



POLICY

Carroll County Public Library

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The Carroll County Public Library is committed to its role in serving the information, recreation, and lifelong learning needs of all of its citizens. Providing access to the Internet enables the Library to greatly expand its information services. In addition, the library organizes, catalogs and indexes a variety of information that it provides through connections to the Internet, websites and commercial databases. Not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, legal or philosophically acceptable to all people.

The unauthorized or illegal use of the Carroll County Public Library's computing systems and facilities may result in revocation of Internet use privileges, general library privileges, and/or constitute grounds for civil or criminal prosecution.

The library is required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Annotated Code of MD Article §23-506.1, to prohibit Internet access for children age 16 and younger to obscenity, child pornography, chat rooms, instant messaging, and materials that are harmful to minors. In order to implement the law, the library uses a Web Content Filter on all public access computers.

The Web Content Filter disables access to websites that minors may not access and those that violate our behavior policy. Upon request by a library customer age 17 and older, library staff may unblock a site. Library staff may request proof of age. The library reserves the right to enforce the Acceptable Use Policy if the requested material appears to violate the law. Web Content Filters are not 100% accurate and may allow access to inappropriate sites. Parents and guardians of children under the age of 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. The library assumes no liability in the event the filter is not 100% effective. Library staff are available to discuss how to use the Internet safely with all customers.

The Carroll County Public Library prohibits the following:

- Accessing any programs or files outside of the installed Internet browsers, Microsoft Office, and any other software provided by the library and linked to from the desktop.
- Sending, receiving or displaying obscene or pornographic text or graphics;
- Engaging in any activity that facilitates sending, receiving or displaying inappropriate materials to a minor;
- Activities that disrupt the library or its network by any customer, including but not limited to: attempting to access, modify or delete files, passwords or data belonging to others (including the dissemination of personal information regarding minors), seeking unauthorized access to the library's or any other computer system, port scanning, running a denial of service attack, downloading or installing software harmful to the library's computers, or damaging or modifying library equipment or software.

The transfer of financial and other personal data via the Internet is at your own risk. For your own protection, verify that you are submitting personal information through an encrypted (<https://>) connection to a trusted and known website. The library is not responsible for the misuse of personal information entered on websites.

Privacy Statement - The Carroll County Public Library is committed to protecting the privacy of its customers. Information concerning personal use of the Internet is confidential and will not be released without a court-ordered subpoena.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR REMOVAL FROM LIBRARY PROPERTY AT THE LIBRARIAN'S DISCRETION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIBRARY'S BEHAVIOR POLICY.

Legal Documents Sited

Annotated Code of MD Article 23 Section 506.1 -

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=ged§ion=23-506.1&enactments=False&archived=False>

Approved February 23, 2005

Revised January 27, 2010

Revised May 27, 2015

Revised June 24, 2020