WESSINGTON SPRINGS CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WI-FI, INTERNET, AND COMPUTER USE SAFETY POLICY

*MISSION *

LIBRARY MISSION

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library will strive to enrich the quality of life in Wessington Springs by providing library materials and services, which anticipate and respond to the informational, educational, cultural, and entertainment needs of the city residents and the surrounding areas to promote lifelong learning.

TECHNOLOGY MISSION

It is the mission of the Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library to provide free and open public access to computer technology and the Internet and to the online catalog and electronic database use in-house, while establishing measures to restrict minors from accessing obscene matter or materials as defined by (HB 1197).

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library recognizes the right of individuals to determine what is most appropriate for their needs and our computer system provides access to local, national, and international sources of information to help meet those needs. While it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, the Internet is an unregulated global information resource and not all internet sites provide accurate, complete, or current information. Some sites enable access to some material or matter that may be offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal.

The Library has no control over information/material that can be accessed through the Internet and third parties and cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or authenticity of information accessed through this resource. The Library cannot be held responsible. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining content of Internet resources.

COMPUTER FILTERING

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library computers are subject to filtering using a filtering device called SonicWall. As defined by (SDCL 22-24-56 through HB 1197), the filter is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene, as that term is defined in section1460 of title 18, United States Code, or child pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544.

INTERNET ACCESS BY MINORS: REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Children must be at least 12 years old to use the Library computers without a parent or guardian.

Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library provides computer access to minors, including filtered access to the Internet. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

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

1. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITES

Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library staff cannot be responsible for the supervision of children in the library. The Library strongly suggests parents supervise their minor children's Internet use since filtering software may not be able to filter all information that may be harmful to minors. Some parents may deem that certain unfiltered materials are also unsuitable for their minor children. The Library also encourages parents to discuss the use of the Internet with their minor children in relation to family values and boundaries. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for the information accessed by their children.

2. **<u>INTERNET USE-LIBRARY RULES</u>**

The Library expects patrons to use the Internet in a responsible manner respecting the rights of others and Library rules of behavior. The Internet computers, located in our public areas, are used by Library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Individuals are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. The Library does not condone the use of Library equipment to access material that is obscene, features pornography, or is harmful to minors. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and unacceptable use can result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

<u>ACCEPTABLE USE:</u>

- Time limits may be enforced depending on volume of use. Longer-minute sessions are at the discretion of library staff and computer availability.
- Computer workstations will be located where they can be monitored by staff for assistance and security.
- The Library does have headphones available for a patron to use.

<u>UNACCEPTABLE USE:</u>

Users may not engage in actions that include, but are not limited to:

- No outside devices may be plugged into the computers: (Phones, Thumb Drives, etc.)
- Users may not consume food or drink while using computers
- Destroying, altering, preventing, or interfering with the configuration
- of the Library computers
- Violating copyright or software license agreements
- Ignoring time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits
- Invading or violating another Library user's privacy
- Sending, receiving, printing, or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or pornographic
- Viewing any site that may create a disruptive environment for other Library users or staff
- Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment
- Misrepresenting oneself, by access code, password, or signature

- any illegal, criminal, or unethical purposes
- Violate Federal, State, or local law regulations (e.g., SDCL 43-43B-1 through 8, Unlawful uses of Computer)

Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library reserves the right to disable or restrict access to any website that violates Library/city rules or policies, disrupts Library operations, disrupts its Internet or network connectivity, or causes damage to its computer hardware. Noncompliance with this policy may result in revocation of computer privileges and/or Library use privileges. Unlawful activities can be referred to the appropriate legal authority to handle.

WI-FI Policy

The library has several devices for public use. All are connected to WI-FI provided by Venturecomm Comunications and all are connected to the Brother color laser printer.

The library provides 24/7 access to free WI-FI for its patrons, and it is accessible both inside and outside the building area. To access this WI-FI, the library director will securely enter the password on the patron's device. It is not shared with anyone. Once it connects, the patron is free to use it whenever and as needed to their discretion, but they need to be in range of the building.

The library is automated and uses Destiny Follet as its ILS. The library has a website, and it can be found as a link on the City of Wessington Spring's website or by researching our library online. The library also has a Facebook page.

DISCLAIMER/LIABILITY

As the Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library does offer wireless Internet service, which is open and unsecured, it is not responsible for any damage, direct or indirect, or for any liability that may arise from a patron's use of the library's Internet services or information obtained through the Internet. Internet users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be extremely cautious about providing personal information over the Internet.

Wessington Springs Carnegie Public Library:

- Cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet and users who enter personal information do so at their own risk
- Is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction, computer session timeout, or failure to save information
- Is not responsible for misplaced or stolen equipment
- Is not responsible for controlling children's Internet use

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It is assumed that the use of the Library's computers constitutes acceptance of this Policy.

PRINTING, COPYING, LAMINATOR, OR FAX MACHINE USEAGE

Prices for using these services have changed, they will now be:

- Twenty-five ($.25) cents for each black and white printed page or fax/Fifty ($.50) cents for each black and white double-sided page
- Fifty ($.50) cents for each colored page or fax/One dollar ($1.00) for each colored double-sided page

Currently, the Library is cash only for these services. No credit cards accepted.

ADOPTION

This WI-FI, Internet, and Computer Use Safety Policy was revised and adopted by the Wessington Springs Carnagie Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on December 11, 2025.