

## Mineral County Public Library Use Policy

### WELCOME TO BIGSKY, THE MINERAL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET SERVICE

The Internet is a world-wide telecommunications connection to information resources. It is a freely accessible and largely unregulated resource. While the vast majority of sites on the World Wide Web are neutral arenas for information exchange, a small percentage of sites may contain material which might prove offensive to some users. Some information accessed through the Internet may not meet the MCPL collection development policy guidelines. Library patrons use it at their own risk. A good information consumer evaluates the validity of information found. Use of Internet resources carries with it a responsibility to evaluate the quality of the information accessed.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the user. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian.

Parents who are concerned about their children's use of the Internet should provide guidelines for their own children and must sign a consent form which authorizes their child to use this service.

The Mineral County Public Library offers this access to the Internet in the belief that it is a critical information resource. The Library assumes no control over the content of the Internet. If a site offends you, for whatever reason, leave the site and/or do not go there.

All users are asked to respect the privacy of other users and not attempt to censor or comment upon what others are viewing.

Users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. However, absolute privacy for patrons using electronic resources in the Library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by other patrons, either by watching the user's screen, or because a user may leave the screen unattended.

By the use of the Library's system, the user agrees that the Library can assume no liability for any loss or damage to the user's data and hardware or for any other liability for damage or injury arising from the Library's provision of the service or consequence arising therefrom. Users indemnify and hold harmless the Mineral County public Library, and Mineral County<sup>6</sup> against any liability for damage or loss arising from use or misuse of the services provided by or through the library.

Misuse of the computer will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Using the computer for illegal activities. Internet computers will not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials which by local community standards would be obscene.
- b) Access to pornographic sites by a minor, or while a minor is present in the room.
- c) Minors may not access chat rooms.
- d) Hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system.
- e) Damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software.
- f) Interfering with systems operations, integrity or security.
- g) Gaining unauthorized access to another person's files.
- h) Sending harassing messages to other computer users.

- i) Altering or attempting to alter the library computer's settings.
- j) Violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.
- k) Installation, downloading, or modification of software.

Any misuse of the library computers that does any of the above is illegal and violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of Federal and State laws.

Patrons should notify library staff immediately if they experience any problems with the equipment or software.

Using the Internet is adventuresome, fun and instructive. However, remember that there is often more accurate and comprehensive material available in the form of books, periodicals and CD-Rom databases. Please ask for help and advice in locating the best sources of information.

**Access to Internet Service:**

Patrons may register at the Circulation Desk for 60 minutes of access time at a Library Internet Station. If no one else has registered for the following period, a patron may continue using the station for a 30 minute time period (please notify librarian before this continuation). Access is first-come, first-serve, with no reservations.

This public connection to the Internet is provided without charge. Printer charges are \$0.20 per black and white page, \$0.50 per color page.

To use the Internet, you must have a signed release form on file (and have no overdue or fines listed). Release forms may be acquired from the Circulation Desk or downloaded from our website.

Library staff may be available to offer assistance with searching, but cannot monitor the materials which may be accessible from the Internet. Those who search are responsible for their own searches, the information found in them, and the use of that information. Library staff cannot provide in-depth Internet or personal computer training (unless requested in advance.) We may, however, be able to offer searching suggestions and answer questions.

**AUTHORIZATION BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN FOR INTERNET ACCESS:**

I authorize my child (under age 18) to use the Internet and agree that I am responsible for his/her searches and results and that he/she will abide by all rules and regulations required by the library in the use of the Internet. I agree that the Mineral County Public Library is not responsible for material located on the Internet and I am responsible for my child's searches on the Internet.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Child's full name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_