

Polk County Public Library Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy

Polk County Public Library (PCPL) provides free public access to the Internet for informational, educational and recreational purposes. Computers and the Internet enable the Library to provide access to ideas, information and resources beyond its collection.

Public computers and Internet access are provided to all library users. While the Internet contains a wealth of helpful material, it also provides access to information that may be unreliable and sites that some may find offensive. The library has no control over material on the Internet, and is not responsible for its content. As with other library materials, responsibility for online materials accessed by minors rests with their parents or guardians.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the library has technology protection measures (Internet filters). These measures are designed to protect against access to visual depictions that may legally be considered obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors, as defined by CIPA. Upon request, library staff may provide adults the ability to have unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Internet users should be aware that no technology protection measure is infallible.

The library is not responsible for damage to a customer's property or for any damage, liability or loss of data that may occur from use of or from the inability to use or access the Library's computers or Internet connections. PCPL does not track individual Internet use by minors or adults.

Responsibilities of Users

When using a PCPL computer, wireless network or Internet-enabled device, it is your responsibility to ensure that you, and minors in your care:

- Demonstrate judgment, respect for others and appropriate discretion when viewing materials and refrain from displaying material on a terminal when so requested by library staff.
- Take care to protect your personal information and safety when using social networking sites, electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- Adhere to time limits established by Polk County Public Library.
- End your session and leave the workstation if asked to do so by a Polk County Public Library staff member, even if you have not completed your session.
- Use this computer only for legal activity, including adherence to copyright or other rights of third parties, and in a manner consistent with the Customer Conduct Policy. Behaviors that are prohibited include unauthorized access ("hacking"), harassment ("cyberbullying"), and unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- Avoid interfering with or disrupting library hardware, software, networks or services.

Customers will be asked to adapt their behavior to comply with library policy. If a customer fails to do so, appropriate action will be taken, up to and including permanent expulsion from PCPL facilities. Illegal activity will be referred to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Approved by the Polk County Public Library Board of Trustees

Created: 1/16/1998

Revised: 5/23/2007, 1/26/2017