



## **Madera County Library CIPA Compliant Internet Safety Policy**

### **Introduction**

The mission of Madera County Library (MCL) is to strengthen communities by providing a place for everyone to connect, learn, and grow. To meet this purpose, MCL offers free public access computers and public wireless networks (Wi-Fi) at its main location, four branches, and via the Bookmobile. MCL also circulates laptops, Chromebooks, and hotspots to increase access to connectivity throughout the communities it serves.

It is the policy of Madera County Library and all branches and locations to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

### **CIPA and Filtering**

The Library certifies that this Policy is compliant with CIPA. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter access to inappropriate information via the Internet or other forms of electronic communications. Consistent with federal and state law, all public computers in all MCL locations offer only filtered Internet access to all Library customers of all ages. CIPA requires member libraries of the San Joaquin Valley Library System to certify that they are enforcing Internet safety policies to be eligible for grants, funding, and discounts on Internet connections and service.

MCL’s compliance with CIPA includes implementation of technology protection measures and filtering software which, to the extent practical:

1. Protect against access by staff and patrons, both minors and adults, to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors as defined by federal law.
2. Promote the safety and security of all Internet users, including minors, when using electronic mail (email), chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.
3. Guard against unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding all Internet users, including minors.
4. Prevent unauthorized online access to the computer networks of the Library and others, including “hacking;” unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information; and other unlawful activities by all Internet users, including minors.
5. Restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to them.

MCL uses a third-party vendor to filter Internet use on its public access computers and Wi-Fi. Use of public computers and Wi-Fi implies awareness that:

1. Filters are imperfect and do not always remove all potentially objectionable material found on the Internet.
2. A 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision authorizes disabling the filter for lawful use by adults. Adults 18 years and older may request that Library staff disable the filter for lawful purposes at a specific workstation for a specific session of use.



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3. No access will be granted to malicious sites rated by the filter as a security risk (for example, spyware, phishing, malware, or adware), due to potential harm to the Library's network and/or individual workstations, and/ or disruption to Library services.

### **Child Safety on the Internet**

1. The Library does not act in place of the parent or caregiver. MCL supports the right of each family to determine and guide appropriate internet use for their children and teens.
2. Responsibility for, and any restrictions of, a child's use of the Internet rests solely with his or her parents, caregivers, or legal guardians. The Library cannot monitor a minor's use of the Internet on behalf of a parent or guardian.

### **Privacy and Information**

1. Computer use information, like Library borrower information, is confidential.
2. The electronic reservation software does not track web site visits nor computer activity. All documents, Internet search histories, temporary files, cache, and certificates are purged at the end of each public computer session and/or with the daily rebooting of the PCs. The computer reservation history is deleted every day.
3. While MCL takes measures to ensure the privacy of public computer users, it cannot guarantee that every task completed is private. Users are urged to be aware that they are in a public space and be cautious in accessing personal information on public computers. Users are encouraged to educate themselves about the security of sites they access online to help avoid theft of personal information.
4. The Library does not actively monitor individual Internet usage; however, if the nature of content being viewed on a Library computer disturbs other Library users, the viewer may be asked to cease, to use a privacy screen, to use headphones, or be moved to another computer. Failure to comply with Library policies or direction from Library staff may result in suspension of computer, Internet, or Library use.
5. The Internet is a vast and unregulated information network with access to ideas, information, images and commentary beyond the Library's selection criteria and collection development practices. The Library does not monitor, nor can it control, the quality or accuracy of information found on the Internet. Users are encouraged to critically evaluate content.
6. The Library assumes no responsibility and shall have no liability for any claims or damages which result from providing computer and Internet access to the public.

### **Adoption**

This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Madera County Board of Supervisors at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on 12/6/2022.