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## **PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE**

The Prescott Public Library offers access to electronic information and services, including the Internet, to meet the personal, professional and educational information needs of its patrons of all ages. The Library provides access to the Internet through library computers connected to the Internet, and through wireless (Wi-Fi) Internet access.

### **INTERNET USE BY MINORS**

Parents and guardians play critical roles in helping children learn to use this tool. The Library does not serve in loco parentis (in place of a parent). Library staff cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians who grant permission for use. The parent, guardian or caregiver should instruct children never to give out personal information (i.e., name address, password, telephone number, credit card number) online.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF USERS**

Users should be aware that they are working in a public environment shared by people of all ages. Users should refrain from the use of Internet sounds and visuals which might disrupt the ability of other library patrons to use the library and its resources. Library users are individually responsible for their own access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library.

Electronic communication is not absolutely secure and networks are sometimes susceptible to outside intervention. In addition, there exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing of computer activity by nearby computer users or patrons. Absolute privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed.

The Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or devices, nor for any personal damage or injury whatsoever incurred as a result of using the Library's electronic resources or wireless network. This includes, but is not limited to, damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy.

### **When using the library's computers, internet or Wi-Fi, it is prohibited to:**

1. Violate federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those governing obscenity, pornography, and materials harmful to minors.
2. Violate copyright laws or database license agreements.
  - a. U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles or "fair use." All responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies

with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such violations.

3. View, print, distribute, display, send, or receive images, text or graphics that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.
  - a. Knowingly displaying obscene graphics or graphics that may be harmful to minors is prohibited under Wisconsin Statutes 944.21 and 948.11.
4. Engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating, disruptive or hostile environment for patrons or staff.
5. Invade the privacy of other individuals.
6. Degrade, alter or disrupt equipment or system performance.
7. Plug in devices that require software or driver installation.
8. Gain unauthorized access to resources or entities.

Library staff may impose restrictions, such as time limits or types of use, on library equipment. Also, all computer users are expected to use the electronic resources of the Library in a responsible manner that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Each computer user must log in with their MORE member library card. Logging in using another customer's name and library card number, with or without permission of the cardholder, is not permitted.
- A cardholder who has a current library card or a visitor who does not have a MORE library card may receive an Internet pass after providing required information to staff. Failure to provide accurate information may result in revoked computer privileges.

## **FAILURE TO COMPLY**

Violation of Library policy or regulations that govern the use of computer and Internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources. Any illegal activity involving Library resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

The following steps will be taken for failure to comply with the Internet and Computer Use Policy:

1. A library employee will request that the patron discontinue the activity and/or ask the patron to leave the library. If the activity or behavior is illegal, the Police will be called.
2. Continued violations will result in a request to leave the library building and may lead to revocation of library privileges including the right to visit the buildings and grounds for a period of up to six (6) months or permanently at the discretion of the Library Director.
3. Repeat offenders or persons ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.

Adopted by the Prescott Public Library Board of Trustees September 17, 2020