

PELHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries

In accordance with the State's Minimum Standard for Public Library Service (Mass General Laws, Ch. 78, Section 19b 1 & 6), the Pelham Free Public Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to residents of the Commonwealth who reside in towns who also meet the standards.

Such reciprocity is not possible when a Library ceases to provide services or reduces its hours below a reasonable level for the community it serves.

The Pelham Free Public Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for the certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library commissioners. Therefore, the Pelham Free Public Library will not lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. (Residents of communities that receive waivers from the MBLC are considered certified and residents of those communities will be allowed to borrow materials.)

The only exception to this policy shall be that residents of a community whose public library has been de-certified, who submit written proof that they are property owners who pay taxes to the Town of Pelham, shall retain full borrowing privileges at the Pelham Free Public Library.

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." Residents of communities with decertified libraries are therefore welcome to use Pelham Free Public Library resources within the library building.

Approved by the Pelham Board of Library Trustees

Chair

6/11/25