

ABINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDREN'S INTERNET/COMPUTER USE POLICY

The Abington Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of the community. It is within this context that the Abington Public Library offers access to the Internet.

The Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for content or quality. As with other Library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian, not the Library staff. It is the policy of the Abington Public Library to use filtering software only on the Internet Workstation in Children's Room. Filtering Software is not a substitute for careful parental supervision. Children may also use the unfiltered Internet workstations in the adult reference area.

- Patrons may use the Children's Internet Workstation on a first-come first-served basis. Computers may not be reserved in advance. Users agree to limit their time to one hour in one session per day. The library staff will strictly enforce time limits.
- If a child is less than 7 years old, a parent/caregiver is required to directly supervise the child's computer usage. This means that the parent/caregiver is required to sit with the child for the child's entire computer use period.
- Users of the Children's Internet Workstation over the age of 14 must be accompanied by a child who is using the resources of the Children's Room. Children's Room resources include books, computers and toys.
- To measure the use of the workstation, and to encourage careful usage, Internet users must sign in before using the computer. Full names are required. Sign in at the Children's Desk. Email, chat groups and social networking sites are expressly forbidden on the Children's Internet Workstation.
- Computer users must respect the privacy of library patrons around them. Disruptive behavior, or behavior which is disturbing to other library patrons will be dealt with according to the Abington Public Library's **Code of Conduct**.
- All of the Library computer terminals are located in open areas of the building and sites accessed must be limited to those appropriate for viewing in a public space. All computer privileges will be revoked for those who do not comply.
- Patrons are advised that they have no expectations of privacy in Library computers and, therefore any information or data stored on Library computers may be accessed. (see **Abington Public Library Privacy Policy**).
- Any intentional attempt to add or alter files on a Library computer is considered destruction of property and will be subject to prosecution under Massachusetts law(M.G.L.Chapter 266, Sections 99 and 100). No disk or CD-ROM may be inserted. Unauthorized shut down of the computers is prohibited.
- Printing from the Internet and computers is 10 cents a page on Library paper only.
- Payment should be made at the Circulation desk.

- Computers will automatically shut down starting 15 minutes before the closing of the Library. Users must be ready to end their computer session at that time.

Voted by the Board of Library Trustees 5/5/03, Updated 11/03/04, 10/6/08.