

## ***POLICY ON PUBLIC COMPUTER USAGE AND INTERNET ACCESS***

The Essex Library offers free Internet workstations and wireless Internet access throughout the building. All patrons using the library's wireless Internet connection must agree to the library's Internet Policy. The Library staff reserves the right to terminate any Internet session, including wireless Internet sessions, at any time. Patrons violating this Internet Policy may lose their Internet and/or Library privileges.

**Disclaimer:** The Essex Library is not responsible for the content, accuracy or availability of information on the Internet. The Library Board of Trustees and its employees assume no responsibility for damages of any type arising from the use of any information, software or data obtained from the Internet.

Patrons are responsible for their own computer equipment and confidential information such as credit card numbers, web ID's & passwords, etc. Library staff is not responsible or liable for patron's equipment or confidential information.

Patrons may not damage, alter, or degrade Library computer equipment, peripherals, software, or operating configurations. Installation of software applications or directly accessing or altering computer hard drive files is not permitted. Patrons may not shut down computer work-stations.

### **Terms of Use (terms apply to both Library workstations and wireless connections):**

- Patrons are expected to read the Internet Policy prior to using the library's Internet service.
- Use of a Library owned laptop computer requires a valid CT library card. Guests without a library card must provide a government issued picture ID. □ If others are waiting for use of a computer, a time limit for use may be imposed.
- The Essex Public Library strives to preserve the confidentiality and privacy of all library users. However, absolute privacy for patrons using electronic resources in the library cannot be guaranteed. All users are asked to respect the privacy of other users and not attempt to censor or comment on what others are viewing.
- Patrons may not use the library's Internet service or the wireless Internet connection to transmit threatening or harassing material or engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment. Loud or disruptive behavior is prohibited.
- Illegal or unauthorized purposes, such as hacking (purposely violating computer or network security), spamming, or the dissemination of viruses, and/or worms, hoaxes, or violations of applicable Federal, State or other laws are prohibited. Violations of copyright or software licensing agreements are prohibited.
- Patrons may not view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images or graphics of obscene or pornographic materials, or material that violates laws relating to child pornography while using the library's Internet service.
- The Essex Library does not employ Internet filtering software. It reserves the right, however, to filter out any Internet site or sites that violate this policy, causes library computers or wireless Internet connections to malfunction, proves harmful to users, or is deemed inappropriate for library use.

**Use of the Internet by Children:** The Essex Public Library provides unfiltered access to the Internet. As with all library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of his or her parents or legal guardians. The library staff cannot and does not act *in loco parentis*. Computers located in the Children's Room are reserved for use only by children and the parents or caregivers who accompany them.

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