

M.N. Spear Memorial Library Policy On Providing Service To Residents Of Decertified Communities

A municipality and its library must be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as meeting statutory and regulatory requirements to receive State Aid to Public Libraries. State Aid to Public Libraries is an annual, voluntary program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The purpose of State Aid to Public Libraries is:

- to encourage municipalities to support and improve public library service
- to encourage reciprocal resource sharing among libraries across Massachusetts
- to compensate for disparities among municipal funding capacities
- to offset additional costs to municipalities whose libraries circulate materials to patrons from other certified Massachusetts municipalities

To be certified each fiscal year, a municipality and its library must:

- meet its Municipal Appropriation Requirement
- meet Minimum Standards of Free Public Library Service
- submit annual data and proof of compliance with requirements

Public libraries in Massachusetts that meet the minimum standards for funding and service are eligible for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Public libraries that do not meet these minimum standards are decertified. Massachusetts state law (605 CMR 4.01) states that certified public libraries are not required to lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries.

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Therefore, the M.N. Spear Memorial Library will not lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries.

Residents of communities with decertified libraries are welcome to use the M.N. Spear Memorial Library resources within the library building.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on July 10, 2012.