

Abington Public Library
Policy on Not Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries

Public libraries in Massachusetts that do not meet the minimum standards for funding and services necessary for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are ‘decertified’ by the Board and are not eligible to receive state aid funding, apply for or receive LSTA grant funds, or enter into any contracts with the Massachusetts Regional Library System to provide supplemental services.

The Massachusetts General Laws (605 CMR 4.01) state that certified public libraries are not required to loan materials to residents of municipalities with uncertified libraries.

This policy addresses the fair and appropriate use of Abington tax dollars spent on public library service by limiting the reliance of a municipality with a decertified public library on the Abington Public Library and its resources. Lending to residents of decertified communities would result in an inappropriate reliance on the Abington Public Library. Permitting such use would subsidize library services to a community unwilling to support its own public library at the expense of Abington taxpayers. **The Abington Public Library upholds the importance of maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for public library certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and therefore will not lend library materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries, either through direct “over the counter” borrowing or through inter-library loan.**

Public libraries that receive waivers from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified. Residents of municipalities in which the library has received a waiver will be permitted to borrow materials.

As stated in the Massachusetts General Laws (605 CMR 4.01), “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 Abington Public Library resources only within the bounds of the library building.