

February 4, 2026

Charleston County Library Board  
Post Office Box 801  
Piedmont, SC 29673

Dear Board Members,

My Office has been made aware of reports that one of your Charleston County library locations recently displayed sexually explicit and age-inappropriate material in its children's book section. Needless to say, as both Attorney General and as a parent, I was deeply troubled by these reports. Although the State Library has informally informed my Office that the situation has been resolved, given the seriousness of these concerns, I write to remind you of your obligations under state law. As public officials, there is no responsibility more important than protecting our children, and I implore you to treat such obligation with the utmost seriousness.

As you are aware, Proviso 27.1 of the FY 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act requires county libraries to certify to the State Library and have a policy in place that "their county libraries do not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children's, youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent" prior to receiving any funds from the Aid to County Libraries Allotment.

By its plain language, the Proviso thus appears to require county libraries to provide certification to the State Library in order to receive funds from the Aid to County Libraries Allotment. A county library's "[f]ailure to provide these certifications in a manner satisfactory to the State Library shall result in the immediate withholding of the allocation."

If a local Legislative Delegation presents evidence that the terms of the Proviso are not being met by a county library system, it may request that the State Library conduct a comprehensive review of that county's certification. It is my understanding that the State Library has established a procedure for when such a review is requested.

To ensure compliance with Proviso 27.1 moving forward, I will be sending a copy of this letter to Leesa M. Aiken, the Director of the State Library. I would also ask that she

provide formal confirmation that the above-referenced situation has been appropriately resolved. Additionally, I will be copying the local Legislative Delegation for informational purposes to determine if further action is necessary.

In short, Proviso 27.1 reflects the South Carolina General Assembly's reasonable judgment that children's safety must be taken seriously in our county library system. I applaud the General Assembly for taking this issue seriously, and I trust that you will do so moving forward.

Sincerely,

Alan Wilson  
Attorney General

CC:

Charleston County Legislative Delegation  
Leesa Aiken, Director, South Carolina State Library