

FORT MYERS BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

INTERNET ACCESS

The Internet, a worldwide network of computer networks, is an important medium for obtaining and transmitting information of all types. Therefore, public access to the Internet is germane to the Fort Myers Beach Public Library's mission. However, the Internet is an unregulated medium. It also provides access to information that is inaccurate or illegal or that some may find offensive or disturbing.

I. Responsibilities of Beach Public Library Users and Staff

The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts Library services or that involves user behavior in violation of the Internet policies or rules as set forth in this Policy or Florida Statutes or CIPA.

Parents are responsible for their minor children's use of the Library's resources and facilities. Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly use the Library's Internet access are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.

II. Unacceptable Uses of Network and/or Computers

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of the Policy are the following:

- A. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Transmitting of offensive or harassing messages; offering for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by law; viewing, transmitting or downloading pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; uses that are harmful to minors; downloading or transmitting confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, users should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.
- B. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. Engaging in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); uploading a worm, virus, "Trojan horse," "time bomb" or other harmful form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.
- C. Uses that jeopardize the security of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. Disclosing or sharing the user's library card or PIN numbers with others; impersonating another user; using one's own software programs on the Library's computers; altering the Library computer setting; damaging or modifying computer equipment or software.
- D. Uses that compromise the safety and security of minors by means of e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications.

III. Disclaimers

While the Library endeavors to provide access to information of the highest quality, the Library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authority, usefulness or fitness for a particular purpose. The Library will have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the Library's Internet service. Since software and information downloaded from any sources, including the Internet, may contain computer viruses, users are advised to utilize virus-checking software on their home computers. The Library is not responsible for damage to users' disks or computers or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from use of the Library's computers.

IV. Procedures

The Fort Myers Beach Public Library has developed rules, policies and procedures to ensure the fair and reasonable use of Internet access at the Library. Procedures regarding length of access time and assistance available may vary slightly according to staff resources and time of year.

V. Responses to Violations

The user's access to the Library's computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user violates this Policy by his or her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates that Policy if the user permits another to use his or her Library card account, PIN number, or ID to access the computer network.

Failure to comply with this Policy and its procedures may result in the forfeiture of the user's access to Library computers or ultimately to the Library for a specified amount of time.

Authority: Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View documents; Mission Statement, Fort Myers Beach Library District Board, CIPA, Florida Statutes.

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Approved by: John D. Rohrer
John D. Rohrer, President

Effective Date: September 23, 2003.

Supersedes and rescinds: PPM #FMBLO-803, Adopted 11/29/00