

Policy

Internet Use Policy

Approved by Board of Trustees: October 15, 2019

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Last Review: October 7, 2024

RULES GOVERNING USE

The Dauphin County Library System (The Library), provides users of all ages access to information in many formats, including the Internet. The Library may set limits and rules on the use of the Internet, including time limits, downloading of large files, and printing fees and options. The Library network and computers may not support certain file types available on the Internet, such as sound or moving images or certain protocols.

Altering The Library computer hardware or software, network hacking, failure to pay for printing, and other activities that disrupt the Library, or its technology network are prohibited.

Users must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including but not limited to criminal, copyright, privacy, defamation, and obscenity laws. The Library expressly prohibits any use of its Internet for illegal activities, or to access material that contains or refers to explicit sexual materials and visual depictions as obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors (see Appendix). All users accessing the Internet on public library computers or personal devices will be required to agree to a User Agreement.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in loss of access to the Internet, library computers, or general library privileges. A member whose privileges have been denied, has a right to have that decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees by appealing the denial via written request to The Library Executive Director within fourteen (14) days of the denial of library service.

CHOOSING AND EVALUATING SOURCES

The Internet is a valuable information source, but some of the information is not accurate, complete, current, legal or philosophically acceptable to all citizens.

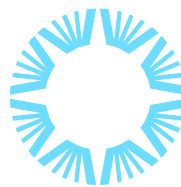
Internet users must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information. The Library is unable to control the content of Internet sites, which change frequently and unpredictably, and is not responsible for Internet content beyond the scope of its own web pages.

The Library provides links to Internet sites on its web pages and in its catalog. The Library does not officially endorse these sites, but links are provided to assist users in finding sites appropriate to age and topic.

The parents/legal guardians of minors are responsible for their children's use of The Library and its resources, including the Internet, and The Library will not act in loco parentis. Parents/legal guardians are the best and final judges of what is appropriate for their children and should guide their children in use of the Internet.

INTERNET FILTERING

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Library uses commercial filtering software. The filtering software is designed to protect against access to visual depictions defined as obscene, child pornography, and



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material that is harmful to minors, as required by law. The Library cannot and does not guarantee that filtering software will block all such material, nor can The Library guarantee that the filters will not restrict access to sites with legitimate value.

A user may request that library staff unblock a site, at which time the site will be reviewed by the IT management team to assess and approve or deny based on the content. If a site that contains visual depictions defined as obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors is not blocked by filters, the incident should be reported promptly to library staff.

PRIVACY

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding members' activities. The Library reserves the right to monitor member use of the Internet if there is a suspected violation of this or another library policy. The Library will not release any information on members' Internet use except as required by law or as necessary for the safety and security of the Library.

Users should remain sensitive to the fact that people of all ages are able to view the content being displayed.

APPENDIX TO DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The following terms shall have the definitions as defined by Pennsylvania law (**18 Pa. C.S. § 5903**):

Obscene

- The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the subject matter taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest;
- The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct of a type described in this section;
- The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

Harmful to minors

Harmful to minors means that quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

- predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors;
- is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable materials for minors; and
- taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors