

COMPUTER & INTERNET USE POLICY

The mission of the Auburn Hills Public Library is to support the development of an informed citizenry by collecting, transmitting and ensuring open access to the world's ideas and information. To this end, the Auburn Hills Public Library is providing public access to computer equipment and Internet services at designated public Internet terminals in the Library. Library computers for public use are accessible via a valid Auburn Hills Public Library card, computer guest pass or other applicable Library Network issued Library cards issued by Library staff. The Internet is a global and unregulated information network. Not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current or legal.

The Auburn Hills Public Library is unable to monitor or control the information obtained through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its contents. The Internet and its resources may contain controversial or inappropriate material. Patrons use the Internet at their own discretion. The Library does not endorse the content of any material obtained from the Internet. The information available through the Internet changes rapidly and unpredictably. The Library does not filter materials that are available through the Internet, with the following exceptions:

- A. The access by minors (defined as patrons up to the age of 18) is filtered to block pictures on sites that are obscene, child pornography, or contain sexually explicit material that is harmful to Minors in accordance with Section 6 of the Michigan Library Privacy Act (PA 212 of the Public Acts of 2000) and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- B. The Library uses software to block sites that spread viruses, malware, spyware or programs that will damage or interfere with the use of the Library's computers.

Parents and guardians of minor children, not Auburn Hills Public Library, are responsible for their children's use of the Internet through the Library connection.

1. Acceptable Use:

Users of the Library workstations must adhere to the following guidelines. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the loss of the right to use these stations:

- **Lawful Use:** It is illegal to use Auburn Hills Public Library's Internet connection and workstations for any purpose which violates Federal, State or Local laws, including, but not limited to transmission of obscenity, child pornography or defamatory speech or unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking"; unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- **Intellectual Property:** Users must respect intellectual property rights and obey the copyright laws of the United States and all other intellectual property rights. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Approved by the Auburn Hills Public Library Board of Trustees, September, 1996

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- **Harmful to Minors:** Internet users shall not permit any minor to view sexually explicit material or any other material deemed harmful to minors as defined by section 4 of 1978 PA 33, MCL 722.674 by individuals under 18 years of age.
- **Code of Conduct:** The same rules apply to the use of the Internet connection and work stations as with the use of any of Library materials (see Code of Conduct Policy). All patrons must comply with the Library's Code of Conduct Policy, which is posted in the Library.
- **Privacy:** Patrons must respect the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another patron; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others; and by not seeking disallowed access to any computer system via the Internet.
- **Time Limit:** The Library has a limited number of terminals. Patrons must relinquish the computer terminal immediately following the expiration of any posted time limit unless no one is waiting.
 - Computer Use is limited to 4 hours maximum per day.
 - There is a one half-hour time limit if someone is waiting.
- **Reimbursement:** The patron is responsible for payment of all printing charges and guest passes.
 - Computer use privileges, like Library material borrowing privileges, will be blocked if a patron's fines reach \$15.00.
 - There is a fee for computer guest passes, for individuals who live outside The Library Network service area.
- **Personal Software:** Patrons shall refrain from use of personal software on Library systems or the modification of any Library operating system or network configuration. Patrons are not permitted to change the security setup, operating systems, the network configuration or any other configuration of any Library computer or equipment. Patrons may not install software onto the Library computer.
- **Software Security Restrictions:** Patrons may not use the Library's computers to disseminate computer viruses, spyware, and malware or to otherwise hack, harm or interfere with the use of any other computer system.
- **Tampering:** Tampering with Auburn Hills Public Library equipment is prohibited, this includes powering down or re-booting computer equipment.

2. Filtering:

Auburn Hills Public Library uses Open DNS Enterprise as the filtering system on our computers. This option provides minimal filtering while remaining compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

3. Minors and the Internet:

- A. Parental supervision of minors using electronic equipment is strongly advised. Parents and legal guardians assume responsibility for deciding what is appropriate for their children, and should discuss the responsibilities of usage, including safety and security when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communications, with their children. The Library does not directly or remotely monitor anyone's use of the computers, including minors. However, the Library will react to a report of inappropriate use.
- B. Minors must use their own Library card when accessing the Library's electronic equipment or the Internet.
- C. In compliance with Section 6 of the Michigan Library Privacy Act (Act 212 of the Public Acts of 2000) and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Auburn Hills Public Library provides Open DNS filtering system to prevent a minor from viewing obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors.

4. Staff Assistance:

Staff may assist patrons in getting started on the Internet. However, the Library cannot guarantee that Internet trained staff will be available to assist patrons at all times the Library is open. Because of the many different applications available on the Internet, staff may not be able to provide specialized or technical knowledge about a particular application.

5. Violation of Computer Use & Internet Policy:

A violation of this policy may result in a temporary or permanent suspension of some or all of the patron's Library privileges.

6. Library Not Liable:

Individuals using personal devices at the Library shall hold the Library harmless from any loss, damage, liability cost and/or expense that may arise during use at the Library facility. The Auburn Hills Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of its computer, terminal connections or access to Internet services.