



Blount County Public BCPL Internet Safety Policy

Internet Safety Policy

Blount County Public BCPL (BCPL) makes the Internet accessible in accordance with our mission to provide information resources and services to ensure that all residents have free and open access to ideas and information. In this role, the BCPL provides access to information resources available on the Internet. The BCPL has no control over the information obtained through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content or accuracy. It may contain materials which some find offensive or inappropriate. BCPL users access the Internet at their own discretion.

In accordance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554), all BCPL computers are equipped with filtering software. The software is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code; or child pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544.

Users 18 years of age and older may request that a staff member disable the filtering software for research purposes. The software will not be disabled for users 17 and under for any reason. As with other BCPL resources, restriction of a child's use of the Internet is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian, within the confines of the law.

The BCPL assumes no responsibility for damages, direct, or indirect, for the use of the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, damage to personal or office computer equipment caused by virus-laden material downloaded from any Internet site. Users are encouraged to purchase and use a virus detection program on their home and office devices.

Internet users should be aware that it is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be very cautious about providing personal information over the Internet.

Ethical Use

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided. It is unacceptable to use the BCPL's computer system and Internet resources for any of the following:

- For any purposes which violate applicable U.S. or state laws. Users must respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software, files and other resources obtained via the Internet.
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the BCPL.

- Disruption or interference of network users or services. Such interference or disruption includes, but is not limited to: distribution of unsolicited advertising, harassment, libeling, or slandering of others; propagation of computer worms or viruses.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as either obscene or child pornography by community standards.

Violations of the Internet Safety and Ethical Use Policies

BCPL Staff, while respecting an individual user's rights to privacy, also reserves the right to monitor use of library devices and its network to ensure compliance with this policy. Users violating these guidelines will be advised of the BCPL's policy for ethical use and asked to comply. Users who repeatedly violate these guidelines after previous warnings will be restricted from using the BCPL's online services on that occasion. The BCPL reserves the right to prohibit violators from future access or use of the online services, and in some cases, the library, itself. Illegal acts may subject violators to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Use of Computers in Children's Area

The computers in the Children's area are intended to be used by children 12 and under.

Parents or guardians who are accompanying children 12 and under in the Children's area may request the use of a computer and, if space is available, may use a computer for 30 minutes with a single renewal.

Teenagers 13 to 17 must use computers in the adult section. Adults 18 and over may be assigned a computer use ONLY if they are accompanying a child 12 and under as their guardian. Parents and guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children and may be asked to vacate a computer if the children being supervised are noisy or otherwise disruptive to other BCPL users.

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Revised 02/16/21

Amended 08/18/09

Signed _____

Blount County does not discriminate based on race, color, or national origin in federal or state-sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).