

South Park Township Library

Title: Policy for Computer and Internet Access and Use

Date Issued: August 25, 2023

Replaces: POLICY REGARDING INTERNET USE. Nov. 30, 1999

Purpose: To promote and encourage the responsible use of the Internet as an information resource for Library patrons of all ages.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

1. Internet Use Policy

The South Park Township Library endeavors to provide our patrons with accurate, complete, current, and unbiased information in many formats. The Internet provides many sites that meet these criteria and is available, free of charge, to our patrons for recreational and educational use.

Since our Internet access computers are available to patrons of all ages, we provide blocking software for these computers through that is provided by the eiNetwork. It is intended to prohibit access, by minors, to explicit sexual materials. This software is not infallible and material that is offensive, illegal, or inaccurate may still be accessed. It is the patron's responsibility to determine if this material is of value.

The Library staff will not be responsible for supervising children while they are on the Internet in accordance with the Library's Unattended Child Policy. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. The Library does not have the right or responsibility to determine the appropriateness of any material for a particular child.

The Library is a public place and some materials may not be appropriate for viewing in this setting. Moreover, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Crime Code, Sect. 5903 states that it is a felony offense "to display or cause any explicit sexual material... on any... viewing screen in such manner that the display is visible... in any establishment where minors, as part of the general public, may be exposed to view all or any part of such materials." The Library staff will terminate any session that displays such material, and the patron's computer use privileges will be revoked. Additionally, all library staff are trained Mandated Reporters, which requires our staff to report such activities to our local police. Printing of these materials is prohibited. In addition, Internet computers cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purposes including any activities prohibited under any applicable Federal, Pennsylvania or local law.

Internet users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. The library cannot be responsible for any theft, fraud or invasion of privacy that may occur as a result of Internet use at the Library.

Patrons should be aware that some material on the Internet is copyrighted and is subject to rules and regulations regarding its use just as printed material is subject to these rules and regulations.

2. CIPA Compliance

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or

computers used for Internet access. [Supreme Court decision: United States v. American Library Ass'n, Inc., No. 02-361 (June 23, 2003)] South Park Township Library complies with the requirements of CIPA.

All computers in the South Park Township Library are filtered. The filtering software is provided by the eiNetwork. The eiNetwork has a filtering software policy. Please be aware that filters are unreliable, at times blocking sites of legitimate informational or educational value, or allowing access to sites that are illegal, obscene, or sexually explicit within the meaning of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec 5903.

3. Conditions and Terms of Use in the Library

In an effort to ensure that the use of the Internet is consistent with the mission of the Library, the Library has adopted the following regulations:

- a. Users must present a valid library card upon request. The Library reserves the right to require parental permission for minors to access Internet resources.
- b. The Library reserves the right to establish procedures that make the Internet stations available on a first come, first served sign-in basis.
- c. The Library reserves the right to limit time on the Internet workstations, including without limitation the right to place time limits on use of large files of still or moving images or sound, or on downloading files in any medium.
- d. Internet use will be managed in a manner consistent with the Library's policy on acceptable use: The Internet workstation must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of other users. Users may not make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software. Computer and Internet settings may not be changed. Users may not use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources. Users may not invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory. Users may not jeopardize the security of access of the computer network or other networks on the Internet.
- e. The Library does not allow the use of personal software.
- f. Computer users must use headphone if audio is needed.

4. Compliance with Library Policy and Guidelines

- a. Violation of the policies and regulations that govern the use of the Library's Internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources.
- b. Any illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources or equipment will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.
- c. The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with this policy.
- d. This policy is subject to periodic review by the Library Director, Library Board, or The South

Park Township Manager and Board of Supervisors.

- e. In the application and interpretation of this policy, the South Park Township Library will use as reference The American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Freedom to Read Statement, Library Bill of Rights, and interpretations as they apply to electronic resources.