Internet Access Policy.
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In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Clinton Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the community. It is within this context that the library offers public access to the Internet. The following guidelines describe the terms of access to the Internet through computers provided on premises at CPL or through its wireless connections and constitute official institutional policy on this matter.

1. Clinton Public Library makes Internet resources accessible to all patrons. The staff of CPL helps patrons navigate, identify, and access resources on the Internet. The staff reviews and recommends good sources of information on the Internet and develops special tools in order to assist customers in using the Internet. CPL staff members also conduct classes for adults and children to instruct them in the effective and safe use of the Internet. The library's goal is to make the public computers at all CPL locations available to as many patrons as possible. To accomplish this, CPL controls the amount of time any patron can use the public computers on a given day (90 minutes per day per card holder) and users of the library's wireless network are required to abide by the terms of use.

2. Clinton Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information available through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own discretion and risk. Individual patron access to the Internet through Clinton Public Library computers or wireless connections is unsupervised and unmonitored by CPL staff.

3. All Internet resources accessible through library channels are provided equally to all adult (age 18 and older) library users. Internet access for patrons under 14 must be authorized in writing by a parent or guardian; this corresponds to library policy for patrons under 14 obtaining a library card. Parents and guardians - neither the library nor its staff - are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Only parents and guardians may restrict their children - and only their children - from access to Internet resources accessible through library channels. Parents are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

4. As a participant in the Universal Service discount program (commonly known as E-Rate), funded as part of the Library Services and Technology Act and Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Clinton Public Library complies with federal law (Children's Internet Protection Act and Neighborhood Internet Protection Act) mandating the use of filtering software in public libraries.

5. Internet filters are software programs that block access to content that is considered inappropriate for viewing in a public place. It employs filtering software to protect against the visual depiction of pornography, obscenity, and child pornography. Per the previously stated statutes, other types of content subject to filtering include:

- Matter on the Internet that is inappropriate for minors.
- Unsafe or unsecure direct communication forums including email and chat rooms.
- Unauthorized websites or applications used for "hacking" and other unlawful activities.
- Unauthorized attempts to disclose, use, and disseminate personal information about minors or any other protected group.
- Any web-based software or programs that may be harmful to the CPL network or computer equipment.

6. The focus of Clinton Public Library's Internet filtering policy is on computer units accessed exclusively or primarily by minors (age 17 and younger). However, CPL may employ filtering measures on any publicly accessible computer that may display or disseminate harmful content to minors.

7. No filtering software is totally accurate. Filters may falsely block material that is appropriate in a public library setting or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material. Patrons may submit a Request for Reconsideration of a Website to block or unblock a specific site. Clinton Public Library will respond to questions and concerns regarding the filter's accuracy by communicating with the filtering software vendor towards improving its product.

8. Clinton Public Library follows state and federal law regarding privacy of library users' records and information. It is the library's usual practice to erase all customer use records, except those essential for library business operations. The library will release records, including those relating to Internet usage, only as required by law. When a computer session is ended, all information about that session is ordinarily deleted. The library does not, as part of its regular practice, retrieve any information, including websites visited, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information a patron has entered. At the end of the business day, all computer use and reservation records are normally erased.

9. In order to insure a positive library experience for everyone the Clinton Public Library requires that all patrons shall:

- Use computers only for lawful purposes.
- Refrain from viewing pornographic visual materials or content that by contemporary community standards would be considered obscene.
- Observe the established computer time limits.
- Respect the security of the network.
- Respect the configuration of computer equipment at the library. Downloading or installing nonstandard software programs is prohibited.
- Keep virus protection software up-to-date on personal laptops or other mobile devices using the Library's wireless Internet connection.

10. Clinton Public Library believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development. CPL does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law. Parents are encouraged to read and follow these tips for "Internet-wise" parents:

- Take time to learn about the Internet.
- Take individual or group Internet classes, which are always available to families.
- Explore cyberspace with your children.
- Provide clear guidelines - let your children know if there are subjects that are off limits.
- Learn how to evaluate the Internet - read books and magazines and take a class offered by the library.
- Teach your children safety rules for dealing with strangers online and appropriate ways to deal with online businesses.
- Ask a librarian - librarians have always been expert at selecting materials for children.