CARTHAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
INTERNET USE POLICIES

In furtherance of its mission to provide cultural, educational, informational, and recreational materials to members of the community, the Carthage Public Library offers access to the Internet.

The internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and should be used wisely. The Carthage Public Library has no control over information accessed throughout the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content.

In order to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (N-CIPA), the Carthage Public Library has installed filtering software on all of its Internet computers and will enforce the operation of the filtering software during any use of those computers to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors.

The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934-947 USC Section 254 [h][7]) as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that

- Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
- Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

As with all Carthage Public Library resources, the Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, NOT library staff, to determine and monitor their minor children's use of the Internet. Parents are responsible for their minor children's use of the Library's resources and facilities. Parents who believe their children cannot responsibly use the Library's Internet access are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.

Filtering software may be disabled by a library staff member, as necessary, for bona fide research or other lawful purposes by patrons aged 17 and older. Filtering software may not be disabled for any reason for minor patrons under the age of 17. In order to further protect minor patrons, children under the age of 17 will normally be required to use the computers located in the Children's Library. Library staff may use discretion in allowing a minor patron to use the computers located in the Adult Library if said minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Carthage Public Library, having installed and enforced the operation of filtering software in compliance with CIPA and N-CIPA will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

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

1. *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; 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.

2. *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 programming or vandalism; participating in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.

3. *Uses that jeopardize the security of access of the computer network or other networks on the Internet.* Disclosing or sharing the user's password with others; impersonating another user; using one's own software programs on the library's computers; altering the Library's computer settings; damaging or modifying computer equipment or software.

4. *Uses that compromise the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications.* Minors under age 17: Giving others private information about one's self or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers; arranging a face-to-face meeting with someone one has "met" on the computer network or Internet without a parent's permission.

5. *Uses that Violate Confidentiality of Information.* Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information, including minors.

Further, in order to maximize Internet availability for all patrons, the following additional rules and procedures should be observed:

- Adult patrons wishing to use the Internet computers must first register at the Internet help desk. Patrons under the age of 17 must register at the Children's help desk.
- A patron may reserve the computer for up to one hour at a time. Additional time may be available if no other patrons are waiting to use the Internet computers.
- Latecomers forfeit the unused portion of their reserved time.
- If a patron is more than 10 minutes late, the entire reserved time will be forfeited.
- Preferably, only one person is allowed at an Internet computer at a time. Space is limited.
- A patron must furnish his or her own formatted PC compatible disks or USB drive if the patron wishes to download files. Library computer CD drives are "read only" and cannot be used to save or "burn" data.
- Cost for printing is as follows:

B&W - 20 cents per page
10 cents per page if the patron uses his or her own paper.

Color – 50 cents per page
40 cents per page if the patron uses his or her own paper.

- If a patron chooses to use his or her own paper, the patron must notify library staff in advance of printing and provide the paper at the time of staff notification.
- Patrons are responsible for the cost of all copies that are printed. Patrons are urged to use the "print preview" function and/or ask library staff for assistance in order to avoid printing unwanted copies.
- At times, Carthage Public Library staff can assist with basic computer use. If a patron has difficulty using the computer or seeking information on the Internet, Library staff can recommend reference materials or refer the patron to local computer classes.
- Patrons with overdue materials and/or large library fines are not allowed to use library computers until their patron records are cleared.

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 others that come to the attention of the user. Failure to comply with this policy and its procedures will result in the forfeiture of the user's right to access these computers.