

Internet Safety Policy El Reno Carnegie Library

***El Reno Carnegie Library Mission:** The El Reno Carnegie Library is committed to ensuring that all people of Canadian County have the freedom to read and choose from a variety of resources for educational, occupational, recreational, and cultural purposes.*

The El Reno Carnegie Library makes available to the citizens of El Reno and Canadian County access to public computers and the Internet, the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational and recreational materials and opportunities. The Internet is an essential medium for obtaining and transmitting information of all types. Therefore, public access to the Internet is important to the library's mission.

However, the Internet is an unregulated medium. It also provides access to information that is inaccurate, illegal, or that some may find offensive or disturbing. El Reno Carnegie Library will identify on its web site specific Internet sites that have potential interest for library users, but El Reno Carnegie Library cannot control a user's access to other Internet resources.

Policy

1. Use of El Reno Carnegie Library's Internet access, including wireless access on personal computers and devices, to engage in any activity that constitutes a violation of local, state, or federal laws is strictly prohibited. Such prohibited activities may include, but are not limited to, transmitting of offensive or harassing messages; offering for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by law; and viewing, transmitting or downloading pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; downloading or transmitting confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the Internet are not marked with the copyright symbol, users should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.
2. The use of the library computer network to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems ("hacking"), or to attempt to gain such authorized access is prohibited.
3. The disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification regarding minors is prohibited.
4. Accessing and viewing materials in a manner that creates the existence of a sexually hostile library environment is prohibited. You may not send, receive, or display text or graphics that may reasonably be construed by the library staff as offensive to the public, inasmuch as the public computers are located in unrestricted areas of the library.

5. In accordance with the federal Children's Internet Protection act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554), all public computers are equipped with filtering software set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene. Adults 18 years of age and older may request to have filter removed. Provisions of item 4 remain in force while the filter is disabled.
6. Due to the unregulated nature of the Internet, even with content filtering (item 5), there are sites which parents may feel are inappropriate for their children. Parents or legal guardians of minor children have full responsibility for their child's use of the library's computers, and parental guidance and assistance to children using the Internet is strongly recommended. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the hazards of releasing personal information across the Internet. **Library staff is not responsible for monitoring the use of computers by minors.**
7. The library cannot guarantee the security of any personal information you provide on the Internet and strongly discourages the release of personal information. Minors especially should be cautious about releasing personal information. In using the Internet for e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number, do not use your real last name or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a parent, do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you "meet" on the Internet without your parent's permission, and regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

Approved by the El Reno Library Board on April 24, 2014.