COMPUTER USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Purpose

The Custer County Library (CCL) Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy provides guidance for the appropriate use of the library's computers, internet access, and other digital resources and technologies. These resources may include websites, online services, artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and other digital information sources. Because information available through these resources comes from many sources, the CCL cannot control or guarantee its accuracy, completeness, or authenticity.

Filtering by the Custer County Library

The CCL follows the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and all public computers offered for public use are subject to filtering in order to remain compliant. The filtering system is set to filter out sites which may reasonably be considered as obscene as defined by state law, SD Codified Law 22-24-27. Users age 18 or older who require access to filtered content for bona fide research or other lawful purposes may request that library staff disable the filter.

Internet Access by Minors

All users of the public computers under the age of 18 and their parent/guardian are asked to review safety requirements expected when using library public access computers. For more information about minors' access to library materials and services, please refer to the *Minors' Access to Library Materials and Services Policy.*

Parental Responsibilities

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for the information accessed by their children. The Custer County Library asks that parents or guardians monitor their minor's internet use as filtering software does not block all materials that they might feel is inappropriate for their children. Since decisions about what is appropriate are personal, the CCL encourages families to set their own values and expectations for computer use.

Internet Use: Library Rules

Public computers are located centrally in the library in public spaces used by patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Users of internet resources are expected to be respectful and

responsible. The library does not condone the use of public computers to be used to access materials considered obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors.

Users may not engage in any of the following, but are not limited to:

- Change or interfere with library computer configurations
- Violate copyright or software license agreements
- Ignore time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits
- Violate other library users' privacy
- Send, receive, print, or display any material that may be construed as obscene or pornographic
- Engage in activities that are deliberately offensive or create a hostile environment
- View any site that may create a disruptive environment for library staff or other library users
- Misrepresent oneself by access code, signature or password
- Engage in any illegal, criminal, or unethical purpose

The CCL reserves the right to end or restrict access to any website that violates library policies, disrupts library operations or network connectivity, or damages computer equipment.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

Patrons may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in accordance with this policy. Users should critically evaluate AI-generated information and verify information using additional reliable sources. Patrons should exercise caution when entering personal, confidential, or sensitive information into AI tools.

Wi-Fi Access

The CCL provides free Wi-Fi for patrons with personal devices. By using the library's wireless network, patrons agree to comply with the library's Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy. As the Wi-Fi operates on an open network, the CCL assumes no responsibility for the privacy or security of personal devices or data. Patrons are encouraged to protect their devices with updated antivirus software, firewalls, and other security measures. The library is not liable for any damages resulting from the use of its network. Users should exercise caution when sharing personal information online, as third parties may potentially access search activities.

Disclaimer:

The Custer County Library:

• cannot guarantee the privacy or security of information transmitted through the Internet or other digital services. Users who enter personal, confidential, or sensitive information do so at their own risk.

• is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction, computer session timeout, or failure to save information

• is not responsible for misplaced or stolen equipment

• is not responsible for controlling children’s Internet use

By using the Custer County Library's computers or Wi-Fi, users agree to comply with this policy. Access to public computers, the internet, and Wi-Fi is a privilege, not a right. Noncompliance or inappropriate use may result in the suspension or cancellation of these privileges.