



Melrose Public Library

Internet Use Policy

The Melrose Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the informational, recreational and educational needs of the community.

As a means of supplementing print collections, the Melrose Public Library provides free, public access to the Internet. The Melrose Public Library does not monitor or control information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is an unregulated medium; not all sites provide information that is current, accurate, or complete. The Internet may contain material of a controversial or mature nature that may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals.

The Children's Room of Melrose Public Library provides computers equipped with filtering software to limit access to material not appropriate for children. Filtering software may not block all material that might be considered offensive. As with other library material, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

In addition, the following conditions of use are required by the *Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)* and the *Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (N-CIPA)*:

- Minors/adults shall not access material that is obscene, pornographic, child pornography, "harmful to minors," or otherwise inappropriate for educational use.
- Minors/adults shall not use library resources to gain unauthorized access to computer systems or otherwise compromise system security (hacking.)
- Minors/adults should use caution in their use of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of communications can expose people to dangerous situations.
- Minors/adults should not disclose personal information, such as name, school, address, and telephone number to strangers on the Internet.

Access to the Internet is compatible with Melrose Public Library's endorsement of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks.

Users are prohibited from any activity that violates local, state, or federal laws, including copyright laws. This activity includes unauthorized streaming of copyrighted content or use of shared files without consent of the copyright owner.

Some library computers provide access to the Internet via the Library's public wireless network. WiFi is less secure than a wired network. Information sent to or from these



computers may be monitored, captured, or altered by others with the appropriate equipment and technology.

The Library cannot guarantee users' rights to confidentiality and privacy while using public computers or public wireless network services. Users need to understand their own responsibility to protect personal information.

Any violation of library policy and rules may result in loss of library provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedure and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Complaints of any nature must be made in writing to the Library Director.

2002; revised Sept. 2017