

# ***MOUNT OLIVE PUBLIC LIBRARY***

202 Flanders-Drakestown Road; Flanders, New Jersey 07836 | P: 973-691-8686 | www.mopl.org

## **The Mount Olive Public Library's Patron Wireless Internet and Equipment Usage Policy**

To fulfill its mission of providing public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, The Mount Olive Public Library (known as "Library") provides access to Internet resources.

In accordance with *The American Library Association Library Bill of Rights*, the Mount Olive Public Library (referred to as "Library") provides adults unrestricted access to the Internet through its wireless networks, where available.

**By choosing to use this free wireless service the Library's patron(s) agree to abide by the Library's Internet Policy that prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using the Library's Internet service.**

### **Limitations & Disclaimers**

- Wireless access is provided as a public service free of charge on an as-is basis with no guarantee and no warranty. The library's Wireless network is subject to periodic maintenance and unforeseen downtime.
- Information passing through the Library's wireless access is not secured and could be monitored, captured, or altered by others. There are risks involved with connecting to a public wireless connection, such as possible viruses, malware, loss of data, possible hacking/snooping by others connected, possible hardware/software failure. It is the patron's sole responsibility to protect his/her information from all risks associated with using the Internet, including any damage, loss, or theft that may occur as a result of his/her use of the Library's wireless access.
- All Wi-Fi users should have up-to-date antivirus software installed on their computers.
- The laptop owner is responsible for setting up his/her equipment to access the Mount Olive Public Library Wireless network. Library staff is not permitted to handle a patron's laptop or peripheral equipment. Library staff is not allowed to configure patrons' laptops, nor can any Library staff member provide more than general assistance in getting connected to the wireless network.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment; users must keep their equipment with them at all times.
- In using this free Internet access, the patron agrees and hereby releases, indemnifies, and holds harmless, the Township of Mount Olive, the Mount Olive Public Library, its officers and employees, and any affiliate, from any damage that may result from his/her use of this wireless access.
- While using this wireless access, the patron acknowledge that he/she is subject to, and agrees to abide by all laws, and all rules and regulations of the Mount Olive Public Library, the State of New Jersey, and the federal government that is applicable to Internet use.
- At its sole discretion, the Mount Olive Public Library may terminate this public service at anytime without prior notice.

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- Printing is not available via the wireless connection at this time. If the user desires to print, the file can be saved to a flash/thumb drive or emailed to him/herself and printed from a public computer in the Computer Lab for a nominal fee per page.
- Patrons plugging equipment into Library electrical outlets do so at their own risk. Laptop owners are advised to use designated electrical outlets fitted with surge protectors to connect up their equipment.
- As a result of limited bandwidth, during peak hours Library staff may limit the type of Internet use.
- Any attempt to circumvent library procedures or any unauthorized attempt to access or manipulate library equipment will result in permanent disconnection from the library's Wi-Fi network.
- If a patron does not agree to the above terms, please immediately disable your wireless connection or turn off your computer.

The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national, and international sources of information. However, some information found on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals. A good information consumer must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

## **Choosing and Evaluating Sources**

**Library patrons use the Internet at their own risk** The Internet is a series of communication linkages leading to a highly diverse array of information content. In choosing sources to link to from its home pages, the Library follows its materials selection guidelines. Beyond this, the Library is not responsible for the content of the Internet, changes in content of the sources to which the Library home pages link, or for the content of sources accessed through secondary links. In an effort to assist its users, the Library has created websites for the general population, for teens, and for children to help guide them to sources that are accurate, complete, and current and that provide them with a wealth of information on the local, national, and global level. In addition, the Library provides training for members of the public to assist them in using the Internet in a safe, effective, and efficient manner. Finally, as set forth in greater detail below, in accordance with *The Children's Internet Protection Act* ("CIPA") the Library has implemented "technology protection measures" (i.e., software filtering) on all of its Internet-accessible computers in the children's and teen areas.

## **Filtering**

As required by *The Children's Internet Protection Act* ("CIPA"), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Library has implemented software filtering on all of its Internet-accessible computers in the children's and teen areas. The software installed on Internet-accessible computers at the Library protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors." Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "underblocking" (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (i.e., denying access to certain

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constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The Library has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with **CIPA** while providing Library users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information. The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value.

## **Unblocking Filters**

The Library requests that only users of the age of seventeen or older may complete the following steps in order to obtain assistance with unblocking filters:

- Contact the Library Director or as such other staff member as the Library shall designate from time to time, to locate a computer that has unfiltered Internet access;
- Any user who is seventeen (17) years of age or older may request to disable the filtering software only within the adult section of the library in order to obtain unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

As a result of the limited resources available for provision of public access to the Internet, the Library may set limits, for example, on use of large files of still or moving images or sound, or on downloading files in any medium. The Library also reserves the right to limit the amount of time an individual user can devote to a single session. The public must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including laws governing the transmission and dissemination of information while accessing the Internet, and with all Library policies and procedures.

## **Users may not:**

- ❖ Use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources.
- ❖ Distribute unsolicited advertising.
- ❖ Invade the privacy of others.
- ❖ Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- ❖ Engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
- ❖ Use the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other rights of third parties, or in a manner inconsistent with the Library's tax-exempt status or its proper operation.

Violations may result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

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## **Public Users' Security**

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, The Mount Olive Public Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

## **Compliance**

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy.

## **Guidelines on Access to Information**

The Mount Olive Public Library abides by the *American Library Association's* statements on access to information:

- The Library Bill of Rights
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights: Free Access to Libraries for Minors and Access to Electronic Information Services and Resources

In general, the Library is guided by a commitment to access to information policies that provide appropriate protections to its patrons while being consistent with the Library's longstanding commitment to the principles of free expression as set forth in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

## **Rules Governing Use of Equipment**

*Patrons* are expected to exercise care in the use of Library equipment and property and use such property only for authorized purposes and shall be personally responsible for the usage of said equipment. Loss, damage, or theft of Library property should be reported at once to the Library Director or his/her designee. The responsibility of said patron will be determined after a full investigation by the Mount Olive Public Library.