

Goodland Public Library Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Goodland Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Goodland's diverse community. The library strives to meet the needs and preferences of each user by providing the greatest possible information access within the means of the library and within the limitations of policy and law. It is within this context that the Goodland Public Library offers Internet access to library users.

All Internet resources accessible through the Goodland Public Library are provided equally to all library users. The library affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected materials but is concerned for the safety and security of users who access online information. The library has no control over the content of the Internet and cannot be held responsible for what the user sees when connected to the Internet. Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. The restriction of a minor's access to the Internet beyond that required by this policy is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Users of the Internet are encouraged to be good information consumers recognizing that not all sources on the Internet provide current, complete, or accurate information and some sources may be offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal. The safety and security of users accessing the Internet require those persons to be cautious, thoughtful, protective of personal information, and respectful of library policy and state and federal laws. Because Internet content is continually expanding and changing, and the Internet is an unregulated medium, users are encouraged to evaluate the validity and value of information obtained through the Internet. The library has no control over the accuracy of information accessed or acquired from the Internet nor can it be held responsible for its content or for any damages arising from its providing access to the Internet.

The Internet serves as a valuable library resource but many times information can be found in books, periodicals, or other library resources. The library purchases or maintains subscriptions to excellent online information that serves all areas of education and research, for children and adults.

Users have access to computers with Internet connectivity as well as computers with personal productivity software. The Internet access computers are normally available, subject to periodic maintenance, during regular library hours. Public access computers are monitored by library staff in order to provide assistance and security. Library staff will assist users in accessing the Internet and offer general searching suggestions and answers to basic questions. However, staff members cannot provide in-depth computer training.

Use of the Internet access computers is on a first-come, first-served basis. All users will sign a computer use agreement at the front desk. Users must have a Goodland Public Library card or some other form of identification. Users are expected to check in with library staff before accessing the computers and close all applications at the end of

each session. Sessions on the Internet access computers will be for thirty minutes unless more time is needed for research and computers are available.

Users are encouraged to use the Internet for research and educational purposes. Users may use Internet to access only WEB hosted e-mail accounts such as Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.

Users may print copies to the network printer for a cost of 10 cents per page and must request the copies at the front desk.

Users may purchase a disk at the front desk for use on the library computers. Use of personal software on library computers is prohibited.

Users are expected to treat library materials and equipment, including hardware, software, printers, and all property belonging to the Goodland Public Library, in a responsible manner. Changes to software settings are not allowed. Users may not interfere with the operation of any computer by altering, damaging, or destroying data or programs. Immediately report any problem with equipment or materials to a library staff member.

All users must abide by the Goodland Public Library Internet Safety Policy. Library employees are authorized to revoke a users Internet and/or computer privileges for failing to use the computer stations responsibly, as defined in this policy. The first time a user violates this policy he/she will be prohibited from using the library's computers until the user agrees to comply with the policy. For repeated violations, the library will stop the user's computer access for 7 days, and if violations continue, stop the user's access to computers in the library.

The Goodland Public Library will comply with CIPA and NCIPA regarding the requirement to use a Technology Protection Measure (TPM) on all computers. The Goodland Public Library will provide secure Internet access to minors and will use TPMs to block visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography and other information harmful to minors. This technology is not always reliable and the library cannot be held responsible for prohibited information that might be displayed. Adult staff members will disable TPMs for adults needing access to blocked sites.

Users are expected to obey all federal, state and local laws.

A user will not misuse a library computer to -

- - Access or display information that is obscene as defined by Kansas law;
- - Access or display information that is harmful to minors or information containing sexual exploitation of children;
- - Participate in email, a chatroom, or instant message that uses information that is obscene as defined by Kansas law;
- - Disclose, use, and or disseminate personal information that could threaten or create a vulnerability for a minor, for any other person, or for the library;
- - Attempt to gain unauthorized access to any data, computer, or network;
- - Transmit computer viruses;
- - Transmit junkmail;
- - Print and/or copy copyright-protected materials in any format [Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.)];
- - Download files to a library computer hard-drive or network drive;
- - Violate software license agreements.

Laws that guide the Goodland Public Library' Information Access and Internet Safety Policy

The Goodland Public Library complies with state and federal laws. We have a particular awareness of Kansas laws relating to obscenity (K.S.A. 21-4301; 21-4301a; and 21-4301c) and federal laws on copyright (U.S. Code, Title 17), the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA). The library and library users must comply with these laws.

The state laws referenced here are appended to this policy. In the U.S. Code, Title 17, are the laws that protect the rights of authors to their publications and other intellectual property. CIPA and NCIPA are laws adopted by Congress to protect children and others as they use the Internet from a computer located in a public library or public school.

The laws require an age-related limitation of information access for, in the Kansas law, "...a child under the age of 18 years" and in CIPA and NCIPA, "...an individual who has not attained the age of 17". This limitation is applied to information that is obscene as defined in K.S.A. 21-4301; 21-4301a; and 21-4301c. In compliance with state law, the library will apply this limitation to users under the age of 18. To provide the definition required by CIPA and NCIPA, the phrase "matter...inappropriate for minors..." used in federal law is regarded as synonymous with the definition of obscenity in K.S.A. 21-4301; 21-4301a; and 21-4301c.

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