

# Internet Safety Policy

Madison Heights Public Library

Adopted by City Council: June 24, 2013.

Updated by Library Advisory Board: October 22, 2025.

## Purpose

In order to comply with CIPA [CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (Pub. L. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h))] the City of Madison Heights Public Library has adopted this Internet Safety Policy.

A Technology Protection Measure (filtering software) is installed on all Internet access points in the library, including public computers, staff devices, and the wireless network. This filtering software helps to protect against access to visual depictions deemed "obscene," "child pornography," or "harmful to minors."

- The term "obscene" as defined in 18 USC Section 1460.
- The term "child pornography" as defined in 18 USC Section 2256.
- The term "harmful to minors" as defined in 47 USC Section 254 [G].

Use of the Library's Internet service indicates the user will abide by all relevant Library policies and applicable law.

While the Library strives to provide reliable service, connection quality and availability are not guaranteed due to technology limitations and high demand.

## Responsibility and Safety

Staff presence and use of a filtering system should not be viewed as a substitute for parental supervision of a minor on the Internet. Parents or legal guardians, and not the library staff, are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the internet and for information selected and/or accessed by their children. Children should be warned against giving out any personal information while using these resources, social media sites, or other direct electronic communications. Appropriate online behavior is required by all users.

The library uses internet filters to help block harmful or inappropriate content. However, filters are not perfect. Sometimes they may block websites that are safe and appropriate and fail to block sites that should be restricted.

For minors (under 18): If a website is blocked by mistake, please let a librarian know. The librarian will review the site and arrange to have the site unblocked if appropriate.

For adults (18 and older): You can request to use a computer with the filter turned off. Usage will be allowed on a designated computer, and you must make the request yourself.

Please note that these requests will be met as soon as possible, but access may not be immediate. All internet use will still be monitored to ensure safe and responsible use.

The following are prohibited:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet.
- Sending or displaying obscene or disruptive messages, files, or images.
- Any type of Cyber-bullying.
- Use of chat rooms or instant messaging by a minor without parental approval.
- Gaining unauthorized access to the library's network or computer systems or to any other network or computer system (hacking).
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification by or regarding minors.
- Using library computers to conduct any unlawful activity.

## Internet Use Rules

1. Internet may not be used for any purpose that violates federal, state, or local laws. Users must respect all copyright and licensing agreements pertaining to electronic files and resources obtained via the Internet.
2. The patron must configure their own equipment. Very limited technical support is available through library personnel. The library cannot guarantee that all hardware will work with printers or WiFi and the library is not responsible for any changes made to their device settings. Staff cannot troubleshoot your equipment. Please consult your user's manual or contact your hardware or software provider for any additional assistance.
3. Communication over WiFi is not secure. MHPL highly recommends that all laptops or wireless devices have up-to-date anti-virus software, spyware protection, and a personal firewall installed while utilizing the Library's wireless network.
4. Wireless users should be certain that their laptop or other wireless devices are secured at all times and should never be left unattended in the library, even for a brief period of time. Theft of such devices is not the responsibility of the library.
5. Limited power outlets are available in the library. These outlets may be used wherever the cord does not present a tripping hazard or block access for patrons or staff. It is recommended that you charge your battery before coming to the library.
6. Users of devices are expected to be considerate of patrons nearby and are required to use headphones when playing movies, music and games, or when using any software program that generates sound.
7. Neither the City of Madison Heights, the Library, its director, nor any city employee shall be liable for any direct or indirect damages which occur from using the wireless network.

## Disclaimer of Liability

The library shall not have any responsibility or liability for any direct, indirect, or consequential damage claims arising from information found on the Internet or relating to the loss, damage or interception of any information, data, work product, or other materials viewed, searched or stored on your personal device. The library is not responsible for any damage to personal equipment or software that may occur as a result of using the Library's internet connection. Any violation of this policy may result in the loss of Internet privileges at the library. Unacceptable use that is illegal may result in criminal prosecution as well.