

WESTFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

The Westfield Public Library offers Internet access for the public. Parental consent is required for users under the age of 18. Access to the Internet will be available during library hours. Patrons can use the Internet in one-hour slots.

Although the Westfield Public Library is unable to provide computer training, the librarian(s) will help patrons make their initial connection. The cost of printing information will be \$ 0.25 per page. To download information a disk provided by the library must be purchased at \$ 1.00 per disk.

Users must recognize that the primary purpose of on-line usage is to further educational pursuits. Therefore, use of chat rooms and "instant messenger" programs is not permitted. Access to e-mail is conditional.

The Westfield Public Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their own children's use of library materials and resources.

In providing public access to the Internet, the library recognizes the importance of the First Amendment's ideals of freedom of speech and press, and the access to information and ideas that that freedom implies. Library staff will not monitor, control, or restrict access to equipment of the range of information available within the limits of state and/or federal law.

On November 30, 2004 Gov. Rendell signed into law Act 197. This act requires the library to use a filtering software program designed to prevent library users under the age of 18 from accessing obscenity, child pornography or material harmful to minors. As of April 30, 2005 the library computers have Norton Internet Security Parental Control activated. The library staff will remove the control on the request of persons over the age of 18.

State and/or federal law governing unlawful activities in the use of the library's computer resources apply. "Hacking" and issues of privacy, copyright, trademark, libel, obscenity, and child pornography are subject to applicable state and/or federal law. As the Pennsylvania Criminal Code, 18 PA C.S. 5903 states: "Display of sexually explicit graphics or text on any viewing screen is a violation of the Code, and is strictly prohibited".

Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors are prohibited.

At the direction of the Library Board of Trustees, the librarian may deem certain activities disruptive and threatening and insist that the activity in question cease. The Board will designate one or more of its members as a committee to work with patrons and librarians to resolve conflicts. The decision of the committee in such cases will be final.

Users are asked to respect the privacy of other users.

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Misuse of the computer will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Westfield Public Library Internet Use Policy, damaging or attempting to damage equipment, interfering with library operations, and altering of or attempting to alter the library's computer settings.

Name: _____

Date: _____

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter _____ to use the Internet at the Westfield Public Library. I understand that the computers at the Westfield Public Library have Parental Control activated.

Name: _____

Date : _____

April 2005

