

COMPUTER USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Since the library computers on which the public can access the Internet are located in public areas which must be shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities, users are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. Viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper in time, place or manner.

Users should not access sites that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting. Viewing obscene materials in the public library is considered improper in time, place and manner and is prohibited. The Library expressly prohibits any use of library computers and the Library's wireless Internet connection for illegal or unethical activities or to access material that is obscene, contains or makes reference to explicit sexual materials defined by Pennsylvania law (18 Pa C.S.A. 5903), contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors. Patrons may not view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images or graphics of obscene or pornographic materials or materials that violate laws relating to child pornography. For definitions of "obscene" and "harmful to minors", please ask the reference librarian to show you 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5903, summed up below.

Definition of "obscene" 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5903

1. The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the subject matter taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest;
2. The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct of a type described in this section;
3. The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

Definition of "harmful to minors" 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5903

Harmful to minors means that quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

- i. predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors;
- ii. is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable materials for minors; and
- iii. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors

At the discretion of the Library, a violation of the above rules or any misuse of the computers or Internet access, including WiFi access, may result in loss of your computer privileges. The following schedule will be followed:

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| First offense: | verbal warning |
| Second offense: | one month computer suspension |
| Third offense: | one year computer suspension |
| Fourth offense: | permanent computer suspension |