

Computer Use/Internet Policy - Public

THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE RIVER EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In keeping with its mission and with advances in information technology, the Library provides users with access to the Internet.

The Library is a forum for all points of view and adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights formulated by the [American Library Association](#).

Disclaimer

The Internet is a global electronic network that provides dynamic resources and facilitates communication. Library staff cannot control access points that often change rapidly and unpredictably. Users are hereby notified that they are responsible for the choice of sites that they visit.

As with other materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. Parents or guardians of minors (all persons under the age of 18) must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through the library's connection. An important set of helpful suggestions for your child's safety on the Internet is *Child Safety on the Information Highway*, reprinted and distributed with permission of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (see Appendix A). Parents and children are especially encouraged to read the section of this document titled *My Rules for Online Safety* (see also Appendix A).

River East Public Library makes no warranty, expressed or implied, for the timeliness, accuracy or usefulness for a particular purpose of information accessed via the Internet.

Users must comply with [U.S. copyright law](#) and all other applicable laws.

River East Public Library District assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its Internet services.

Library responsibilities

The Library will provide public access to the Internet in locations where workstations can be monitored by staff for assistance and security.

Internet workstations will be available to all members of the public, regardless of age. Each workstation will provide access to the World Wide Web; access to electronic mail, listservs and

newsgroups will not be actively supported on any workstation.

Unfiltered access to the Internet is available by utilizing one of the library's laptop computers which are available for checkout. See Laptop Computer Checkout Policy and Library Laptop Guide for further information.

The Library also provides access to supporting material for parents regarding child safety on the information highway.

The Library cannot control or monitor the material that may be available on this worldwide network, but may implement software and hardware control mechanisms intended to prohibit access to information which is illegal or inconsistent with the Library's mission and service goals.

Where permitted by copyright, users may copy information from the Internet. Printing from the Internet, and downloading to disc, will be available under the same terms and conditions as apply in all other areas of the Library.

Patron responsibilities

All users are expected to abide by the conditions and terms of the Internet Policy, and use of the Library workstations is conditional on the user's acceptance of this Policy.

Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's choice of workstation and Internet activity, whether or not the child has a library card. Upon signing for a child's library card, a parent or guardian assumes responsibility for their child's access to all resources in the library, including electronic resources such as the Internet.

Users must be aware that Internet workstations are in public areas that are shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. All Library users are expected to respect the privacy of others using the Internet and not interfere with their use.

Time limits per day

An individual has up to one hour on the Internet if others are waiting

Sanctions for misuse of workstations

Violators of this Internet Policy for Public Use may be required to immediately leave the building at the discretion of the "Person In Charge." Violators may also have their library privileges suspended or revoked at the discretion of the Library Director.

Patrons who use the Library's Internet workstations for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution.

The following activities constitute a violation of the Library's Internet Policy

- use of the workstations for illegal or criminal purposes, or for access to unauthorized areas
- posting or transmitting of any unlawful, threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory, obscene,

- pornographic, or similar material
- intentionally exposing other library users or staff to information or graphics that are offensive
- infringement of copyright and other intellectual property right
- subverting, or attempting to subvert, any security devices in either software or hardware format
- attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software
- sending unsolicited commercial material or spamming
- misrepresenting oneself as another user
- attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others
- vandalism or theft of library property
- display or dissemination of sexually explicit materials
- causing physical damage to any part of a computer workstation

Library staff has the right to terminate an Internet session as follows:

First time – verbal warning

Second time –Letter / 1 month Computer suspension

Third time – Letter / Banned from Computer Use

Display/dissemination of sexually explicit materials

Use of Library Internet access stations to display or disseminate sexually explicit or sexually suggestive (obscene/pornographic) material in any Library building is prohibited. Violators of this policy will be required to immediately leave the building.

Viewing inappropriate Internet pages including child pornography, pornography and other objectionable material is a misuse of public equipment.

Should a person be observed by library security or staff viewing child pornography, which is illegal under local, state and federal statutes, law enforcement authorities will be contacted immediately.

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Review: 8/2019

Guidelines for Parents

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Make it a family rule to:

- Never give out identifying information - home address, school name, or telephone number - in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards, and be sure you're dealing with someone that both you and your children know and trust before giving out via E-mail. Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information. Consider using a pseudonym or unlisting your child's name if your service allows it.
- Get to know the services your child uses. If you don't know how to log on, get your child to show you. Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.
- Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. If a meeting is arranged, make the first one in a public spot, and be sure to accompany your child.
- Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. If you or your child receives a message that is harassing, of a sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for their assistance.

Should you become aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography while online, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by calling 1-800-843-5678. You should also notify your online service.

MY RULES FOR ONLINE SAFETY

"My Rules for Online Safety" are from *Child Safety on the Information Highway* by Lawrence J. Magid. They are reprinted with permission of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Copyright NCMEC 1994. All rights reserved.

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents permission.
- I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break the rules without their permission.

About This Document

Child Safety on the Information Highway was written by Lawrence J. Magid, a syndicated columnist

for the *Los Angeles Times*, who is the author of *Cruising Online: Larry Magid's Guide to the New Digital Highway* (Random House, 1994) and *The Little PC Book* (Peachpit Press, 1993).

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