

Acceptable Use Policy

Montgomery County Library & Information Network Consortium (MCLINC)

Introduction

MCLINC is an acronym for the Montgomery County Library and Information Network Consortium, an independent Pennsylvania corporation recognized by the IRS as a §501(c)(3) entity whose members are public libraries in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. MCLINC is an independent entity which is supported by member fees, and foundation, corporate, and individual grants.

MCLINC is not a public library. Among other services, MCLINC provides public access to the Internet and wireless connections to its members. It offers this access in fulfillment of its mission to provide equal, confidential, and convenient access to services and information. For more information about MCLINC, go to <https://www.mclinc.org/about-us/>. For a list of member libraries, go to <https://www.mclinc.org/member-libraries/>

Assuming Responsibility

MCLINC recognizes that the Internet is a rich but unregulated resource and that not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, legal, or philosophically acceptable to all citizens.

Individual users assume the responsibility for determining the suitability of Internet content for themselves. MCLINC affirms the right and responsibility of parents and legal guardians for deciding what library resources, including those found on the Internet, are appropriate for their own minor children. MCLINC and its member library staff do not act in loco parentis to restrict what a child may access. MCLINC discourages all customers (especially minors) from disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information while interacting with others through direct electronic communications, such as social networking web sites, chat rooms and email. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors is strictly prohibited.

Technology Protection Measures

MCLINC uses technology protection measures to filter internet content in accordance and compliance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, (CIPA), Pub. L. No. 106-554, Div. B., Title XVII, 114 Stat. 2763A-335 (2000).

If users of public computers or WiFi feel that an Internet site has been blocked erroneously by our filtering software, they should report that to a staff member. Staff may temporarily allow access to that site and will pass the site on to the MCLINC office for review. Personal devices using library WiFi are also filtered.

User Regulations

Users of computers or devices with a MCLINC internet or wireless connection may not use them for any purpose that violates federal, state or local laws. Users must respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to electronic files and other resources obtained via the Internet. Installation or

modification of software or apps on public computers by patrons is prohibited. Patrons shall not make any attempt to gain access to restricted computer files or networks or to damage or modify computer equipment. The viewing of pages that contain or display sexually explicit images or materials or obscenity as defined in 18 PaCS [5903](#) is prohibited in Pennsylvania in a public library environment. The viewing of child pornography is a criminal act and may be prosecutable as a felony. MCLINC will assist in the prosecution of criminal activity. The MCLINC Director of Operations is the custodian of MCLINC owned/leased computer hardware. Any request by law enforcement officials or others for access to such hardware must be referred to the MCLINC Director of Operations.

Right to Terminate

Failure to comply with the guidelines described in this policy, or a MCLINC member library's individual Acceptable Use Policy, may result in the loss of access to the Internet or library computers at some or all of MCLINC's member libraries depending on the severity of the offense. Violations shall be addressed by the staff of the library where they occurred and will follow the penalties and remedies described in local policy. The decision of the local authority is final.