

# PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

## 1.0 PURPOSE

The mission of the Plymouth Public Library is to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. The Library provides public access to the Internet as part of the Library's information services. The Internet provides access to valuable information resources which may not be available elsewhere. The unique, unregulated nature of the Internet requires that users exercise judgment regarding information accessible on various Internet sites.

## 2.0 POLICY GUIDELINES

### Services

The Plymouth Public Library provides public computers with Internet access, as well as free Wi-Fi, in support of our mission to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community.

All on-line resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all library users. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's use of online resources and are advised to supervise their children's online sessions. The library assumes no responsibility for children's use of online resources. However, the library staff can provide parents with assistance to help them in guiding their children's Internet use.

The Library has also created and maintains a website which includes a variety of resources and links in order to assist our patrons in accessing online information.

The library staff is not available to provide Internet instruction beyond routine assistance in finding resources. However, from time to time, the Library does offer programs and workshops on the effective use of the Internet.

### Rules

Internet access is available via public computers with a time management system and on personal devices via free Wi-Fi.

Users may not:

Attempt to damage computer equipment or software; alter software configurations; cause degradation of system performance

Use any library workstation for illegal or criminal purpose

Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements

Engage in any activity which is disruptive, offensive, libelous, or slanderous

Install or download any software

Use sounds or visuals which might be disruptive to others

Violate another user's privacy

Send, receive, or display inappropriate materials, defined as text or graphics, which may reasonably be construed as obscene.

## SECURITY

Library users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy. Internet users should be advised, however, that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic transactions and files could become public. The Library's public wireless connection is not secure. There can be non-trustworthy third parties between the user and anybody with whom the user communicates. Any information being received or sent could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. The Library will not be responsible for any personal information that is compromised.

## COPYRIGHT

U.S. Copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use". Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text images, programs, or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holders. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

## SANCTIONS

Violations of the Internet Access Policy may result in the loss of library privileges. Violations of the rules described above will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner; illegal acts involving library computing resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

## 3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all users and patrons of the Plymouth Public Library system.

4.00 QUESTIONS

If anyone has any questions about this policy, please call the Library Director at 508-830-4250.

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Chairman, Board of Selectmen

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