Melrose Public Library
Internet Use Policy

The Melrose Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the informational, recreational and educational needs of the community.

As a means of supplementing print collections, the Melrose Public Library provides free, public access to the Internet. The Melrose Public Library does not monitor or control information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is an unregulated medium; not all sites provide information that is current, accurate, or complete. The Internet may contain material of a controversial or mature nature that may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals.

Melrose Public Library does not provide computers equipped with filtering software to limit access to material not appropriate for children. As with other library material, restriction of child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

- Computer users shall not access material that is obscene, pornographic, child pornography, "harmful to minors," or otherwise inappropriate for educational use.
- Computer users shall not use library resources to gain unauthorized access to computer systems or otherwise compromise system security (hacking.)

Access to the Internet is compatible with Melrose Public Library's endorsement of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks.

Users are prohibited from any activity that violates local, state, or federal laws, including copyright laws. This activity includes unauthorized streaming of copyrighted content or use of shared files without consent of the copyright owner. This prohibition also applies to devices checked out from the library including hotspots and Chromebooks. Library Chromebooks and hotspots will not be used for abusive, offensive, or illegal activities.

Library computers provide access to the Internet via the Library's public wireless network or password protected wireless network. WiFi is less secure than a wired network. Information sent to or from these computers may be monitored, captured, or altered by others with the appropriate equipment and technology.

The Library cannot guarantee users' rights to confidentiality and privacy while using public computers or public wireless network services, including library owned mobile hotspots, Chromebooks, printers and flash drives. Users need to understand their own responsibility to protect personal information.

Any violation of library policy and rules may result in loss of library provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedure and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Complaints of any nature must be made in writing to the Library Director.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees
2002; revised Sept. 2017; revised May 2024