

NORWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
Lending Policy Regarding Decertified Libraries

Policy Statement: Norwell Public Library upholds the importance of maintaining the minimum standards of public Library service required for a community to be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to participate in the State Aid to Public Libraries program

Regulation: The regulations governing this program state that “all public libraries participating in the direct state aid grant program must be willing, on a reciprocal basis, to extend direct access and services to nonresidents who are cardholders in other libraries participating in the state grant program.² The regulations do not oblige participants to lend materials to residents of decertified communities, only to provide “access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the [local] community.”³

Public libraries that receive waivers from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified. Residents of communities where the library has received a waiver will be allowed to borrow materials from the Norwell Public Library.

1. Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. “Policy, FY2004 State Aid to Public Libraries Program, The Closure of a Public Library”. Approved January 9, 2003. (State Aid Policies are approved annually.)
2. 605 CMR 4.01
3. Ibid

Guidelines:

1. When patrons from a decertified library request to check out materials from Norwell Public Library the staff person at the circulation desk will explain the library policy regarding this matter. Explain that materials may be used at the library but borrowing privileges only apply to certified libraries. Patrons from decertified librarians will not be able to place holds on items in the collection.
2. Patrons from decertified libraries will not be able to apply for a Norwell library card.
3. Residents of communities with decertified libraries are therefore welcome to use the Norwell Public Library resources within the library building.

March 10, 2010