McMinn County Library Board

Essential Internet Safety Policies

Purpose: The purpose of the document is meet the recent essential requirements of the State of Tennessee in a time-sensitive manner concerning the essential internet policies of the three libraries that are governed by the McMinn County Library Board – the Calhoun Public Library, the E.G. Fisher Public Library, and the Englewood Public Library. These essential requirements will serve as the foundation for a more detailed Internet Safety Policy for each library that will be presented to the full McMinn County Library Board.

Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

All libraries and directors must be aware of and adhere to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act

In accordance to CIPA, all libraries will adhere to internet safety policies addressing:

a) Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
b) The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
c) Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
d) Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
e) Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Technology Protection Measures

It is the policy of the McMinn County Library Board to:

• Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity, including socalled "hacking", and other unlawful activities by minors online.

• Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications to minors.

• Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

• Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. In accordance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106- 554), all public access computers in the library are filtered. Filtering software diminishes the likelihood that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive but does not eliminate that possibility. Filters may block sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful.

In accordance with CIPA, users aged 17 and older may ask a library staff member to disable the filters for bona fide research or other lawful purpose. The library will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

Internet Safety/Child Safety on the Internet

Parents/guardians, not the library or its staff are responsible for the internet information accessed by their children. Parents/guardians should be aware that the only way to monitor their children's Internet use is for the adult to be present at the computer. Parents are reminded that filtering software is not foolproof.

User Responsibilities

All users of the Internet at each library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with each library's educational and informational purposes, and to follow all Internet related rules, regulations, and procedures established for its use including, but not limited to, those of each library.

Responsible use of the Internet at the library includes:

• Complying with each library's approved Patron Behavior Policy .

• Using each library's computers for library designated purposes only.

• Not abusing or misusing library computers or any other equipment; changes are not allowed to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.

• Not using someone else's library account to access the Internet.

• Respecting the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images.

• Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the Internet, including the viewing of any material which depicts nudity, sexual contact, excess violence and which is harmful to minors per the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911.

Each library is not responsible for damage to users' storage medium or electronic devices or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

Each library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. Each library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal electronic devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of each library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by each library.

Response to Violations

Each library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates this or any other library policy. Failure to comply with

library policies may result in the temporary or permanent forfeiture of the user's privilege to access these computers or to use the library. Each library reserves the right to prohibit violators from future access or use of online services, and in some cases, the library itself. Illegal acts may subject violators to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Review and revision of this Internet Safety Policy

Annually, the McMinn County Library Board will review this policy in an open meeting and document the approval of the policy in the minutes of such meeting.

Approval date: February 5, 2024.