

McAllen Public Library Internet Acceptable Use Policy

McAllen Public Library provides its patrons with access to the Internet. The following policies govern the use of this Internet Access Facility.

This policy was developed by The McAllen Public Library with the concurrence and support of the Library's Advisory Board.

1. The Internet is an appropriate and useful information tool for children, young adults, and adults. Its resources contain a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view, not all of which are equally suitable for the informational and recreational needs of each age group.
2. The McAllen Public Library will develop and promote positive examples of Internet resources for each of the above groups. However the library staff cannot control access points within the Internet, which often change rapidly and unpredictably. The McAllen Public Library therefore assumes responsibility only for the information contained on its own Home Page, but not for other access points within the Internet.
3. To assist patrons the McAllen Public Library Director, Librarians and Staff will stay abreast of current Internet-use policies and concerns of state and national library associations, governmental organizations, and of other groups with respect to freedom of information regarding Internet use.
4. Patrons using McAllen Public Library facilities to access the Internet must agree to and abide by this acceptable-use policy. Patrons shall agree to hold harmless and unconditionally reimburse the McAllen Public Library for any liability or damage claim arising from any use or misuse of Internet access by the patron.
5. McAllen Public Library staff will not censor what a patron wishes to access on the Internet. As with all informational resources in the library, a library staff member may review what is being accessed and offer assistance in locating additional information. If the information being accessed is likely to create an unreasonable distraction to other patrons, the viewing area may be positioned to provide the viewer privacy.
6. Parents or guardians of minor children must assume the same responsibility for their children's use of the Internet as with their use of other library materials. The library will make available to parents and other interested individuals information related to safety and censorship issues, freedom of information, family values and other topics related to Internet

access. Much of this information is available on the Internet from organizations such as the American Library Association, the "Internet Advocate" (a web-based resource guide for librarians and educators interested in providing youth access to the Internet.), the U.S. Government, educational institutions, public libraries, and others.

7. Patrons may not use the library's facilities for any activity prohibited by federal, state law or local ordinance. In addition, patrons may not:

- 7.1 Use the library's facilities to gain unauthorized access to the library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system in any other facility.
- 7.2 Obstruct other people's work by using the system unreasonably or by deliberately crashing or disrupting any computer system.
- 7.3 Make any attempt to deliberately damage the computer hardware or software, or to deliberately and knowingly introduce a computer virus.
- 7.4 Make any attempt to alter, change or modify computer configurations.
- 7.5 Make any attempt to cause degradation of any system's performance.
- 7.6 Use any workstation to operate a business.
- 7.7 Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements by the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted or licensed materials.
- 7.8 Engage in any tortious activity, including libel or slander.

8. The McAllen Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information from the Internet through its facilities or any consequences thereof.

9. The library reserves the right to update and change this policy at any time without notice. It is the responsibility of the patron to read and accept the current version of the policy. Any violation of the acceptable use policy may result in the individual being denied access to the library's facilities.

Passed by the McAllen Public Library Board, McAllen, Texas at the regular board meeting, September 12, 1996.