

Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library Computer and Internet Use Policy

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library provides computers which allow public access to a variety of electronic resources, including the Internet. The Internet is an unregulated global information source. The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library has no control over information that can be accessed through the Internet and cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or authenticity of information accessed through this resource. Users who find information or subject matter incorrect, out-of-date, illegal, and/or offensive should contact the original producer or distributor of that work directly. The library offers wireless internet service which is open and unsecured. Any patron aged 0-17 must have an Internet Card that has been signed by a parent or guardian.

Filtering by Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all library computers are subject to filtering. The filter is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors.

Internet Access by Minors: Regulations and Restrictions

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library provides computer access to minors, including filtered access to the Internet. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Dell Rapids Carnegie Library's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Parental Responsibilities

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the library utilizes a technology protection measure that blocks access to images deemed (a) obscene; (b) pornographic; and (c) harmful to minors. The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information published by third parties that is accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for any such content access on the Internet.

Library staff are not responsible for the supervision of children in the library. Parents or adult caregivers must assume responsibility for their children's access to, and use of library resources. Parents and adult caregivers are expected to monitor and supervise children's use of the library's resources. This includes the internet and in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values. Any patron aged 0-17 must have an Internet Card that has been signed by a parent or guardian. The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library encourages parents to discuss the use of the Internet with their minor children in relation to family values and boundaries.

Internet Use – Library Rules

In order to provide equitable access to all, library patrons must sign up to use a computer. Sessions may be limited to 30 minutes during times of high demand. For a minor child to utilize the library's computers, an Internet Card must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Children aged 0-6 must be accompanied by the child's parent, guardian, or a caretaker over the age of 14. Children aged 7-17 may use the library computers unattended. Files may not be permanently saved to the library computers. All printed pages must be paid for at the end of the session.

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library expects patrons to use the Internet in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others and the library's rules of behavior. Internet computers are located in public areas and used by library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Individuals are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial

information and images. The library does not condone the use of library equipment to access gambling or material that is obscene, features pornographic content, or is harmful to minors. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and unacceptable use can result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

Users may not engage in actions that include, but are not limited to:

1. Destroying, altering, preventing, or interfering with the configuration of the library computers
2. Violating copyright or software license agreements
3. Ignoring time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits
4. Invading or violating another library patron's privacy
5. Sending, receiving, printing, or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or pornographic
6. Gambling
7. Viewing any site that may create a disruptive environment for other library patrons or staff
8. Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment
9. Misrepresenting oneself, by access code, password, or signature
10. Any illegal, criminal, or unethical purposes

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library reserves the right to disable or restrict access to any website that violates library/city rules or policies, disrupts library operations, disrupts its Internet or network connectivity, or causes damage to computer hardware or software.

Noncompliance with this policy may result in revocation of computer privileges and/or library use privileges. Unlawful activities may be referred to the appropriate legal authority to handle.

Disclaimer

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library is not responsible for any damage, direct or indirect, or for any liability that may arise from a patron's use of the library's Internet services or information obtained through the Internet. Internet users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be cautious about providing personal information over the Internet.

The Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library:

1. Cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet and users who enter personal information do so at their own risk
2. Is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction, computer session timeout, or failure to save information
3. Is not responsible for misplaced or stolen equipment
4. Is not responsible for controlling children's Internet use