

## STROUD PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

Please read this document carefully before signing for yourself or your children.

### **Introduction**

The Internet, a global "network of networks," is not governed by any entity. As a network built on cooperation and entrepreneurship, it is unregulated and has no limits or checks on the kind of information that is maintained by and accessible to Internet users. Individuals should be aware that Internet sites frequently change locations or close down completely. To increase the information available to library customers and to provide them more communication opportunities, the library provides public access to the World Wide Web portion of the Internet. While the Internet provides useful ideas, information, opinions and services from around the world, it also contains content that may be offensive or incorrect. You are urged to be good information consumers. *Unwise use of the Internet, for example, supplying personal information through the Internet, may result in harm to the user. The library cannot guarantee customer privacy in their access to the Internet.*

### **Limitation of Liability**

By accepting and signing this agreement, customers accept responsibility for their use of the Internet. The customer's signature represents acknowledgement that *the information, literature, and sites accessed through the Internet are not controlled by the library and that the library cannot be responsible for the accuracy or content of materials retrieved from nor transmitted via the Internet.* The library cannot protect customers from information they may find offensive.

Provision of access does not indicate library sponsorship or endorsement, nor does it imply responsibility for how literature and information are accessed or used by customers. The library cannot be held responsible for customers' use of the Internet. The freedom to access information is a fundamental right, but use of library equipment is a privilege.

### **Children and the Internet**

Parents sign for and accept those same responsibilities and acknowledgements on behalf of their children under the age of 18. The library affirms the rights and responsibilities of parents and requires that parents (or guardians) supervise the choices of their children. A child's parent and/or legal guardian may withdraw permission for Internet Access at any time. Those parents or legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of the Internet must provide guidance to their own children.

### **Responsibilities of the User**

In an effort to ensure that the use of the Internet computer(s) is consistent, the following regulations apply:

1. The Internet computer(s) are located near the library circulation desks where they can be monitored by staff for assistance and security.
2. The user must have a "**Release of Liability for Internet Access in the Stroud Public Library**" on file.
3. A user must sign-in at the circulation desk before using the Internet computer(s).  
\* A user is defined either as an individual or as a group of no more than two persons working together.
4. A user will be limited to one hour of Internet computer use per day. (Any desired printing or downloading must be included within the hour of use.) However, after 3:00 p.m. Internet access will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. The time period will begin with the sign-in at the circulation desk and will be regulated by the librarian at the desk. *The user must promptly cease use when time has expired or when asked by the librarian to finish.*
5. Use of computer(s) and the Internet access will be on a first come, first serve basis. *However, educational use and homework assistance will be given priority.*

6. The library will not supply e-mail accounts.
7. Removable memory drives brought in by the user will be permitted only with the permission of the librarian.
8. The public and staff may use Internet computer(s) only for ethical and legal purposes. Because the library is a public facility, Internet access must be confined to viewing sites appropriate for a public setting. The following points constitute unacceptable use of library Internet access.
  - A. Use of library workstations to engage in any activity that violates local, state, or federal laws is prohibited. Illegal acts involving library computer access to the Internet will be subject to prosecution by appropriate local, state, or federal authorities.
  - B. Individuals who create a hostile environment for library staff, or other users, including individuals who retrieve materials, which harass staff or other users, may have their privileges revoked.
  - C. Harassment of people on-line. This includes, but is not limited to, libel, slander, and threatening communications.
  - D. Destruction of, or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library, to other library users, or to other people on-line. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, changes in the computer(s) settings or desktop, or installation of personal software or downloading software from the Internet.
  - E. Unauthorized printing or downloading of copyright protected material.
  - F. Use of the Internet computers for commercial business ventures.
9. **Computer privileges can be suspended if you have overdue materials or outstanding fines. Privileges can also be terminated for unaccompanied children who are disruptive, loud, disrespectful or violate the library's Code of Conduct.**
10. Violation of any part of this policy will result in the cancellation of all Stroud Public Library computer privileges for the individual. In most cases, the cancellation will be for a period of 6 weeks; however, the time period is subject to Librarian's discretion. If inappropriate use continues, computer and Internet access privileges will be denied permanently.
11. All Release forms must be signed in the Library in the presence of a librarian. (Release forms will not be sent home for signatures.)

#### **Fees**

1. Printing of Internet information is subject to the fees listed in the Computer Services Policy, which starts at fifteen cents (\$0.15) per black & white page and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per color page.  
**Everything printed from the computer must be paid for even if you choose not to keep the copy.**

Please be advised that posted signage supersedes policy.

The Library reserves the right to add, delete or make changes to any software contained on the hard-drives of all library computers.