

## **Charlton Public Library Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Policy**

In accordance with the State's Minimum Standard for Public Library Service (Mass General Laws, Ch78, Sec. 19B 1 & 6), the Charlton Public Library extends borrowing privileges to all residents of the Commonwealth who reside in communities whose libraries have been certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as meeting these minimum standards.

Accordingly, residents of communities whose libraries do not meet minimum service standards as defined by the above regulations and are denied certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are not granted borrowing privileges at the Charlton Public Library.

This policy is based on the understanding that true reciprocity is possible only where each community provides adequate funding needed to maintain minimum service levels at their library. If one community fails to adequately support its library the reciprocal relationship is invalidated as one community assumes the service burden for the other.

This policy is also based on the understanding that it is virtually impossible to spread limited resources of staff, materials, and service hours to meet the demands of patrons from a community that has reduced or eliminated library service.

Borrowing privileges are denied immediately upon notification from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that a community's library has been decertified.

Borrowing privileges are reinstated immediately upon notification from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that a community's library has been recertified.

*Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on December 18, 2008*

*Reviewed and accepted by the Library Board of Trustees on March 21, 2023*