

STAUNTON PUBLIC LIBRARY – ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY COMPUTER USE RULES

The use of Staunton Public Library computers or wireless network implies consent to the Acceptable Use Policy.

- The Staunton Public Library computers are intended only for **bona fide research and other lawful purposes**.
- The computers provide access to the Internet and selected software, online services, word processing. Not all offerings are available on all computers.
- Users may not connect their own equipment to Library network ports.
- Patrons who wish to listen to multimedia or interactive software must use their own headphones. Earbuds may be purchased at the Circulation desk for \$1.00/pair. Nothing should be audible to other patrons.
- Any data saved to public computers will be lost. Patrons may use flash drives or save files to 3½” disks or CDs/DVDs with the use of an external drive available on request from the Reference Desk. Patrons may purchase 3½” disks at the Circulation Desk for \$1.00 per disk.
- Printing is available for \$0.25 per page. All pages sent to the printer must be paid for before the print job will be released.
- Computers are available on a first come, first served basis. Reservations may be made if all Internet computers are in use.
- All Internet computer users must possess and use their own valid Library card, or get a guest pass.
- Those without a library card must show a valid ID to get a guest pass.
- Patrons owing the Library \$25 or more may not use the public Internet computers until those charges have been settled in full.
- Only one (1) person at a time may use a workstation unless given special permission by staff. The Library reserves the right to limit the number of users at any time.
- Children under age 10 may not use the Internet computers without direct supervision by a parent or guardian.
- Unauthorized use of the Staunton Public Library computers may result in loss of use privileges or barring from the Library. Illegal acts may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities. Unauthorized use includes, but is not limited to:
 - Use of computer resources for any illegal or criminal purposes including access to obscene materials and/or child pornography, harassment or slander of other users;
 - Use of equipment for other than specified purposes;
 - Tampering with hardware or software;
 - Violating the Computer Use Policy
 - Violating software license agreements or copyright laws;
 - Using Staunton Public Library computers for income producing activities.

Computer use may be restricted at the discretion of the Library staff.

STAUNTON PUBLIC LIBRARY – ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY INTERNET USE DISCLAIMER

Section 42.1-36.1 of the State Code of Virginia mandates that all Internet computers accessible to the public in public libraries have filters that block access to child pornography, obscenity and materials deemed harmful to juveniles. In accordance with the law, the Staunton Public Library has installed filters on all public access Internet computers. The law also provides that a patron may request to have the filter bypassed for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

It should be understood that no system is foolproof and filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive. Parents may still wish to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Children under age 10 may not use the Internet computers without direct supervision by a parent or guardian.

The Internet is a global network of computer systems and is not subject to government control. The resources of the Internet contain a wide variety of information and opinions representing many points of view. Even with filters, some material may be controversial or offensive to individual users, such as sexual, graphic, or hate material. Also, not all Internet resources provide accurate, complete or current information. The Library cannot protect users of any age from Internet information which some may find misleading, offensive or inappropriate. It is the responsibility of the user to judge the validity or appropriateness of material for themselves and their children.

The Library is a public place. Privacy and confidentiality cannot be assured. Users should be sensitive to other patrons. **Possession and distribution of obscene materials and child pornography are illegal in the State of Virginia. Library computers and/ or networks may not be used to access such materials.**

The City of Staunton and/or the Staunton Public Library does not routinely inspect, monitor or disclose content but may do so in the course of system management and maintenance. Accordingly, use of the system constitutes consent to monitoring and users are advised that any evidence of criminal activity identified by the monitoring process, including communications content and transmission details, will be disclosed to local, state or federal law enforcement and national defense agencies as appropriate.

The Staunton Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its Internet computers or wireless network.