



KENAI

Kenai Community Library | 163 Main Street Lp., Kenai, AK 99611 | 907.283.4378 | www.kenai.city

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

MISSION

The mission of the Kenai Community Library is to provide a comfortable and friendly environment in which the public may:

- Have a reasonable expectation that they will leave the building with what they came for;
- Relax and read current materials;
- Receive knowledgeable assistance and answers to questions;
- Pursue opportunities for lifelong learning;
- Find professionally selected materials in all formats for personal enjoyment;
- Enjoy programs or performances;
- Have access to technological resources.

In support of this mission, the library provides individualized assistance, community outreach, professional expertise and current technologies for equal access to facilities, quality services and materials in a variety of formats.

The library supports the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association Freedom to Read statement. The Library's mandate is to provide the public access to information on all sides of an issue.

CURRENT INTERNET POLICIES

- Internet access shall be made reasonable, fair, and equitable to all users with the understanding that it is the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using Public Library resources and facilities. Use of the Internet constitutes agreement to comply with this policy.
- Internet communications shall be considered private and confidentiality will be encouraged within the limits of a public environment, the technology of the equipment, and the requirements of law.

- Violations of library guidelines and engaging in certain prohibited practices in Internet use may lead to the suspension or revocation of Internet access through the Library.

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE USE

It is expected that the user of the Internet:

- Shall make only authorized access to systems, Netware, software and databases for educational, informational and recreational purposes only;
- Shall avoid the sending, receiving, and displaying of text or graphics that may be reasonably construed as sexually explicit or offensive. A written definition of what constitutes “sexually explicit” material is available at the front desk;
- Shall obey the law and regulations in their application to copyright, licensed software and data;
- Shall be aware that violations of these guidelines for responsible use may lead to the suspension or revocation of your Internet access within the Library.

UNACCEPTABLE USES OF COMPUTERS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy are the following:

- Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Downloading and viewing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors;
- Uses that violate copyright laws and licensing agreements, such as downloading materials that encourage others to violate the law; downloading or transmitting confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials;
- Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. Engaging in defamation, uploading any harmful form of programming, vandalism; or “hacking”;
- Uses that jeopardize the security of access of the computer network or other networks on the Internet, altering the Library’s computer settings; damaging or modifying computer equipment or software;
- Uses that compromise the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications: Giving others private information about one’s self or others. Minor is defined as under age eighteen (18);



- Uses that Violate Confidentiality of Information: Personally identifiable information about users may not be disclosed or used in any way, except to law enforcement authorities as provided in the law.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Internet with its highly diverse and often controversial content is an unregulated resource and can be used only at your own risk. Beyond its home pages, Kenai Community Library cannot control the information found on the Internet and is not responsible for its accuracy, correctness or its suitability.

Library may suggest specific Internet sites that have potential interest for Library users, but the Library cannot control a user's access to other Internet resources.

The Kenai Community Library has installed limited filters for Internet access. No filtering system is completely effective or efficient. This is especially true in filtering of images and video. Filters on Internet terminals might restrict access to sites that could be deemed objectionable, but would also limit access to sites that have legitimate research value. (Res. 2013-76)

***A SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS**

The Internet's "user friendliness" and intrinsic flexibility to access a wide range of well-known and many lesser known information resources demands diligent and thoughtful parental supervision.

It should be understood that the Kenai Community Library cannot act as a censor or as a substitute parent. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the oversight to ensure their children's use of the Internet in an appropriate and safe manner.

As with all Library resources, the Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, NOT Library staff, to determine and monitor their minor children's use of the Internet. (Minors are defined in this policy as children and young people under the age of eighteen (18) years.) Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly use the Library's Internet access are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.

INTERNET OFFERINGS AND LIMITATIONS

- Library access to the Internet is available at work stations that use software designed to browse the World Wide Web (WWW). Dial in access is not available through the library.
- You may not use your own software programs on the library computers, nor install any programs or drivers on the library computers. This will help prevent computer viruses that are common on public computers.



- Misuse of the computer or Internet access will result in loss of your computer privileges.
- Because of library scheduling, Internet-trained staff may not always be available.

RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS

Internet computers may not be used by anyone, including minors, for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials that by local community standards would be obscene. Library employees are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to prohibit use by persons who fail to comply with the Internet Safety Policy as stated or implied herein.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARY STAFF AND USERS

Library staff will not monitor a user's Internet use, except for length of use in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The user, or the parent of a minor, is responsible for his or her Internet session at all times. The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates the Library's policies.

DISCLAIMERS

While the Library endeavors to provide access to information of the highest quality, the Library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness or fitness for a particular purpose.

The Library will have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the Library's Internet service.

Since software and information downloaded from any sources, including the Internet, may contain computer viruses, users are advised to utilize virus checking software on their home computers. The Library is not responsible for damage to users' disks or computers or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from use of the Library's computers.

Resolution 2013-76

Adopted by Kenai City Council 12.18.2013

