

Section I. Purpose

The purpose of the Internet Filtering Policy is to define Nobles County Library's filtering requirements in adherence to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and to establish guidelines that allow the Library to balance its commitment to customers' diverse interests and individual rights while providing a welcoming and comfortable environment for all ages.

Section II. CIPA Requirements

The Nobles County Library receives federal funding to support the cost of public access to the Internet. Therefore, the Library is required to filter its public Internet access points. The following are CIPA requirements:

1. Internet filters must block materials deemed to be visually obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Minors are defined as any patron 17 years of age or younger.
2. Users 18 years of age or older may request Library staff disable the filtering software. Staff may not question the reason for the request, but staff may ask for proof of age if deemed necessary.
3. CIPA policy is binding to all members of the staff and public, regardless of age.

Section III. Library Guidelines

1. In accordance with CIPA, Library staff will follow procedures to disable filters if requested by an adult user. However, the sites being accessed by the adult user must be appropriate for viewing in a public space.
2. Filtering is not always accurate. Filters may falsely block material that is appropriate in a public library setting, or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material.
3. Filtering software is designed to block content that is pornographic or obscene in nature; objectionable material that is based on hate or violence is not able to be blocked.
4. Patrons may send requests to block or unblock a specific site to nobleslib@plumcreeklibrary.net. The Library Director or designated Library staff will review the request and contact the Nobles County IT Department if the request is permitted. Nobles County IT will block or unblock the requested site as soon as time permits.
5. A user who deems a blocked site useful may appeal to the Library Director who may refer the appeal to the Library Board.
6. The Nobles County Library believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents/guardians who guide and oversee their own children's development. The Nobles County Library does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law.
7. By request of the parent/guardian, internet access of their child/children may be restricted. Library staff will record the request as a note under the child's and/or adult's card in the circulation system.

LP-110 Policy History:

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