

Subject: Acceptable Internet Use and Safety Policy

Purpose:

To provide the vast resources of the Internet to all our patrons in a safe and comfortable environment.

Policy:

The Internet is a global network that offers a wealth of information that is purposeful, useful and enriching to individuals of all ages. However, it is also an unregulated source of information and may not be accurate, objective or current and includes content that some may find offensive. The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library cannot control or monitor the information found on the Internet; therefore, it is the responsibility of the user to critically evaluate the suitability of the information.

Library patrons are prohibited from using Library computer equipment and communication services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the Internet. The Library applies a filtering system to all library computers in an effort to prevent access by juveniles (patrons under the age of 18), or **any other patron**, to sites deemed harmful to juveniles. A filter has been installed and activated on the computers that will block internet access through such computers **to child pornography as defined by Section 18.2-374.1:1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, obscenity as defined in Section 18.2-372 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to juveniles as defined in Section 18.2-390 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.** Library staff members have been designated by the MFRL Board of Trustees to disable the filter at the request of any patron for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Internet users are expected to use the Library's Internet access in a responsible and legal manner, consistent with the educational, informational and recreational purposes for which it is intended. The Library promotes an environment where safety and security especially of minors is of utmost importance. The Library also upholds and strongly affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The Library will not restrict usage based on age and to the extent practical, staff will monitor the use of the Internet by minor children. Restriction of a child's access to the Internet and supervision of his/her use is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The Library shall take appropriate enforcement action against any library patron observed violating the Library's Acceptable Internet Use and Safety policy. Failure to comply with the policy will result in suspension or cancellation of Internet privileges, and/or may result in legal proceedings. The Library reserves the right to terminate any Internet session.

The Library is a wireless environment. The filtering software does not extend to a patron's personal laptop computer but the policy does govern what is acceptable use when a personal laptop is used within the walls or on the grounds of the Library. Anyone using the Library's connection to access the Internet agrees to abide by the Library's policy. Users also agree to hold harmless the Library for any liability or damage claim arising from any use or misuse of Internet access.

Library staff cannot provide the public with in-depth training in using the Internet. They will offer searching suggestions, answer questions, recommend websites or otherwise assist members of the public in getting the information they are seeking. Internet users are reminded that the Internet is not a secure environment and should proceed cautiously when providing personal information or chatting with anyone over the Internet.

Examples of unacceptable uses of the Library's computer resources include, but are not limited to the following:

- Violation of any applicable federal, state or local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.
- Access of child pornography, obscenity and material harmful to juveniles
- Harassment of other persons or parties.
- Unauthorized copying of copyright or other protected material.
- Violation of computer security or violation of software license agreements.
- Online dissemination of obscene or material harmful to juveniles.
- Violation of another person's or party's privacy.
- Library computers are not to be used for commercial activities.

Attachments:

- Agenda of the May 20, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting (public hearing)

References:

- Title 18 Chapter 110 and Chapter 71 sections 1465-8 of the United States Code
- Title 18.2-374.1:1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended
- Title 18.2-372 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended
- Title 18.2-390 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) of 2000

Approval:

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees

June 20, 2001; revised May 21, 2003; June 16, 2004; November 14, 2007; March 16, 2011. May 20, 2015

May 20, 2015



Date

Margaret Christle, Chair

