

## **Internet Safety Policy**

### **Introduction**

All users of the Internet shall use it in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, recreational, business, and informational purposes for which it is provided.

### **Prohibited Uses** (See Definitions, below)

1. Viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are obscene.
2. Viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are child pornography.
3. If a minor; or in the presence of minors; or in communicating with minors: viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are harmful to minors.
4. Misrepresenting oneself, for fraudulent or illegal purposes, as another user.
5. Unauthorized attempts to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others.
6. Transmitting threatening or harassing material.
7. Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
8. Dissemination of adults' personal identification information without their permission. Dissemination of minors' personal identification information without the minors' parents' or guardians' permission.
9. Seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
10. Making changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.
11. Unauthorized altering of software components of any computer, network, or database.
12. Making unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed material in any form.
13. On library computers, using software not installed by the library.

### **CAUTIONS**

1. Library customers need to be aware that information on the Internet is often not verified or subject to verification.
2. Adult customers should be cautious when giving personal identification information; children should not do so without their parents' permission.
3. The library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to customer's data or equipment or any other injury that may occur from the individual's use of the library's Internet services.

### **MINORS' INTERNET USE**

1. Children under the age of 18 should have parental permission to use the Internet. Major responsibility for what children read or see on the Internet rests with the child's parent or other caregiver. Parents may wish to read the guidelines for *Child Safety on the Information Highway* (available at the Adult Services and Youth Services desks) produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
2. It is not possible for library staff to control all information children may locate on the Internet. Just as the library does not vouch for or endorse viewpoints or written material in its collections, it does not do so for the Internet. The library's Materials Selection Policy does not apply to the Internet.
3. Internet computers in the Youth section of the library are filtered for content suitable for children. Parents must realize that no filter is 100% effective and that the filtering provided by a private company may or may not be what the parent would filter. Some material suitable for children will also be inadvertently filtered. Parents who wish their children to have filtered Internet access should instruct their children to use Youth section computers.

### **NOTICE TO MINORS**

Children under the age of 18:

1. Must follow all of the rules in this policy, including all the rules listed above under “Prohibited Uses.”
2. Must be extremely careful when using e-mail, chat rooms, instant mail, and any other form of electronic communication. [Do not give your real name (use an alias instead), address, telephone number, city or area you live in, school you attend, etc., to any person on the Internet without your parent’s permission.]
3. Must not disclose personnel identification information of any other person.
4. Must use the Internet computers in the Youth area, which are filtered for content, if your parents have directed you to do so.

### **STAFF MONITORING**

Library staff have the right to monitor Internet use for compliance with this policy.

### **PENALTY FOR MISUSE**

Misuse of the Internet will result in suspension of access to it.

### **REMEDY**

Any person may appeal that suspension to the library board at a regular meeting with seven days advance written notice to the library director.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Obscenity** – Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by law; and whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

**Child pornography** – Any visual depiction, or any images that appear to be visual depictions, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, which includes actual or simulated sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area.

**Visual depictions that are harmful to minors** – Any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- b) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sex acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and,
- c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

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