



Stevens Memorial Library
20 Memorial Drive
Ashburnham, MA 01430
P: (978) 827-4115
F: (978) 827-4116
library@ashburnham-ma.gov

Policy on Lending to Residents of Decertified Communities

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 are 'decertified' by the Board. As such, they are not eligible to receive state aid to public libraries funding, apply for LSTA grants, or contract with a region to provide supplemental services.

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. Because the Stevens Memorial Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, it will not lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. 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 Ashburnham taxpayers, shall retain full borrowing privileges at the Stevens Memorial Library.

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 Stevens Memorial 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 Stevens Memorial Library resources within the library building.

The Library Board of Trustees, Library Director, and the municipal executives of the affected community will be notified in writing by the Stevens Memorial Library Board of Library Trustees when reciprocal borrowing privileges have been terminated.

The Stevens Memorial Library Board of Trustees agrees to provide reinstatement of borrowing privileges to all affected borrowers once a library is re-certified.