



BLOUNT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bound Together

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Signed: _____

Hugh G. Brakesell

Internet Safety Policy

APPLICABLE TO: All Blount County Public Library (BCPL) computer and internet users.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Filtering Software:** A computer program that blocks certain websites and images.
- **Obscene:** Images that may be construed as prurient in nature, is patently offensive in its depiction, and lack of value when taken as a whole.

PURPOSE: To provide equitable access to members of the public that require the internet, digital resources, and essential electronic information because of a lack of home access, a need for support in job searching or educational and government services, and to fulfill its mission of equal access to information.

POLICY STATEMENT: The Blount County Public Library (BCPL) provides access to the Internet. The BCPL has no control over the information obtained through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content or accuracy. BCPL users access the Internet at their discretion which could contain materials that some may find offensive or inappropriate.

In accordance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554), all BCPL computers are equipped with filtering software. The software is set to screen out sites that may reasonably be construed as obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code; or child pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544.

As with other BCPL resources, restriction of a child's Internet use is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian, within the confines of the law.

The BCPL assumes no responsibility for damages, direct or indirect, caused by using the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, damage to personal or office computer equipment caused by material downloaded from any Internet site.

Internet users should be aware that it is not a secure medium. Third parties can obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities.

Ethical Use

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources responsibly and consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which

they are provided. It is unacceptable to use the BCPL's computer system and Internet resources for any of the following:

- For any purposes that violate applicable U.S. or state laws. Users must respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software, files and other resources obtained via the Internet.
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the BCPL.
- Disruption or interference of network users or services. Such interference or disruption includes, but is not limited to: distribution of unsolicited advertising, harassment, libeling, or slandering of others; propagation of general malicious software.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics may reasonably be construed as obscene.

Violations of the Internet Safety and Ethical Use Policies

BCPL Staff, while respecting an individual user's rights to privacy, also reserves the right to monitor use of library devices and its network to ensure compliance with this policy. Users violating these guidelines will be advised of the BCPL's policy for ethical use and asked to comply. Users who repeatedly violate these guidelines after previous warnings will be restricted from using BCPL's online services. The BCPL reserves the right to prohibit violators from future access or use of the online services, and in some cases, the library itself. Illegal acts may subject violators to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

POLICY REVIEW: To be reviewed every year.

POINT OF CONTACT: The Board of Trustees Secretary is the point of contact for this policy.

Blount County does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).