

Burlington Public Library
22 Sears Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Policy on Lending to Residents of Decertified Libraries

Approved 1-13-05

The Burlington Public Library supports 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 (MBLC). If a public library does not meet these standards they become decertified. Massachusetts General Law (605 CMR 4.01) states that certified public libraries are not required to lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. Also stated in Massachusetts General Law (605 CMR 4.01) is that “all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community”.

Although all residents of the Commonwealth are welcome to use the resources within the Burlington Public Library, only residents of communities with libraries certified by the Board will be allowed to borrow materials from the Burlington Public Library. Full use by residents of decertified communities would be an inappropriate reliance on the Burlington Public Library. Permitting such use would subsidize library services to a community unwilling to support its own public library at the expense of Burlington taxpayers. Therefore, the Burlington Public Library will not lend library materials to residents of decertified communities, either through direct reciprocal borrowing or through inter-library loan and network transfers.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy, and to rule on situations not specifically covered herein. The Board of Trustees and the Library Director shall review this policy annually.