

## **Internet Use Policy**

### **Overview**

Public access to the internet is available to all users of the Hackettstown Free Public Library on library-owned computers and via a wireless connection for personal laptops and other wireless devices. The library provides Internet access to support and expand the library's role in providing information and educational resources in many formats.

### **Use of Computers by Children**

The library does not restrict access to any resource on the Internet for reasons of content. Parents or guardians are responsible for information selected and/or accessed by their children via the Internet. Because children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images, parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their children's use of the Internet.

### **Internet Code of Conduct**

All library users are expected to show consideration for others when viewing Internet sites. No person shall use a computer in a way that disturbs or interferes with other users, employees, or operation of the library.

All federal, state, and local laws are in effect while library patrons are using computers in the library. Examples include laws governing copyright, gambling, and display of pornographic materials. Anyone who breaks any law using a computer in the library may be banned from using the library and/or library computers, and may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

#### ***Anyone who accesses the library's network must:***

- Recognize that public workstations must be used in a manner that respects the rights of others and therefore should refrain from activity that prevents others from using the Internet at the Library.
- Not use the Internet for any illegal activity or purpose.
- Not violate copyright or any other law.
- Not damage or alter the setup or configuration of the equipment or software used to access the Internet at the library.
- Refrain from the deliberate or reckless propagation of computer worms, malware, or viruses.
- Refrain from the transmission of threatening, harassing, violent, obscene, or abusive language or images using the Internet, applications, or email.

## **Failure to Comply**

In the event that a patron violates this policy, a staff member will inform the individual that his/her behavior violates the Internet Code of Conduct, and that it must stop.

Library employees are authorized to terminate the computer session of anyone who fails to comply with the Internet Code of Conduct.

## **Staff Assistance with the Internet and Technology**

Staff will assist library users with use of the Internet and library-supplied technology, including suggestions for effective search strategies. Library staff will also provide general assistance with personal electronic devices, particularly those that are used to access library-supplied digital content. However, the library cannot guarantee that staff will be able to assist users at all times the library is open.

## **Limit of Liability**

The Library endeavors to provide access to information of the highest quality, but Library personnel have no control over the quality of information on the Internet. Because Internet content is not managed or governed by any single entity, Library users are encouraged to exercise critical judgment and consider the validity and reliability of the source of information when accessing Internet sites.

Library staff can assist users with connecting a personal device to the wireless network but cannot troubleshoot problems related to a specific wireless device or assist in making changes to a device's network settings and/or hardware configuration. The Library cannot guarantee that all devices will work with its wireless access points.

All wireless users should have up-to-date virus protection on their laptop computers and wireless devices. The Library cannot be responsible for information that is compromised, or for any damage caused to hardware or software.

Use of the Hackettstown Free Public Library's wireless network is at the risk of the user. The Library disclaims all liability for loss of confidential information or damages. Users are cautioned that, because 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 be considered public.