

Chester Public Library's Internet Safety Policy

The Chester Public Library is providing access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of the library's service area. The Board of Trustees has established the Internet use policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource.

It is the policy of Chester Public Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Access to Inappropriate Material:

Internet filters shall be used to block or filter inappropriate information, specifically visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors, on all library provided internet enabled computers.

As required by CIPA and subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults 18 or older only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage:

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring:

It shall be the responsibility of all library staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act. Users agree not to incur any costs for the library through their use of the Internet. Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet. Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters.