INTERNET USE & ACCESS POLICY
Falmouth Public Library

The Falmouth Public Library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the library's other resources. The Library's goal in providing Internet access is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and to give anyone who wishes to use the Internet the chance to do so.

Public Environment
- It is the responsibility of the users to be aware that they are in a public environment shared by patrons of all ages, backgrounds, and values.
- When using the public workstations or personal computers in the library, users should refrain from displaying images and messages, or playing sounds which are inappropriate for a public environment and that may negatively affect those who find them objectionable, offensive, or disturbing.
- Accessing material that meets the legal definitions of obscenity is prohibited.
- Blatantly offensive visual or text-based materials constitute potential sources of sexual harassment to other users and to library staff.

Library Liability
- The Falmouth Public Library has no control over the information available on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for the content or quality of the information retrieved.
- While the Internet offers access to many valuable resources, some information found on the internet may be inaccurate, dated, or offensive to some individuals. Users are encouraged to exercise critical judgment in evaluating the validity of information accessed via the Internet.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for any financial obligations or damages, direct or indirect, which may result from the use of the public network.
- The Library cannot protect its users from information or images which they find offensive or disturbing.

Children's Use of the Internet
- It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers, not library staff, to supervise which internet workstations are used by their children and what information is accessed by their children on ANY computer in the library.

- The Library seeks to provide equal access to information for persons of all ages. With regard to the Internet, the library does not filter electronic resources. Just as parents are encouraged to discuss appropriate use of other library materials, the library encourages parents to discuss with their children the appropriate use of electronic resources available through the Internet.

Limiting Time
- Public computers are available on a first come, first served basis.
- Patrons are limited to two one-hour sessions (up to two hours per day) on the public computers.

Illegal Activity/Copyright Laws
- Public computers may not be used for any illegal activity including but not limited to, engaging in any activity that is harassing or defamatory, making unauthorized entry into other computer systems, transmitting chain letters, transmitting spam, viewing or transmitting material that is not constitutionally protected, or transmitting unsolicited advertising or any form of junk mail.
- It is the responsibility of each user to respect the copyright laws and licensing agreements of all material contained on the Internet.

Violations
- Public computer use that violates of any portion of this policy may result in discipline including but not limited to, loss of access to public computers, and in appropriate cases, the issuance of a No Trespass Order.
- Any unlawful activity may be reported to the Falmouth Police Department.

The Falmouth Public Library is not responsible for any illegal activities or alleged infringements of users of the library networks.

Approved by Board of Trustees Mar 1995, Mar 2008, July 2016

The Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter, amend, or terminate this policy.