other film making mediums to take home or to watch in the library.
7. Library staff will not attempt to impose their political, religious, or moral beliefs on members of the public, regardless of their age, in matters of selecting videos, DVDs, Blue Ray or other film making mediums, but will check out whatever circulating material is brought to the circulation desk by the patron.

## HISTORY

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Adopted March 13, 2008

Revised May 22, 2008