

<b>Internet Access and Computer Use</b>	<b>Approved by: Board of Trustees</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>01/27/98</b>
	<b>Revised Date:</b>		<b>06/01/00</b> <b>10/28/03</b> <b>01/25/05</b> <b>07/25/06</b> <b>11/18/08</b> <b>04/27/10</b> <b>01/24/12</b> <b>03/26/13</b> <b>2/16/16</b> <b>1/24/17</b> <b>11/27/18</b>

*Patrons must have a valid, current PINES library card to use computers in the Hall County Library System. In compliance with PINES rules, a user must have fewer than ten dollars in fines and fewer than ten overdue books on the card. Patrons who are guests and do not have a PINES library card may present other appropriate identification to receive a guest pass. Patrons may only use their own library card or identification to sign onto the Internet. Minors without a library card are required to have their parent or guardian present.*

All patrons will be required to read and accept the library system's policy regarding patron responsibilities for computer use. The library complies with all State and Federal laws including those pertaining to the Internet. Patrons who do not comply with or who deliberately violate Hall County Library Internet and computer use policies will have their computer privileges revoked.

Persons under the age of 18 must have permission of a parent or legal guardian in order to have Internet privileges. Only a parent or legal guardian can provide permission for a child to have access to the Internet. Grandparents acting in loco parentis may present a letter from a parent or guardian that provides permission for a child to have access to the Internet. The parent, legal guardian or grandparent is responsible for supervising the minor's Internet activity.

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), all library computers are equipped with software that is designed to block access to sites that contain visual depictions and/or information which may reasonably be construed as being obscene, child pornography, or materials "harmful to minors" as currently defined by law. Any user who is 18 years of age or older may contact a staff member to obtain access to blocked sites for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

While internet access is filtered, it's not 100% effective and patrons may still encounter sites they find personally offensive. For this reason, patrons must assume responsibility for their own use of the Internet.

Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A time limit may be imposed on computer users.

Virus protection software is used on public access computers. Patrons should be aware that this is not 100% effective and that saving information to disks or transmitting electronic information from a library system computer does not insure that a virus has not been transmitted. Installation of file sharing programs on library computers is prohibited. Any personal software or files left on a library computer will be removed at the end of the user's session. Saving electronic documents is the responsibility of the patron. It is not the library system's responsibility if a document is lost.

Computer generated prints are assessed a fee per printed page. Patrons are obligated to pay for all pages printed.

Library staff members will offer basic assistance on public computers, but they should not be expected to provide computer training on demand. For liability reasons and to protect patron privacy, patrons' personal devices such as laptops will not be supported by library staff.

Some material available through the Internet may not be accurate or factual. The library system is not responsible for the accuracy of Internet resources and databases.

Library computer activity is not private, confidential, or free of observation. A patron's Internet activity may be viewed by library staff at any time. Library staff may access files to maintain system integrity and to investigate suspected violations of law or policy. Users of the Internet are expected to obey all local, state and federal laws and the Internet Access and Computer Use Policy of the Hall County Library System. Display of objectionable material or failure to abide by laws and policies may result in loss of Internet privileges and/or expulsion from the library and notification to law enforcement agencies.

To address the issue of unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities online, all Library users are hereby advised that use of the library's computers for hacking or any other unlawful activity is strictly prohibited.

If any portions of this policy are violated, library staff will take one or more of the following steps, as appropriate to the situation:

- Terminate the user's Internet session.
- Restrict library computer and/or library privileges for a specific amount of time, to be determined by the severity of the infraction and any history of previous infractions. Temporary or permanent denial of Internet privileges at any library facility will be effective at all library facilities.
- Call law enforcement.