

North Platte Public Library

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

(Effective: November 25, 2002)

JUSTIFICATION:

Current laws require the library to address Internet access and safety for use by minors. The North Platte Public Library intends to enforce these policies through a technology protection measure. Technology protection measures are not fool proof, but lessen the chances of accessing, intentionally or accidentally, material that is considered offensive or harmful to minors. Minors are allowed access to all Internet stations in the building. These safety policies that are in effect for minors will therefore apply to all users. This policy meets Internet Safety Policy requirements of section 1732 of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) modifying Section 254(l) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC 254). This policy should be reviewed annually for amendments.

POLICY:

1. It is the responsibility of the North Platte Public Library to help guide children and adults in the use and access of information. The Internet and World Wide Web allow access to all forms of information including those that are considered inappropriate for minors by community standards. Information about online and Internet safety for children, parents and care givers is available through the North Platte Public Library.
2. The North Platte Public Library seeks to increase the safety and security of minors and all citizens when using electronic mail and other forms of direct electronic communications. All minors under the age of 18 must have a parental signature on file allowing access to the Internet in the Technology Learning Center (TLC). All children under the age of 13 are required to have a parent, guardian or care giver (18 or older) present while the child accesses the Internet in the TLC. Chat rooms, Instant Messaging Services, Internet-based games and online gambling, do not support the mission statement of the library and consume valuable bandwidth; and therefore are restricted for all users.
3. Unauthorized access, including hacking, and other unlawful activities are considered crimes. The use of the library's computers to commit or aid in a crime or to access unlawful content and sites may be pursued to the fullest extent of the law. The North Platte Public Library will cooperate with local, state and federal authorities in the prosecution of crimes committed against, through, or upon library equipment and resources. Installation of unlicensed software on library equipment is prohibited by copyright law.
4. All users are responsible for their own information. The library encourages users to remember that it is possible for information provided in an electronic format to be used, disseminated, and disclosed without authorization. Minors should never provide any personally identifiable information, including real name, address, phone numbers, parent or school information, pictures, and other "clues" about who they are, over the Internet or in an online forum.
5. The North Platte Public Library has implemented a technology protection measure (Internet filter) in addition to the parental signatures and parental presence rules outlined in this policy. The filter will help prevent accidental or intentional access in the various areas of the library as outlined in the attached "N2H2 Filtering Categories Chart", which may be periodically updated to effectively carry out this policy. All computer users are required to acknowledge and be subjected to various levels of Internet filtering.
6. North Platte Public Library staff may, at a users request and justification, override the Internet filter on TLC stations only and allow full access to a site for up to 15 minutes. This will allow viewing of all sites that are being blocked, if the user requests access to the site for educational or informational purposes. Library staff may alternatively access the site from the TLC staff station and allow the user to get information from the site at that station.