

Computer and Internet Use Policy

I. Introduction

The Deerfield Public Library offers computer workstations and a wireless network to ensure free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational, and recreational resource.

II. Disclaimer

Information on the Internet is provided by a multitude of sources. Provision of access by the Library does not constitute endorsement of the ideas or information found on the Internet. Library staff cannot guarantee the accuracy, quality, or timeliness of the information found online. Information found on the Internet falls outside the scope of the Library's Collection Management Policy. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems, or any consequences thereof.

III. Access to Public Computers

- A. To use the public computers, a library card and PIN (personal identification number) are necessary. If a patron does not have their card present, they may get a temporary pass from Library staff.
- B. Computers are available during regular operating hours until 5 minutes before the Library closes. Computer use is limited to two hours per day. Library staff can override the two-hour time limit and additional time may be requested if no other patrons are waiting to use a computer.
- C. Printing is available for a fee. The Library is only able to accept cash or check for payment.

IV. Rules and Expectations for Using Public Computers

- A. Inappropriate computer use will not be tolerated within the library. The library will take disciplinary measures including but not limited to loss of library privileges or computer use. Illegal use of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. Rules regarding inappropriate computer use include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. Patrons shall not send, receive, or display on computer screens any text or graphics that may reasonably be construed to be obscene. Deerfield Public Library staff shall notify and fully cooperate with law enforcement if they become aware of any use of its computers in any

connection with child pornography, exposure of sexually explicit material to children, or the solicitation of sex with minors.

2. Patrons shall not transmit, post, upload, or otherwise make available defamatory, harassing, abusive, or threatening material or language that encourages bodily harm, destruction of property, or harasses another.
 3. Patrons shall not libel, slander, or maliciously offend other users.
 4. Patrons must respect the privacy of others and shall not misrepresent oneself as another user. This includes logging in with another patron's library card account.
 5. Patrons shall not attempt to crash, degrade performance of, damage, modify, or gain unauthorized access to computer systems and networks, hardware, software, files, passwords, or data that belongs to the Library or other users.
- B. The Deerfield Public Library shall not be responsible for any injuries or damages to possessions of individuals or groups resulting from the use of computers or electronic devices. This includes but is not limited to credit card charges, identity theft, or other potential damages.
- C. Public computers are provided with the understanding that it is primarily self-service and that most learning will occur through self-instruction instead of library staff intervention. If a patron needs more involved help from staff, they may schedule a one-on-one appointment. Library staff is unable to provide legal help, tax help, or financial help due to not being trained or certified to do so.

V. Supervising Children's Use

The public library, unlike schools, does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. Deerfield Public Library supports the right for each family to decide what appropriate Internet use is for their children. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians. Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the user. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian. Because parents or guardians may feel that information available through the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, supervision is advised for children under the age of 16 and children under the age of 16 must have parental permission to use the Internet. Children eight and under must use the Internet with their accompanying adult.

VI. Copyright

U.S. Copyright law (Title 17 US Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted material, except as permitted by the principles of fair use. Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials, including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data, without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for the consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems, or any consequences thereof.

Approved by the Deerfield Public Library Board July 2002

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