BERNARDS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This policy outlines standards for the use of computing devices and the Internet at the Library. The policy applies equally to the Library's wired and wireless network, to Library devices and any patron owned equipment used on the library's premises.

Any patron not abiding by these standards may be required to terminate a computer session and/or leave the library premises. If illegal and/or unlawful activity is seen or suspected, the Bernards Township Police may be called.

This policy is posted in the building.

The Board of Trustees of the Bernards Township Library has adopted the following guidelines to fulfill its mission to inform, enrich and connect our community by providing open public access to all types of information. Unlike other library resources, the information found on the Internet is not subject to the selection policies of the Library. Patrons should therefore exercise critical judgment and consider the validity and reliability of sources when accessing Internet sites.

Parents or guardians, not the Library or its Staff, are responsible for the information selected and/or accessed by their children. Supervision of minors' Internet sessions by parents and/or guardians is encouraged and advised.

Display or transmission of sexually explicit material that is violent, obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors is strictly prohibited in the Library.

Internet Code of Conduct

1. All federal, state, and local laws are in effect when patrons are using computers in the library. Examples are laws governing copyright and display of pornographic materials.

2. Protecting privacy in the library setting ensures open enquiry without fear of having one's interests observed by others. Patrons and staff are expected to be respectful and protective of the privacy of all users.

3. Responsible, ethical use of the Library computers and network connections includes:
   - Using the Internet for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
   - Not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system; not damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
   - Not sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene, bullying, or considered inappropriate or harmful to minors.

4. The Library reserves the right to invoke a time limit for sessions if another patron is waiting.

5. Time and expertise permitting, the Library staff is available to assist a patron on computer, software, or Internet use.

Failure to Comply with This Policy

Library staff members are authorized to immediately terminate a computer session (whether on a patron's device or the Library's) that violates this policy or the Patron Behavior Policy. Suspension or loss of library privileges may result from violations of these policies.

Users' Security and Limit of Liability

Patrons should be mindful that the Internet is not a secure medium. Third parties may be able to gain information about users' activity and may also attempt to obtain personal information.

The Library's public computers and wireless network are set up in an open/unsecured configuration. The Library assumes no responsibility for any direct, indirect, or consequential data loss or damages related to the use of the Library's computers and/or Internet connection. The Library is not responsible for loss of data or damage to a patron's computer or storage media, or for the security of information transmitted and received while using the Library's computers, devices or networks.

Adopted 06/18/97   Revised 09/16/98; 09/20/04; 04/15/09; 04/30/13; 11/29/17