**Policy Name: Internet Safety and Library Technology Use Policy**

**Approved by Library Board: May 16, 2023**

The Salem Free Public Library (SFPL) seeks to provide free and equal access to ideas and information to all members of the community regardless of the format, including Internet access. In keeping with this goal, the Library provides public access to the worldwide network of information resources known as the Internet by means of either Library owned public computers or wireless devices (both Library and patron owned). However, the use of SFPL electronic information resources is a privilege. SFPL reserves the right to refuse computer use to anyone abusing its equipment, library materials, policies, or regulations.

The Internet offers access to a wealth of information that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages.  However, the Internet is not regulated or controlled by any governing body.  The library cannot guarantee the quality, accuracy, and authority of the information found on the Internet.

The library respects a patron's right to both confidentiality and privacy. The library will not release information collected by it on the use of electronic resources by patrons except as required by law. However, patrons are cautioned that the Library's Internet connection is not secure, and any information being entered or transmitted could potentially be intercepted, viewed by another user, or lost. Users should take care when transmitting personal information (credit card numbers, passwords, or any other sensitive information). The library is not responsible for any personal information input on a Library computer or for personal items or information left near computer workstations, printers, or anywhere else on Library property.

As with all other Library materials, it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor their children's computer usage at the library.  Parents are encouraged to discuss the use of the Internet with their children and to set rules for their children including telling them never to give out identifying information, such as home address, school, telephone number, or email address, or to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parent/guardian permission. There may be materials that one may find objectionable or inappropriate.  Access to material of a controversial or mature nature, as well as material that is not accurate, complete, or current is unavoidable.  The library cannot protect computer users from information and images gathered on the Internet or for the nature of material that may be found.

All users of the Internet and Library provided technology, both hardware and software applications, are expected to use this resource in a responsible and courteous manner and to follow all Internet rules, guidelines and regulations established for its use.  Any use of the Library's Internet connection for illegal, inappropriate, including pornographic, or obscene purposes or in support of such activities is prohibited. Patrons must comply with all applicable federal, state (https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/law/computer_crimes.htm) and local laws, including copyright and licensing agreements.

**Wireless Internet Access**

The library provides wireless Internet accessible from all areas of the library and its grounds. The wireless network is unsecured, and patrons should use appropriate caution when transmitting personal information over unsecured networks.

**Legal Information**

The library does not monitor Internet use and cannot be held responsible for its content.

Filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive.

*This policy is intended to be construed consistent with Town Charter, Town Ordinances and state and federal law. Town Charter, Ordinances and state and federal law shall govern to the extent conflict exists.*