



## **Bridgeville Public Library**

### **Internet and Computer Use Policy**

#### **Purpose:**

Bridgeville Public Library is committed to providing access to informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resources for library users of all ages and backgrounds. Towards this end, Bridgeville Public Library provides Internet access to all library users equally and upholds and affirms the rights of everyone to have access to material. We strive to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users to work in a public environment free from sounds and images intended to harass other library users or staff.

#### **Rules for Usage**

Anyone may access a computer, regardless of whether they are a library cardholder or not. When a computer user ends their session, the computer will restart and clear all data from the session. Computer sessions automatically end ten minutes before the library is scheduled to close.

The Library prohibits the use of library computers to conduct illegal activities or to access material that is obscene, contains or refers to explicit sexual materials as defined by PA law (18.PA.C.S 5903), contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors. Patrons should not access sites that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting. Patrons are responsible for complying with copyright laws and licensing agreements, for paying any fee-based service charges, and for securing wireless devices from physical or digital theft.

#### **Internet Filtering**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or computers used for Internet access. The eiNetwork, the countywide consortium which provides Bridgeville's Internet access, receives such funding, and, therefore, as a member, Bridgeville complies with the requirements of CIPA.

Websites are filtered to prevent minors from viewing material that 1) is obscene, 2) contains child pornography or 3) is harmful to minors.

As necessary for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, any adult (18-years or older, as defined by CIPA) may have filtering disabled on library computers by a library staff member. The filter on the wireless network cannot be disabled.

#### **Children's Use (Age 17 and Younger)**

Federal law requires that internet access be filtered for minors aged 17 and younger. Federal law also requires internet filtering even if a child is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Filters are not foolproof. They can give people a false sense of security that they are protected from harmful material. In addition, filters can block access to sites that could be inoffensive or useful.

Bridgeville Public Library requires that parents or guardians assume responsibility for monitoring their children's use of and access to information. Parents are fully responsible for the activities of their children at the library. Bridgeville staff do not act "in loco parentis."

### **Disclaimers**

Bridgeville Public Library has no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential loss or damages related to the use of information or services accessed through the library's computer equipment or Wi-Fi service. The library is not responsible for the loss of personal data or damage to individual property.

Bridgeville has installed and enforced the operation of filtering software in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and has no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering technology or for its circumvention by users. Only parents and guardians can guide their children's use of the library and its resources.

### **Penalties for Misuse**

Violation of any part of this policy may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources and/or expulsion from the library.

Any illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources or equipment will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.