

TOWN OF PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY ON USE OF COMPUTERS AND WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

The Town of Pelham Public Library recognizes the significance played by technology in the ability of Library patrons to access information. In order to provide reference resources, the Internet and production tools to patrons, the Library furnishes computers, both with and without Internet access, for use by the public, as well as access to wireless Internet service. Responsibility for appropriate conduct when using Library computer resources rests with individual patrons. Use of any computer or wireless Internet access shall constitute agreement by the user to comply with this policy. A patron who fails to comply with this policy, or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this policy, may incur financial liability for lost or damaged equipment, loss of computer or library privileges, or other appropriate consequences.

Rules and Regulations. The Library Director, or his or her designee, is responsible for the development, posting and enforcement of rules and regulations concerning the use of the Library's Internet computers and its wireless network.

Prohibited Uses. Use of the Library's computers or wireless network for any illegal purpose is prohibited. A patron whose conduct on the Library's computers or wireless network violates federal, state or local law may be prosecuted by law enforcement authorities. The Library's computers and Internet access may not be used for commercial purposes, including sales or marketing of products or services. In addition, patrons may not knowingly view, print, distribute, receive or display any material which is harmful to minors in its content or that is obscene or pornographic.

Computer Use by Children. The Library reserves the right to prohibit children under the age of 12 from using the computers without the assistance of a parent or other responsible adult.

Privacy. Privacy is limited while using the Library's computer terminals due to their public placement. The Library does not guarantee the security of personal information transmitted over the Internet.

Library Staff Support. Patrons who have questions about the use of Library computer equipment, or encounter problems in the use of any Library computer or printer, should immediately seek the assistance of a staff member. Library staff will not provide wireless access support and will not install or modify hardware or software on patrons' devices.

Copyright Protection. Patrons must recognize that software and materials accessible via the Library's computer network or the Internet are protected by copyright and/or other intellectual property laws. Therefore, patrons may not make copies of software found on Library computers, either by copying them onto their own diskettes or onto other computers through electronic mail.

Online Etiquette. When using computers to listen to music, dialogue, sound effects, etc., Library patrons must use earphones to make the sound inaudible to others. If sound is heard despite the use of earphones, the patron must reduce the volume or turn off the equipment. Patrons should be aware that the Library is a shared resource and their activities must not be offensive to other patrons.

Network Protection. Patrons must not intentionally disrupt the Library's network. Hardware and software must not be destroyed, modified, copied, damaged or abused in any way. Malicious use of the Library's computers to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computer system (e.g., the creation of viruses) is prohibited.

Wireless Network Security. Communication through the Library's wireless network should not be considered secure. The Library is not liable for damage to hardware or software, transmission of computer viruses, loss of data or e-mail, or any harm resulting from the use of an unsecured device. It is strongly advised that personal, financial or otherwise sensitive information not be transmitted through the wireless network.

No Warranties. The Library makes no warranties of any kind for the access being provided. The Library assumes no responsibility for the quality, availability, accuracy, nature or reliability of the service and/or information provided. Users of the Library's network and the Internet use the information obtained at their own risk. Each user is responsible for verifying the integrity and authenticity of the information that is used and provided.

No Responsibility for Damage. The Library will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any user, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or by the errors or omissions of any user. The Library will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from the use of or access to the Internet.

Quality and Suitability of Information. Through the Internet, patrons have access to a wide variety of information, some of which is not suitable for children. The Library staff does not monitor this information and is not responsible for the content or quality of information accessed by patrons. The Library encourages parents to be actively involved in their children's use of the Library's network and the Internet in order to ensure that such use is safe and appropriate.

Westchester Library System. The Library is a member of, and obtains Internet services through, the Westchester Library System ("WLS"). Therefore, the Library adheres to the WLS Internet Policy, as from time to time amended and in effect, which policy is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein. The WLS Internet Policy may be found at http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/files/board/policies/internet_use.pdf.

Further information about computer use and Internet access in public libraries is available through the American Library Association and the New York Library Association.

Amended, March 30, 2011

Approved, July 20, 2005

Supersedes Policy on Use of Internet and Network Computers, Jan. 2, 2002