



HURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND INTERNET COMPUTERS

PURPOSE

As part of its mission to serve as a life-long learning and resource center devoted to meeting the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of the citizens of Hurst, the Library offers a dynamic collection of resources including access to the Internet.

DISCLAIMERS

The Hurst Public Library only assumes responsibility for the information provided on its own home page. The Internet is a massive and complex global entity with a highly diverse user population and information content. Library patrons use it at their own risk. Hurst Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content.

It is not acceptable to use the Library Internet computers for illegal or commercial purposes. The Library does *not* provide public email accounts. Web based email may be used.

Staff cannot provide specific or individual tutoring or perform research for users. General guidance and searching suggestions may be available. Internet trained staff may not be available at all times.

Patrons may use external storage devices; however, the Library does not assure compatibility with library computer systems. The Library does not provide support for personal devices.

For the privilege of using the electronic resources, including Internet access, at Hurst Public Library, you hereby release and hold harmless the City of Hurst, its officers, agents, servants or employees, the Hurst Public Library, its staff, volunteers, representatives or advisors, from any and all liability or responsibility for any and all claims or expenses arising either directly or indirectly from the use of the Library, whether or not caused, in whole or in part, by alleged negligence of the City of Hurst, its officers, agents, servants, employees, volunteers, representatives or advisors.

Illegal acts involving the Library's Internet and electronic resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Texas Penal Code 43:22

- a. A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly displays or distributes an obscene photograph, drawing or similar visual representation or other obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display or distribution.

Texas Penal Code 43:24

- a. A person commits an offense if, knowing that the material is harmful:(2) he displays harmful material and is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

U.S. Copyright law (Title 17, U. S. Code)

Prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted material, except as permitted by the principle of "fair use". Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Use of computers is on a first-come first-served basis.

Access is limited to sessions of up to one hour. Number of sessions may be limited during high demand periods. Express stations may be available for periods less than one hour. The library reserves the right to assign computers and set waiting list procedures.

Users of computers requiring validation must hold a valid Hurst Public Library card and have completed an electronic use agreement. Persons not eligible for a Hurst Library card may be eligible for a temporary guest card for Internet use.

Only the holder of the valid card may use it for Internet access.

The Library reserves the right to limit the use of the computers by patrons with outstanding books, fines, or invoices. There will be a charge per page for all printouts made as set by the Library Board.

Harassing or disturbing other patrons or engaging in disruptive or abusive behavior, misuse or abuse of the Library's hardware or software, use of unauthorized software or refusal to comply with Media Center or Youth Services Media rules and procedures will result in loss of computer privileges.

There is a limit of two patrons per computer.

Wi-Fi

Due to the diversity of mobile computing equipment, library staff does not assist with connecting to or using Wi-Fi service.

The Library is not responsible for any damage or losses, including theft, which may result directly or indirectly from using the Wi-Fi service.

Wi-fi service is not secure. Patrons are responsible for the utilization of protective security software and using caution while using the Internet.

CHILDREN'S USE OF THE INTERNET

Internet access computers are available in the Youth Services Department for children under the age of 16. Filtering software is employed on Youth Services computers; however, please be aware that no software is guaranteed to block all potentially offensive sites. Users age 17 and younger require signed parental permission by a parent or legal guardian on the registration form.

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for information selected or accessed by their children. The Library does not have the right or responsibility to act in "loco parentis."

Effective March 27, 2007