

## **Waterbury Public Library Policy: Computer and Internet Use**

**Last revised: February 14, 2022**  
**Reviewed and affirmed: May 13, 2024**

Computer access, internet access, and wi-fi connectivity are offered at the Library.

**Internet Access:** The internet is an essential medium for obtaining and transmitting information of all types. Therefore, public access to the internet is germane to the Library's mission.

The internet is an unregulated medium. Although it is a valuable tool for accessing information, the internet also provides access to information that is inaccurate, illegal or that some may find disturbing. The Library does not control a user's access to internet sites. Library computers are not filtered, and the Library will not monitor content, nor deny or limit access, except when a clear violation of this policy has occurred.

**Responsibilities of Library Staff and Users:** The Library Director will establish procedures for use of the Library's computers and internet access, in order to ensure equitable access to resources. Library staff will not monitor an individual's internet use, except for the length of use in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The user, or the parent of a minor, is responsible for his or her internet session at all times. Wi-fi users are expected to comply with all Library policies regarding the use of the internet.

The Library reserves the right to terminate an internet session that disrupts library services or is disruptive to other patrons.

As with all Library resources, the Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents or guardians, not Library staff, to determine and monitor the use of the Library's resources and facilities, including the internet, by young people under the age of 16 years. Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly make use of the Library's internet access are requested to supervise their children's internet use.

**Privacy:** All records relating to library patrons and their use of library materials and services, including computer and internet use, are confidential.

Library users are reminded that computers are located in public areas where screens are easily viewed by staff and other Library users of all ages. Individuals are expected to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing content that is potentially disturbing to others.

**Unacceptable Uses of Library Computers:** Library users are expected to use the internet in a responsible and ethical manner. This includes complying with Library policy, as well as local, state, and federal laws while using the internet.

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using library computers or wireless connection for any purpose that violates local, state, or federal laws (including, but not limited to, committing fraud, hacking, or engaging in communications which are libelous or slanderous);
- Using library computers to engage in threatening or harassing communications;
- Offering for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by law;
- Viewing, transmitting or downloading any illegal materials;

- Viewing child pornography;
- Deliberate display of materials or images that are disturbing to others in the library space, including attempting to print those materials using library printers;
- Violating copyright law or software licenses;
- Compromising the privacy of users;
- Attempting to gain unauthorized access to the Library's network or to cause degradation of system performance;
- Uploading any form of harmful programming or vandalism;
- Attempting to install or delete software on any of the Library's computers;
- Altering the Library's computer settings; moving library equipment, or in any way modifying or damaging the Library's computer equipment or software;
- Disrupting the intended use of library computers.

**Response to Violations:** The user's access to the Library's computer network and internet connectivity is a privilege, not a right. Failure to comply with this policy and computer use procedures will result in the loss of computer/internet privileges at Waterbury Public Library.

**Compliance with the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA):** The Library believes this policy to be in compliance with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Pub. L. No. 106-554, Subtitle C (Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act), § 1731-32.

**Disclaimer:** While the Library endeavors to provide access to information of the highest quality, the Library has no control over the information accessed through the internet and specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness or fitness for a particular purpose.

The provision of internet access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement of any particular content or point of view.

The Library will have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the Library's internet service.

The Library will have no liability for any charges a user may incur when accessing commercial sites and online fee-based services while using the Library's computer. Any service involving the submission of a credit card number involves the user in a transaction with an outside service provider, not with the Library.