Long Hill Township Library
Policy for Public Use of Computers and the Internet

Overview

The Long Hill Township Library provides free access to computers and the Internet, in keeping with its mission to serve the community's educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs and its vital role in providing access to electronic information.

Library computers are located in public areas that are shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. Therefore, all library users are expected to show consideration for others when using computers and the Internet. Display or transmission of sexually explicit graphics or materials that are violent, obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors is strictly prohibited in the library.

Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for determining and monitoring their minor child's use of library computers and the Internet. Parents who believe that their child cannot responsibly use the library's computers and Internet access must monitor their child's access. Minors are defined here as children and young people under the age of 18 years.

Internet Code of Conduct

All library users are expected to show consideration for others when viewing Internet sites. No person shall use a computer in a way that disturbs or interferes with other users, employees or operation of the library.

All federal, state and local laws are in effect while library patrons are using computers in the library. Examples include laws governing copyright, gambling, and display of pornographic materials. Anyone who breaks any law using a computer in the library may be banned from using the library and/or library computers, and may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

Patrons who use computers in the library are expected to:

- respect the privacy of other library patrons during their computer sessions
- refrain from illegal or unethical use of computers or the Internet
- refrain from sending lewd or threatening email messages, or sending unsolicited email messages to large numbers of people
- refrain from hacking or attempting to circumvent or compromise the security of any local computer or Internet host, network or account
- refrain from vandalism to computer hardware or software
- refrain from displaying content considered inappropriate, or harmful to minors
- refrain from unlawfully downloading or distributing copyrighted material

Limit of Liability

The library endeavors to provide access to information of the highest quality, but library personnel have no control over the quality of information on the Internet. Because Internet content is not managed or governed by any single entity, library users are encouraged to exercise critical judgment and consider the validity and reliability of the source of information when accessing Internet sites.

The library assumes no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to use of the library's computers and/or Internet connection. The library is not responsible for loss of data or damage to users' storage media or computers, or for the security of information transmitted and received while using the library's wireless network or public computers.

Software and information downloaded from any source, including the Internet, may contain computer viruses. Patrons are advised to use virus checking software.

Failure to Comply

In the event that a patron violates this policy, a staff member will inform the individual that his/her behavior violates the Internet Code of Conduct, and that it must stop.

Library employees are authorized to terminate the computer session of anyone who fails to comply with the Internet Code of Conduct.

Continued violations will be considered a violation of the library's Patron Code of Conduct and will be treated accordingly.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, November 2011