

**Prosser Public Library  
Bloomfield, Connecticut**

**Computer Usage and Internet Safety Policy**

In fulfilling its mission to provide informational, educational, and cultural enrichment for the Bloomfield community, the Prosser Public Library offers free computer/Internet access to all Library patrons. The Internet is a global and unregulated information network. As such, it allows patrons to access information and images beyond the scope of the Library's selection criterion and collection development policies. The Library cannot control the information accessible through the Internet and is not responsible for its content.

**Computer Usage**

Library workstations are intended for the informational, recreational and educational use of library patrons. The restriction of a child's access to Internet-accessible computers is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. The computer workstations and library network may not be used for illegal activities. Any activities intended to disrupt network services or equipment, change computer settings, or access restricted data are not allowed. The Library reserves the right to end any computer session at any time for any reason. The violation of these rules may result in either the temporary or permanent loss of computer privileges.

Per page printing fees are collected by the Library in order to cover the cost of printer supplies and maintenance. The Library assumes no responsibility for loss of data, or for damages sustained by any patron connecting their own flash drives or electronic devices to a Library computer, or for any liability that may occur from patron use of a computer or the Library's network.

**Internet Filtering**

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], the Library filters all its computers, and all access to the Internet through its network, to protect against access to obscene visual depictions, child pornography, and/or other material harmful to minors, as required by law.

The term "obscene" as defined in 18 USC Section 1460.

The term "child pornography" as defined in 18 USC Section 2256.

The term "harmful to minors" as defined in 47 USC Section 254 [G].

Filtering software is by its very nature imperfect, therefore, the library has chosen to employ the minimum level of filtering that will allow for CIPA compliance.

The filter may unintentionally block sites that have legitimate research value and fail to block objectionable content. Library patrons should be aware that Internet filtering software installed for CIPA compliance should not substitute for individual judgment and/or parental involvement and oversight. Library staff is allowed to unblock erroneously blocked individual websites for adults and minors.

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Library staff will disable filtered Internet access to persons 18 or older who request it for bona fide research or any other lawful purposes. Filters cannot be disabled on public computers in the children's department.

### **Inappropriate Network Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Library's network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (c) dissemination and viewing of obscene visual depictions, child pornography, and/or other materials harmful to minors.

### **Education, Supervision and Monitoring**

The Library affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and caregivers to monitor and determine their children's access to library materials and resources, including those available through the Internet. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children.

To assist parents, children, and other library patrons, the library will provide Internet safety resources, as well as occasional classes or programs that address privacy, security, and safety issues.