

Oakmont Carnegie Library Policy

SECTION III: Educational Programs and Services
POLICY: Computer and Internet Use

Series 3000
Policy 3012

The objective of the Oakmont Carnegie Library is to provide services and materials to the community to facilitate the pursuit of education, information and the creative use of leisure time. In response to advances in technology and the changing information needs of our community, the Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the diverse needs of our community. It is within this context that the Oakmont Carnegie Library offers free access to the Internet.

The Internet is a global communication network and information resource. The Oakmont Carnegie Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through this resource. The Library cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or currency of Internet information. The Internet may contain information of a controversial nature. The determination of viability and usefulness of Internet information falls upon the patron, who must realize that more accurate, comprehensive and current information might be found in books, periodicals or other non-Internet resources.

The Borough of Oakmont is committed to providing an employment environment free from sexual harassment. Users may not display on screens and/or printers materials that may be unlawful or prohibited under any applicable Federal, Pennsylvania or local laws, nor may they use the computer for any other fraudulent or unlawful purpose. The Oakmont Carnegie Library expressly prohibits minors from accessing Internet and on-line sites that contain or make reference to explicit sexual materials that are "obscene" or "harmful to minors" as defined by 18PA, CS., Section 5903.

The Pennsylvania Legislature has expressly exempted public libraries from prosecution for displaying or permitting the display of obscene materials to minors. The Oakmont Carnegie Library will assume practices that regard the issue of what is "harmful to minors", including the possible use of filtering software on selected computers. The Library does not, however, act *in loco parentis* and the Library acknowledges the exclusive right and responsibility of parents or guardians to guide their children's use of all library resources.

Adults may be advised that, while accessing and viewing certain sexual materials is within the law for an adult, the risk of exposure to minors and the consequence of being "harmful to minors" are significant. When children are in proximity, or even if another adult is expressly offended, the patron viewing such materials may be asked to close a website and select a more appropriate resource.

Other illegal activities which are prohibited include but are not limited to:

- Software piracy
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
- Invading the privacy of individuals
- Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment
- Violation of copyright or licensing agreements

Any patron who disregards the policies and procedures of the Library may be restricted from using the library computers. The Library reserves the right to set time limits on the use of computers.

Adopted: December 8, 1999
Revised: