



POLICY

Created: 8/27/2025

Approved: 9/30/2025

Computer Use, Internet Safety, and WiFi Access Policy

The Newburgh Free Library is committed to ensuring access to information through computers and the Internet. Access to digital information is fundamental for supporting continuous lifelong learning. Recognizing its role to provide access to computers and the Internet, the Library provides free access to any person, regardless of age or residency.

Public computer access may be unavailable or available with limited or restricted use in compliance with relevant laws, Executive Orders, and public health and safety guidelines.

COMPUTER USE

All computer use requires a valid Newburgh Free Library (NFL) or Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) library card. Patrons who do not have a library card may request a Guest Pass from any service desk. Distribution of Guest Passes may be limited due to computer use and is at the discretion of Library staff. Using another person's library card to gain access to the library's computers is a violation of NFL policy and may result in suspension of computer privileges.

Patrons using computers must abide by all rules of behavior outlined in the Patron Code of Conduct.

Parents/guardians are responsible for any damage done by their children and for their children's general behavior. Parents/guardians of children under 18 years of age are solely responsible for the Internet information selected or accessed by their children. Only parents/guardians may restrict their own children from access to internet resources. Parents/guardians are advised to discuss Internet safety and to supervise their children's Internet sessions to ensure their safety and privacy.



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INTERNET SAFETY

In compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, it is the policy of the Newburgh Free Library to (a) prevent access over its computer network by minors to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via the Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity by minors; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (d) block access by minors to inappropriate information, especially visual depictions of material deemed obscene, or to any material deemed harmful to minors; and block access to child pornography.

Definitions

In accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”),

- Child pornography refers to any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture or computer or computer generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. It also includes any such visual depiction that (a) is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (b) has been created, adapted or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (c) is advertised, promoted, presented, described, or distributed in such a manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.
- Harmful to minors means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (b) depicts, describes or represents,



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in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors

Responsibility for a child's use of the Internet rests solely with the child's parent/guardian. The display or transmission of obscenity, child pornography, or materials harmful to minors is illegal and is strictly prohibited. Such displays or transmissions may result in appropriate legal action including suspension of library privileges and/or law enforcement intervention.

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") will be used to block or filter the Internet, other forms of electronic communications, and access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by CIPA, blocking will be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, filters may be disabled for adults 18 years or older who request bona fide research or any other lawful purpose. Users may speak with a staff member to request unblocking of a blocked site.

Not all information available via the Internet is accurate, current, and complete. Users are encouraged to evaluate carefully the validity and appropriateness of information accessed via the Internet. Users are cautioned that ideas, points of view and images on the Internet may be graphic and/or controversial, inflammatory or offensive.

The Library's Internet resources may not be used to perform any illegal activity, including, but not limited to, the deliberate propagation of computer viruses, cyber



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bullying, and phishing. Furthermore, the computers may not be used to seek disallowed access to any other computer system. Any verified complaints as to illegal activity may result in a shutdown of a computer station, the suspension of computer privileges, and possible referral to appropriate authorities.

Users are cautioned that security in an electronic environment such as the Internet cannot be guaranteed. All transactions, files, and communication are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use, and therefore should not be considered confidential. Internet users must respect the privacy of others by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others.

WIRELESS (WiFi)

Free wireless (WiFi) access is available at the Newburgh Free Library for personal laptops, smart phones, and other WiFi enabled devices. No passwords or other authentication is required. Library staff is unable to provide technical assistance to individual personal WiFi devices.

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with this policy.