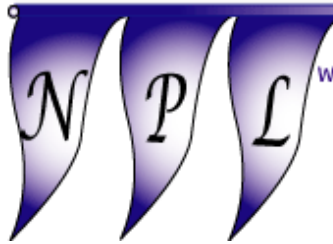


# Norwin Public Library



100 Caruthers Lane Irwin, PA 15642  
www.norwinpubliclibrary.org phone: 724.863.4700

## **NORWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET POLICIES**

### *PURPOSE*

In response to advances in technology and the changing information needs of the community, the Norwin Public Library strives to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, educational and recreational needs of our diverse community. It is within this context that the library offers access to the Internet.

### *Policy Regarding Access to Internet Resources*

The Internet is a global communications network and information resource. As a result the information on the internet is as varied as its many users. The Norwin Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information available through this resource. The Library cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy, quality, or timeliness of Internet information. Some information on the Internet may be considered controversial in nature. The determination of viability and usefulness of Internet information falls upon the patron.

Users should be aware that the internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities on the Internet. The Norwin Public Library however will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the library.

The Norwin Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its computing resources.

Internet workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent purpose, including any activities prohibited under applicable Federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws. Users may not display and/or print materials that may be unlawful.

Material on the Internet and the World Wide Web is copyrighted. It is the user's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information on the Web and to respect the copyright laws of the United States.

Internet resources through the Library are provided equally to all users regardless of age. The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to access constitutionally protected material. A minor's access to the Internet, as well as access to all other materials, is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The Library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use. It is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians to instruct their children not to give private information about themselves or others, when using web sites or e-mail. The Library does not have the right or responsibility to determine the appropriateness of a particular resource for any minor. However, in no event is any person under the age of 18 permitted to view any obscene and other sexually explicit materials and performances as defined and described in 18 Pa. C.S. 5903 and any amendments thereto.

The Norwin Public Library is committed to providing an environment free from sexual harassment. Adults may be advised that while accessing and viewing sexual materials is within the law for an adult, the risk of exposure to minors and the consequences of being 'harmful to minors' are significant. When children are in the proximity or even if another is expressly offended, the patron viewing such materials may be asked to close a website. Users may not display on screens and/or printers materials that may be unlawful or prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws. The Library staff will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes unacceptable content. The library staff reserves the right to end an internet session at any time if it is creating a disturbance.

*CIPA Compliance*

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is the federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or computers used for Internet access. [Supreme Court decision: United States v. American Library Ass'n, Inc. No. 02-361 (June 23, 2003)]. The Norwin Public Library complies with the requirements of CIPA.

All computers in the Norwin Public Library are filtered. Please be aware that filters are unreliable, at times blocking sites of legitimate information or educational value, or allowing access to sites that are illegal, obscene or sexually explicit within the meaning of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec. 5903.

The Norwin library uses filtering software that blocks or filters Internet access to some Internet sites that may not be consistent with the policy of the Norwin Library.

Parents or legal guardians, and not the Library or its staff, remain responsible for monitoring their children's use of the Internet and for the information selected and/or accessed by their children. The Library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use.

The Norwin Library computers cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purposes, including any activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws, including activities in violation of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec. 5903, which prohibits certain acts of public indecency.

Any adult (17 years of age or older, as defined by CIPA) may request that the filter or technology protection measure be disabled without significant delay by a Norwin Public Library staff member authorized by the Library director, consistent with the privacy policy of the Norwin Public Library.

An authorized Norwin Public Library staff member may override the filter or technology protection measure for a minor (age 16 years or younger, as defined by CIPA) in the event that

the filter wrongly blocks or filters Internet access to a site with legitimate information value.

The Norwin Public Library cannot be responsible for any patron's unauthorized use of a computer with a disabled filter.

### Complaint Procedure

Any patron who wishes to file a complaint about the filtering software on the library computers may do so within thirty (30) days to:

1. The Library Director and/or the Library Board President.
2. The Federal Communications Commission.

### *Computer Use Guidelines*

In an effort to ensure that the use of the Internet is consistent with the mission of the Norwin Public Library the following shall apply:

- Use of the computers is free to the public.
- Printing is \$.10 per page for black and white. The printing fee is still charged even if you provide your own paper.
- Computers may not be reserved. *They are available on a first come first serve basis.*
- Computer use is limited to 1/2 hour if there are people waiting for the computer; otherwise there is no time limit.
- Chat rooms are prohibited.
- Parents must accompany children under the age of nine when using the computers.
- Not all computers are equipped with the same software. The staff reserves the right to ask a patron to switch to a different computer if another patron has need of the software on that computer.
- Patrons may bring disks in from the outside. The Library sells disks for \$1.00.
- Patrons may not load programs onto the Library computer hard drives. This also applies

to the use of CD-ROMS.

- The Library is not responsible for damage to disks, for any loss of data, or damage or liability that may occur from a patron's use of the library's computers.
- Internet use will be managed in a manner consistent with the Library's policy on acceptable use. The Internet workstation must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of other users. Users may not make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software. Computer and internet settings may not be changed. Users may not use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational, or communication services or resources. Users may not invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.

*Compliance with Library Policy Guidelines*

Violation of the policies and regulations that govern the use of the Library's Internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources.

Any illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources or equipment will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

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

This policy may be revised from time to time.