

Internet Safety Policies

It is the policy of the Windom Public Library to provide free access to information to users of all ages, while attempting to protect them from unwanted exposure to graphically depicted obscenity and child pornography and to restrict access to minors to materials harmful to minors.

In order to offer such protection, and to comply with Public Law 106-554, Title XVII, the library has installed a filtering (device or software) which is intended by the manufacturer to block access to possible illegal or inappropriate sites. The user should be aware, however, that no device or software can block every site, electronic mail, and chat room which contains illegal or inappropriate content, and sites may be blocked that do not contain illegal or inappropriate content. The library does not accept responsibility for these incidents.

Users wishing to access the Internet at the Windom Public Library must agree to comply with the following RULES OF CONDUCT;

1. Internet computers will not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials that by local standards would be obscene.
2. Users will obey copyright laws and licensing agreements.
3. Users will not make any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted library files or networks, or to damage or modify computer equipment or software at the library or at another location by using library connections.
4. Users will not disclose, use, or disseminate personal information regarding minors without written authorization of the parent or legal guardian of the minors involved.

Library employees are authorized to take prompt and appropriate action to enforce the Rules of Conduct, and/or to prohibit use by persons who fail to comply with the Internet Acceptable Use Policy as stated or implied herein. To preserve their own personal safety, users should avoid disclosing personal information over the Internet. Parents are responsible for their children's use of the library's resources and facilities. Parents are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.

Access to Internet Workstations

1. Access sessions will be limited to one hour, unless authorized by library staff.
2. Users must end their session and leave the terminal after their hour session. If the Rules of Conduct are not followed, authorized library staff will end the session.

Use of Internet Workstations

1. Installation, downloading, or modification of the library's software is prohibited. Users may not alter or attach equipment or programs to the library's hardware. Users may not circumvent the established procedure for access to the Internet.
2. Prompt payment is required by users who incur charges for printing. There is no charge for using the Internet at the library, however, printing charges are \$.25 a page for black and white, \$.50 for color prints.

3. By mutual agreement, two persons may share one access session as long as their behavior or conversation does not disturb other users or library staff.
4. Users will respect the privacy of other users, and will refrain from attempting to view or read material being used by others.

MINORS

Children under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use the Internet access computers without consent of their parents or legal guardian. Parents are responsible for their children's use of the Library's resources and facilities. The Windom Library Board requests that parents or guardians work closely with children on selecting Internet resources consistent with personal or family values.

COMPLIANCE

The Library Director and Library Staff are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce the rules and/or to prohibit use by persons who fail to comply with the Internet Policy. Library employees are authorized to terminate any user session, or to prohibit a user from access if that user fails to comply with this policy. A second violation may result in permanent termination of computer privileges. Any user who feels he/she has been unfairly banned from internet use may file an appeal in writing with the library board. Appeals will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the board, provided the appeal has been received seven days prior to the meeting.

DISCLAIMER

The Windom Public Library assumes no liability or responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, that users or anyone else may experience through access to the Internet at the library. Laptops and other devices should never be left unattended in the library. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage, theft, or loss of any kind to a user's equipment, software, or data files.

Approved by the Windom Public Library Board on December 13, 2022.