



MINORS' ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES POLICY

Purpose

The Custer County Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and enriching environment for all patrons. This policy ensures compliance with South Dakota House Bill 1197 and Codified Laws 22-24-55 and 22-24-56 by outlining measures to protect minors from inappropriate content while supporting their access to educational and informational resources.

Selection of Materials

The Custer County Library does not purchase materials considered obscene as defined by South Dakota Codified Law § 22-24-27(11). Material selection is guided by the library's *Collection Development Policy*, which outlines criteria for ensuring materials are appropriate and enriching for the community. For more details, please refer to the full policy available on our website or at the library.

Public Access Computer Filters

The Custer County Library's computers and wireless network are equipped with filtering software, managed by the Custer County IT service provider. These filters are designed to block access to materials deemed obscene, as defined by South Dakota Codified Law 22-24-27.

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Custer County Library has implemented an internet safety policy that addresses:

- Preventing minors from accessing inappropriate content online;
- Ensuring the safety and security of minors when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication;
- Protecting against unauthorized access, such as hacking, and other unlawful online activities by minors;
- Safeguarding minors' personal information from unauthorized use or disclosure; and
- Restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Parental Responsibility

Children under the age of 18 may use the library's materials and services, including public computers, with the guidance and supervision of their parent or legal guardian. Parents or guardians are asked to review the library's safety requirements with their child before using public access computers, as they assume responsibility for their child's usage and online activities.

Library Staff Role

Library staff are available to assist patrons but are not responsible for monitoring children's use of library resources or internet access. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers must supervise their children's activities and guide their use of library materials and computers.

Safe Environment Policy

To foster a safe and positive environment:

- While in the library, children under the age of 10 should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver aged 14 or older while in the library.
- Parents or guardians are responsible to set family-specific guidelines for appropriate materials and internet use.

Staff Training

Library staff receive training on the legal requirements of HB 1197, the proper use of filtering technology, and responding to questions or concerns about filtered content.

Publication of Policy

This policy is accessible to the public and available on the library's website at www.custercountylibrary.org.