

Internet Public Use Policy

Guidelines for Library Internet Access

In-library use of the library's Internet computers is for activities relating to accessing information for reference, research, and recreation. Information such as news, weather, sports, stock quotes, movie reviews, encyclopedias, and educational and entertainment resources on virtually any topic is available. Staff will assist patrons with basic Internet use as time permits, but cannot offer detailed instruction.

In offering Internet, the library cannot control access points which change rapidly and unpredictably. The Internet is an unregulated medium and while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive or disturbing. The library is not responsible for the content, quality, accuracy, or timeliness of the information on the Internet.

Users of the Internet Public Access Computers shall:

1. Respect the privacy of others.
2. Observe the legal copyright license and protection to programs and data.
3. Follow the library's rules for Internet access.

Unacceptable Uses:

1. Use of any computer for illegal or commercial purposes (other than commercial purposes involving the user as the purchaser of consumer products or services for personal use). Users may not display, view, or download graphics or content that is obscene. Adult users may not display, view, or download graphics or content that is harmful to minors when in the presence of, or when the content is visible to minors. Minors may not display, view, or download graphics or content that is harmful to themselves or other minors. Internet activity which violates local, state, or federal laws is prohibited and will be subject to prosecution.
2. Violation of computer system security.
3. Violation of another user's privacy.
4. Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data.
5. Unplugging the library's Internet connection.
6. The phrase "harmful to minors" includes, but is not limited to, graphics or content that is indecent or obscene when viewed or accessed by a minor, regardless of whether a minor actually views or accesses the material; graphics or material that a minor may not otherwise lawfully possess; and graphics or content to which a minor or the minor's parent objects during the minor's visit at the library.

Youth Access to the Internet

Please be aware that some information on the Internet is of a mature nature and may not be suitable for children. Parents or guardians are ultimately responsible for information selected and accessed by children. Although filtering software is installed on the computers in the children's section, parents concerned about their children's use of the Internet are ultimately responsible for setting standards and establishing guidelines. It is not possible for library staff to control the flow of information that may be inappropriate for children. Filtering software does not guarantee a safe Internet environment.

Internet Use Procedures and Rules of Conduct

1. A current library card in good standing from any Suburban Library Cooperative member library, or MiLibraryCard entered into the shared system, is required for use of the library's computers. Those individuals that are at least 18 years old and do not have a card must present ID and pay a \$4 fee to use the computers each day. Library staff will not look up patron barcodes for use of the computers. Library staff will issue a guest pass for current cardholders in good standing with ID that are at least 18 years old. Those under the age of 18 must have a library card to use any PC in the library. ID will be required to use the express station PC to verify that the patron has not been banned.
2. Use of the Internet computers is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be courteous. There is no time limit on the computers in the library. There are two hour sessions on all but the express station PCs, which have 15 minute sessions.
3. It is requested that a parent or guardian remains with children under the age of 12, and that parents supervise all use of the Internet by their minor children.
4. No more than two persons may use an Internet computer station at any one time.
5. In compliance with Public Act 212 of 2000, computers with filtering software installed and activated are available for use by individuals of any age. Individuals who are 18 years of age or older, and minors who are accompanied by their parent or guardian, may access computers without filtering software. Minors who are not accompanied by their parent or guardian may not use a computer without filtering software.
6. Library employees may monitor the terminals being used or observed by minors. Terminals may be arranged in a configuration that allows a Library employee to view the terminals at all times. All Library employees have the authority to terminate computer access for a violation of these rules.
7. Internet users should be aware that material on the Internet is copyrighted. It is the user's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information on the Web and to respect the copyright laws of the United States.

Any violation of the Internet Public Use Policy will result in immediate termination of Internet access. Internet users whose access session has been terminated or prohibited will be given information concerning an appeals process to the Library Board of Trustees to protest the action and/or request that Internet access privileges be reinstated. The Library Board of Trustees may uphold the termination; allow privileges with conditions and/or restrictions; or overturn the ban. In cases of termination or conditional privileges, the Library Board of Trustees shall set a time period that shall elapse before a user shall be permitted to apply for full or conditional reinstatement.

Copies of PA 212 of 2000 are available at all Library Service Desks.

Appeals Process for Termination of Internet Access

Library patrons whose Internet access has been terminated due to a perceived violation of the Sterling Heights Public Library's Internet Public Use Policy can appeal to the Library Board of Trustees.

Requests to reinstate Internet access privileges or to protest the action of termination should be made in writing and addressed to:

Board of Trustees
Sterling Heights Public Library
40255 Dodge Park Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Requests should include the following information:

Name
Address
Date of Termination
Explanation of protest/request to reinstate privileges

The request will be considered at the next scheduled Library Board of Trustees meeting, when the patron will be advised of the reasons proffered for the termination decision and will be afforded an opportunity to be heard, whether in person or by a representative of his/her choosing. Thereafter, the patron will be notified in writing of the Board's decision within one week of the meeting. In the event that termination is upheld or privileges are reinstated with conditions, the Board shall determine the period of time that shall elapse before a user shall be permitted to apply for full or conditional reinstatement.