

Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries

Public libraries in Massachusetts that do not meet the minimum standards for funding and service necessary for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) are "decertified" by the Board. Decertified libraries are not eligible to participate in reciprocal borrowing with other public libraries.

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 Pembroke Public Library will not lend materials, place holds on materials or allow usage of the internet computers by residents of municipalities with decertified libraries, as this places an inequitable burden on Pembroke resources and local tax dollars.

However, *Massachusetts General Law (605 CMR 4.01) states, "all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community."*

Therefore, residents of communities with decertified libraries are welcome to use Pembroke Public Library resources within the library building.

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