Sterling Public Library

CIPA-Compliant Internet Safety Policy

Introduction Recognizing that the Internet is a vital resource that allows access to ideas and information from around the world, the Sterling Public Library is pleased to provide Internet access to library users as part of its collection and resources. The Sterling Public Library also provides wireless access to patrons who have their own correctly configured devices.

The library's policy does not relieve parents and legal guardians of their ultimate responsibility to monitor and guide their own children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. Parents should take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and discuss their personal values and expectations for their children's use of this resource.

One aspect of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) that parents should stress to their children is minors cannot disclose personal information when using e-mail, visiting chat rooms, or using any other electronic communications at the library.

Purpose It is the policy of Sterling Public Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions Key terms are as defined in the CIPA.

Access to Inappropriate Material   To the extent practical, technology protection measures ("Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter the Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, child pornography, or any material deemed harmful to minors.

Adults may access resources our filtering system has blocked by requesting that a library staff member temporarily remove filtering restrictions on the computer station they are using.

Inappropriate Network Usage To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Sterling Public Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

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

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring   It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Sterling Public Library staff to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet

In accordance with this policy, the CIPA, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for disabling or otherwise modifying any protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Librarian, or designated representatives, including staff members and/or Information Technology support.

Adoption   This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sterling Public Library at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on January 12, 2017.