



Request for Reconsideration

Collection materials, displays, programs, and events are services carefully selected to reflect the variety of values and viewpoints in our community. If you have a concern regarding a library service, complete this form and return it to a library staff member and the Executive Director will respond. Please note that incomplete forms will not be processed.

This is regarding:

Item in the collection
 Display

Event
 Presentation

Other

Please describe what content you find objectionable, including the location. If this is a specific collection item (book, audiobook, magazine, etc.) provide the title, author, and format.

As a parent of a minor child in Christian County, I am concerned about the placement and presentation of 'Worm Loves Worm' by J.J. Austrian in the children's hardcover picture book section at the Sparta branch. This book, marketed for ages 4-8 (preschool to 3rd grade), presents same-sex marriage themes without indicating this content on either the front or back cover. The cartoon-style illustrations and placement in the children's section make it appear as a typical picture book, providing no opportunity for parents to decide whether this content aligns with their family's values and beliefs about marriage.

The lack of any content advisory or LGBTQ+ labeling means parents cannot effectively screen this material before their young children encounter it during routine library visits. This is particularly concerning given the sensitive nature of the topic and the very young target age range. Parents who hold traditional Christian views on marriage should have the ability to guide discussions about such topics according to their values and timing, especially with children in this developmental stage.

If you are requesting the item or service to be removed from the library, can you suggest other materials or services to take its place?

Alternatively, I suggest books like 'Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy' by David Soman and Jacky Davis. Like 'Worm Loves Worm,' it uses insect characters and colorful illustrations to engage young readers ages 4-8-years-old, but focuses on universal childhood themes of friendship, sharing, and playground cooperation. This book demonstrates how to tell engaging stories about relationships and friendship for young children while remaining accessible to all families regardless of their beliefs about marriage and family structure.

What other comments would you like to make?

I want to address how the current library solutions for parental guidance are inadequate for this specific book:

1. **Catalog Searching:** The LGBTQ+ themes are not apparent until scrolling through multiple pages of catalog information, and this detailed content is only visible on desktop computers - not on mobile devices typically used while browsing with young children. The mobile catalog

view shows minimal information.

2. **Subject Headings:** The book's current subject headings ("Weddings -- Juvenile fiction" and "Marriage -- Juvenile fiction") fail to include relevant content warnings that similar books have, such as "Homosexuality -- Juvenile fiction."
3. **Physical Location:** The book's placement in the children's picture book section at the Sparta branch, combined with the cartoon illustrations and lack of cover information, gives parents no indication of its themes while browsing with preschool-age children.
4. **Parent Resource Tools:** The library's recommended resources (NoveList K-8, Common Sense Media, etc.) must identify the content or require multiple clicks and extensive reading to discover the themes. This makes it impractical for parents to make informed decisions while actively supervising young children in the library.

I request that the library implement more precise content identification methods, such as appropriate subject headings or visible content advisories, to help parents make informed decisions about materials for their 4-8-year-old children.

Are you the parent or guardian of a minor child (under the age of 18) living within Christian County?

Yes

No

To inquire about the status of requests email materials@christiancountylibrary.org. Responses to Requests for Reconsideration posted publicly will not disclose identifying information under RSMO 182.817.