BRUNSWICK COUNTY LIBRARY
INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Brunswick County Library offers free public Internet access in accordance with its mission to provide information services and resources to all county residents; and to ensure that residents have open and free access to information and ideas.

The Library has no control over the information available through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for the accuracy and content which some users may find offensive, inappropriate, or inaccurate. Library users access Internet sites at their own discretion; children's Internet use is at the discretion of parents/legal guardians.

In accordance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554), all library computers are equipped with filtering software. This software is set to screen out sites which may be reasonably construed to be obscene (as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code); or child pornography (as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code); or harmful to minors (as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-554) Users who are 18 years of age or older may request a library staff member to disable the filtering software for research purposes. The software will not be disabled for any reason for users 17 and under.

As required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:
   1) **unauthorized access ("hacking") and other unlawful activities;**
   2) **unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information by and regarding minors.**

As with all public library resources, restriction of a child's use of the Internet is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian, within the confines of the law.

To the extent practical, steps are taken to promote the safety and security of all users of the Library's online network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Brunswick County maintains a consistent and secure computing environment on our public PCs by discarding any changes made during a session upon restarting the computer via a commercial software solution. Users should still log out of Internet sites and delete personal data when using the Library's public Internet access.

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a safe medium. The Library assumes no responsibility for any damage, direct or indirect, for the use of the Internet, including but not limited to damage to personal or office equipment caused by virus-infected material downloaded from any Internet site. Users are reminded to be very cautious about providing personal information over the Internet or allowing their children to do so.

Adopted by the Library Board, **February 12, 2018**
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