

**Carver Memorial Library**  
**Internet Use and Safety Policy**

Carver Memorial Library endorses the Library Bill of Rights and supports the democratic principle of every citizen's right to free access to information, including electronic information.

The information available on the Internet includes much that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. It also provides access to material that may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals, as well as access to information that may be factually incorrect and/or illegal. The availability of such networked information via library terminals does not constitute the Library's endorsement of the content of that information. Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the user.

**DEFINITIONS**

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

**INTRODUCTION**

It is the policy of Carver Memorial Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

**FILTERING**

The library utilizes Internet filtering software, OpenDNS, provided through the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN). This software blocks content deemed child pornography, harmful to minors, or obscene. However, the library cannot guarantee that the internet filters in place will block all offensive and/or illegal materials. This policy and the software utilized do allow for staff to override the filter per adult user's request for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

**TERMS OF USE**

The library's computers may be used only for legal and acceptable purposes. Users of all ages must abide by the following restrictions. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Transmitting threatening or harassing materials
- Accessing or displaying visual depictions of material deemed obscene or harmful to minors.
- Exposing children to harmful materials.
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.

- Unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking’, or otherwise attempting to gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others.
- Attempting to crash, degrade the performance of, or gain unauthorized access to the Library’s computer systems and networks.
- Modifying or damaging equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other users.
- Unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted material, except as permitted by the principles of fair use (per US Copyright Law, Title 17 U.S. Code). Any responsibility for the consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user.

## **SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN**

In the case of minors, access, use, and dissemination of information via the internet is the joint responsibility of the user and the parent/guardian. The public library, unlike schools, does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the internet. Thus, responsibility for what minors read and view on the internet rests with parents or guardians, and supervision is advised.

Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Carver Memorial Library Association, June 23, 2016.