



Juvenile Computer and Internet Use Policy

The mission of the Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County is to provide open and equal access to ideas and information to all members of its library community. Therefore, it is especially important to differentiate Internet use by minors, as there are inherent dangers therein.

1. The Carnegie Public Library supports parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children's access to print, non-print and online information.
2. The use of the Internet through the library's connection is a privilege, and access is voluntary.
3. The library believes that the benefits of access to information resources provided through the Internet far outweigh the potential disadvantages of such access.
4. The Carnegie Public Library seeks to preserve a minor's status as a full member of the Internet community.
5. The library cannot control the resources on the Internet. The Internet is not a static entity. It changes each minute as new information is added and old information deleted. Some sites may contain information which is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal, obscene, or potentially offensive to some. The library can attempt to prevent direct access to materials that are not generally acceptable to a public library, but it is technically impossible to prevent access to all resources which might be objectionable to some people.
6. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine whether to place restrictions on their own children with regard to the use of the Internet.
7. Parents/guardians are responsible for their own children's behavior while using the library's Internet connection. The Carnegie Public Library assumes no liability for inappropriate conduct or acts conducted on the Internet by minors.
8. The Carnegie Public Library reserves the right to deny Internet access to any minor who is found to violate this policy adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Public Library.

9. Age Restriction: Patrons of the Internet under the age of ten (10) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the Internet session.
10. Definition of a Minor: Any person under eighteen (18) years of age.
11. Uses Not Permitted:
 - a. To access, upload, download or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials;
 - b. To transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language;
 - c. To violate any local, state or federal statutes;
 - d. To distribute any advertising messages over the library's local area network (LAN) and/or Internet connection.
 - e. To access any Chat Room sites.
12. Time Restriction: Patrons are requested to use the Internet terminals for no more than one hour at one time. At the discretion of the librarian and if there are no other patrons waiting to use the service, patrons may continue to use the system for longer.