

# ...INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

## Internet Access and Safety Policy

### Purpose

The Mount Pleasant Public Library provides access to the internet as one means of fulfilling its mission to provide services to patrons. All internet resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all users, with the understanding that it is the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate good judgement, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using library resources and facilities.

### Disclaimer

The Mount Pleasant Public Library cannot control the content of resources available on the internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The internet offers open access to information, ideas and commentary from around the world in an unregulated medium. As such, it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, but also enables access to some material that some may find offensive, disturbing and/or illegal, inaccurate or incomplete. The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Mount Pleasant Public Library. The internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. Library users use it at their own risk. **Access, use, or dissemination of information via the internet in the library is the responsibility of the user. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian.** The public library, unlike schools, does not serve in place of a parent. Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the internet rests with parents or guardians.

In consideration for the privilege of using the internet and for having access to the free information contained within it, you hereby release and hold harmless the City of Mount Pleasant, its officers, agents, servants, or employees, the Mount Pleasant Public Library, its staff, volunteers, representatives or advisors, from any and all liability or responsibility for any and all claims, damages, losses, costs or expenses arising either directly or indirectly from the use of this system, whether or not caused, in whole or in part, by alleged negligence of the City of Mount Pleasant, its officers, agents, servants, employees, volunteers, representatives or advisors.

### Responsibilities of Users

**By logging on to the internet, patrons agree to abide by the library policy on public use of computers.**

**Adult user limits are 45 minutes, while children's limits are 30 minutes.** Extra time may be granted at the discretion of the librarian

**Two people may share one computer workstation as long as their behavior or conversation does not disturb others.**

**Computers shut down 15 minutes prior to library closing. Users should print all documents before this deadline.**

**Users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else.**

**Users will respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.** Materials obtained or copied on the internet may be subject to laws that govern making reproductions of copyrighted works. A work protected by copyright may not be copied without permission of the copyright owner unless the proposed use falls within the definition of "Fair Use." Customers are responsible for compliance with all international, national and state laws governing copyrighted materials.

**Users will respect the privacy of other library users, and will refrain from attempting to view or read material being used by others.**

**Payment is required by users who incur charges for printing or other authorized fees upon usage.** *Black and white copies are 25 cents each and color copies are 50 cents each.*

### **Acceptable Use**

Internet access computers may be used to access information, except as otherwise specified as unacceptable, from a variety of sources such as educational or commercial. The user is the selector of the material accessed and is therefore the responsible party. The user is responsible for complying with all restrictions governing access to specific sites. Any fees are the responsibility of the user, not the library. In the case of minors, fees are the fiscal responsibility of the parent or guardian. In no event shall the Mount Pleasant Public Library have any liability for lost profits or for any direct or indirect special, punitive or consequential damages, or any liability to any third party.

Internet access computers may be used to access a variety of electronic communications resources including email and chat rooms. Although the library does not provide email accounts to users, internet access computers may be used to access free email accounts available from a variety of

sources. Users, including minors, are warned that other individuals may obtain unauthorized access to personal information and/or may misrepresent themselves. Users are advised not to share personal identification information to unknown or otherwise unverified sources via electronic communication.

**Portable storage devices (i.e. jumpdrives, flashdrives, etc.) are permitted.**

### **Unacceptable use of computer workstations**

Patrons using the internet in the library may not display text or graphics defined by federal or state law as obscenity or pornography. Deliberate and continued display of some materials that are not obscene or pornographic may still constitute sexual harassment. Actions that violate federal, state, or local laws will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Repeated actions that create a disturbance or that may be considered sexual harassment may result in the loss of some or all library privileges. U.S. copyright law governs unauthorized use or distribution of copyrighted materials. Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials, except as permitted by the Fair Use regulation without the permission of the copyright owner.

Section 43.22 of the Texas Penal Code prohibits the intentional or knowing display of an obscene photograph, drawing, or visual representation, while being reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

Section 43.24 of the Texas Penal Code prohibits the display of harmful material, defined in the law similarly to indecent material under federal law, if the displayer is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

*For more information, see the complete text of Sections 43.22 and 43.24 of the Texas Penal Code.*

Users will not make any attempt to misuse the computer. Misuse includes, but is not limited to, using the computer for illegal activities; using the computer to access inappropriate, obscene or pornographic material; using the computer to access gambling sites; hacking into the library computer system, or any other computer system; damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software; interfering with systems operations, integrity or security; gaining unauthorized access to another person's files; sending harassing messages to other computer users; altering or attempting to alter the library computer's settings; and violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements. Misuse of the computer may result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Damages resulting from the misuse are the responsibility of the user or in the case of minors, the parent or guardian.

Users may not install, download, or modify software. Users may not attach hardware to any of the library workstations (laptops, scanners, etc.)

The library reserves the right to terminate the internet access privileges of any person abusing these principles.

Copies printed from computer workstations can be picked up at the main desk. Caution needs to be taken before printing--some printouts can be rather lengthy.