

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for Internet use by all Chesapeake Public Library cardholders and guest users.

POLICY:

Internet access is available in all Chesapeake Public Libraries. Every library cardholder has access to the Internet. All users are expected to use this resource in a responsible manner. Use of Internet access provided by the library to send, receive or display inappropriate materials, defined as text or graphics, which may reasonably be construed as obscene, is unacceptable behavior. Patrons exhibiting such behavior will be given a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, they will be asked to leave the library. Repeat offenders will be banned from using the library for a specific period of time. Patrons are required to acknowledge the Library Internet policies posted with the login of a library computer. In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all library computers are filtered. Patrons 18 and older can request a bypass of the filter for bona fide research purposes.

Electronic resources, including the Internet, at the Chesapeake Public Library are not to be used for illegal purposes. Any use of computers and/or the Internet that interferes with the activities of the Library or its network, or is in violation of the laws, regulations and ordinances of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the City of Chesapeake, is strictly prohibited. Examples of such include, but are not limited to, harassment, libel, destruction of equipment or software, disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications, or unauthorized copying of copyright protected materials.

Violation of any U.S., Virginia, or local laws or statutes including, but not limited to, the following can lead to prosecution:

- USC Title 18 Chapter 100 regarding the Sexual Exploitation and other Abuse of Children
- USC Title 18 Chapter 71 Sections 1465-1468 regarding distribution of obscene materials
- Code of Virginia Title 18.2 Article 5 regarding Obscenity and Related Offenses
- Code of Virginia Title 18.2 Article 6 regarding Juveniles
- The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986
- Credit Card Fraud Act of 1984
- The Electronic Communications Privacy Act
- The Virginia Computer Crimes Act
- The U.S. Copyright Act

Patrons are required to use their library card number and personal identification number (PIN) when registering for public computer use. Patrons who do not have a library card may request a guest pass with a valid photo ID. Guest users are allowed one pass per day for two sessions. Guest passes are subject to the same policies as a library cardholder with the exception of the number of sessions per day.

Parents or guardians are responsible for the Internet user information selected or accessed by their children. Parents are strongly advised to remain with their children while they use the public computers. Patrons 17 and under can obtain a guest pass at the Library Manager's discretion without a photo ID.

Due to space constraints, there is a limit of two patrons at each computer station. Patrons in barred or blocked status are not eligible to use the computers until their cards are cleared or unblocked.

Reservations are managed by a first-come, first-serve system for a one-hour block of time for adult stations. Children's computer stations allow for a 30-minute block of time. Four reservations are allowed per day with a library card. Time extensions, during their allotted sessions, may be provided at the discretion of library staff. All printing and downloading must be completed within the allotted time. There is a per page charge for printouts from the public computers. Patrons need to supply their own CD or USB storage device for downloading files. The library is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal disks or storage devices when downloading.

Stand-up email stations with a 15-minute time limit are provided as a courtesy to our patrons and can be accessed without a Chesapeake Public Library card by signing in as a guest. Non-cardholders are encouraged to obtain a library card if using these computers on a regular basis.

References: Policy 1001 – Library Cards
 Policy 1026 – Public Computers, Typewriters and Copiers

Attachments: Internet Safety Net (08/06)
 Internet Access Guidelines (online at sign-in)

Elizabeth Fowler, Director
February 20, 2013

Addendum I

Code of Virginia

§ 42.1-36.1. Power and duty of library boards and certain governing bodies regarding acceptable Internet use policies.

A. Every (i) library board established pursuant to § [42.1-35](#) or (ii) governing body of any county, city, or town that, pursuant to § [42.1-36](#), has not established a library board pursuant to § [42.1-35](#), shall establish an acceptable use policy for the Internet designed to (a) prohibit use by library employees and patrons of the library's computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading illegal material via the Internet, (b) prevent access by library patrons under the age of 18 to material that is harmful to juveniles, and (c) establish appropriate measures to be taken against persons who violate the policy. For libraries established under § [42.1-33](#), the policy shall also require the selection, installation and activation of, on those computers that are accessible to the public and have Internet access, a technology protection measure to filter or block Internet access through such computers to child pornography as defined in § [18.2-374.1:1](#), obscenity as defined in § [18.2-372](#), and, with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to juveniles as defined in § [18.2-390](#). Such policy shall provide that a person authorized by the library board shall disable or otherwise bypass the technology protection measure required by this section at the request of a patron to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The policy required by this section shall be posted online; however, if the library does not have a website, the policy shall be available to the public upon request.

The library board or the governing body may include such other terms, conditions, and requirements in the library's policy as it deems appropriate, such as requiring written parental authorization for Internet use by juveniles or differentiating acceptable uses between elementary, middle, and high school students.

B. The library board or the governing body shall take such steps as it deems appropriate to implement and enforce the library's policy which may include, but are not limited to, (i) the use of software programs designed to block access by (a) library employees and patrons to illegal material or (b) library patrons under the age of 18 to material that is harmful to juveniles or (c) both; (ii) charging library employees to casually monitor patrons' Internet use; or (iii) installing privacy screens on computers that access the Internet. For libraries established under § [42.1-33](#), the library board or governing body shall direct such libraries to select and install on those computers that are accessible to the public and have Internet access a technology protection measure as required by the policy established pursuant to subsection A. No state funding shall be withheld and no other adverse action taken against a library by the Librarian of Virginia or any other official of state government when the technology protection measure fails, provided that such library promptly has taken reasonable steps to rectify and prevent such failures in the future.

(1999, c. [64](#); 2006, c. [474](#); 2007, cc. [470](#), [583](#); 2012, cc. [805](#), [836](#).)