

**Onslow County Public Library**  
**Public Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy**

Conditions and Terms for Use of Public Computers in the Library:

- Patrons who have an Onslow County Public Library card in good standing are allowed up to two hours of computer access per day. Sessions may not be consecutive if others are waiting, and time limits may vary depending on the availability of resources. Guest passes for computer use may be purchased for a fee set annually by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners.
- Public computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Patrons must agree to the On Site Public Computer Access Policy prior to public computer use.
- The adult computer lab is reserved for use by patrons age 14 and older.
- The youth computer lab is reserved for use by children under the age of 14. All children under the age of 10 must have adult supervision when using the Library's youth computer lab. This means that a responsible parent or guardian must remain in the youth services area until the computer session is complete. Children ages 10 through 13 may use the youth computers without adult supervision. Access to social media sites may be restricted in the youth computer lab.
- In accordance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Library's public access computers utilize filtering software to block visual depictions of obscene material, child pornography, or any other material deemed harmful to minors. Filtering software may be disabled for patrons over the age of 17 who wish to obtain access to sites blocked by this software that are not in direct violation of CIPA and for the purpose of bona fide research. While access is filtered, it remains the responsibility of the parent/guardian to determine what additional sites are appropriate for his/her child(ren).
- Library staff reserves the right to educate about, supervise, and monitor appropriate use of the Library's computer network.
- Patrons may not access sites inappropriate for public viewing (obscene, lewd, or sexually harassing images or text), commit unauthorized access to the network (hacking or other unlawful use), or disclose, disseminate, or otherwise use the personal information of

minors or information belonging to others than themselves. Patrons found in violation will have computer privileges suspended for two weeks on the first occurrence, six months on the second occurrence, and permanently for any further occurrences.

- The Library is not responsible for the security of personal information and data while using the Library's public access computers.
- Altering of hardware or software settings is not permitted and no files may be saved to the hard drive. Patrons may download information to personal storage devices; however, the Library is not responsible for any damage caused by viruses contracted while using Library equipment.
- Patrons are responsible for any damage they or their children may cause to the Library's public computers, peripheral equipment, cabling or furniture other than normal wear and tear.
- Free wireless access through a commercial provider is available for Library patrons to use with their own personal notebooks, laptops and mobile devices. A patron's use of this service is also governed by the policies contained herein. The Library is not responsible for any information compromised on the network or damage to personal property. Use of the Library's wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user, and the Library disclaims all liability for loss or damages resulting from that loss.
- Failure to use public workstation equipment appropriately and responsibly may result in the revocation of user privileges.

Original policy approved by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners on May 18, 2009.

Revised policy approved by the Onslow County Public Library Board of Trustees September 10th, 2013.

Approved by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners – November 18, 2013

Revised by OCPL – January 12, 2015, revisions recommended for approval by the OCPL Board of Trustees on January 13, 2015.

Approved by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners – April 8, 2015