

## Prevention of Access by Minors to Obscene Materials or Child Pornography (Article 23-506.1 of the Maryland Annotated Code)

### (A) Definitions:

- (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) "Obscene" has the meaning stated in Section 11-203 of the Criminal Law Article.
- (3) "Child pornography" means a violation of Section 11-207 of the Criminal Law Article.

### (B) Policies and procedures:

On or before January 1, 2001, each county or board of trustees of a county library shall:

- (1) Adopt and implement policies and procedures to prevent minors from obtaining access through the library, by means of the Internet, the World Wide Web, Usenet, or any other interactive computer service to materials that are obscene or constitute child pornography; and
- (2) Submit the policies and procedures required under this section to the State Superintendent (of Schools) for review.

### (C) Monitoring compliance:

The State Superintendent or a designee of the State Superintendent shall regularly monitor the county libraries to determine whether each library is complying with the policies and procedures adopted for preventing a minor from obtaining Internet access to obscene materials through the library.

## Recommended Information on Internet Safety

### Books for Children and Adults

004.678 A	<i>Facebook for Dummies</i>	Carolyn Abrams
302.34 K	<i>Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age</i>	Robin M. Kowalski
J 004.678 C	<i>A Smart Girl's Guide to the Internet</i>	Sharon Cindrich
J 004.678 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Avoiding Online Predators</i>	David J. Jakubiak
J 004.678 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Doing Internet Research</i>	David J. Jakubiak
J 005.8 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Internet Privacy</i>	David J. Jakubiak
J 006.754 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Social Networking Online</i>	David J. Jakubiak
J 302.3 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Online Bullying</i>	David J. Jakubiak
J 364.168 L	<i>Taking Action Against Internet Crime</i>	Sarah Levete
J 794.8 J	<i>A Smart Kid's Guide to Playing Online Games</i>	David J. Jakubiak
DVD 362.7044 K	<i>Kids and Strangers</i>	Kids and Strangers
JDVD 613.6 S	<i>SafeKids 101</i>	SafeKids

### Websites

- **GetNetWise** [getnetwise.org](http://getnetwise.org)  
To help ensure that Internet users have safe, constructive, and educational or entertaining online experiences. The GetNetWise coalition wants Internet users to be just "one click away" from the resources they need to make informed decisions about their family's use of the Internet.
- **Internet Keep Safe Coalition** [ikeepSAFE.org](http://ikeepSAFE.org)  
To give parents, educators, and policy makers the information and tools that empower them to teach children the safe and healthy use of technology and the Internet.
- **Play It Cyber Safe** [playitcybersafe.org](http://playitcybersafe.org)  
The goal of this website is to empower children, parents and teachers to prevent cyber crime through knowledge of the law, their rights and how to avoid misuse of the Internet. Sponsored by Business Software Alliance, dedicated to promoting a safe digital world.
- **Web Wise Kids** [webwisekids.org](http://webwisekids.org)  
Empowers today's youth to make wise choices online: through state-of-the-art Internet safety computer games. Internet safety tips for kids, teens and parents creating a safer, friendlier Internet experience.

Links to non-Harford County Public Library sites have been provided because these sites may have information of interest. HCPL does not endorse the views expressed or the facts presented on these sites. Furthermore, HCPL does not endorse any commercial products that may be advertised or available on these sites.

# Internet Policy

Includes Suggested Books,  
Online Databases and Websites



HARFORD COUNTY  
Public Library  
HCPLonline.org

Access • Information • Service  
Anytime • Anywhere



Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please discuss any special needs with the librarian. Telephone service for the hearing impaired is available at TTY 410-838-3371

## INTERNET POLICY

Harford County Public Library's mission is to provide responsive services to the community through equal access to library resources that enrich the quality of life and support and encourage life-long learning. As part of this mission, the library offers Internet access to individuals of all ages. In addition, the library organizes, catalogs, and indexes a variety of information which it provides through connections to Internet services, websites, and commercial databases.

The library affirms the rights of its patrons to access constitutionally protected materials. However, unauthorized or illegal use of Harford County Public Library's computing systems and facilities may result in revocation of Internet use privileges, general library privileges, and/or constitute grounds for civil or criminal prosecution.

## Internet Access

Harford County Public Library uses a filtering service on all public access computers in each branch in order to prevent minors from obtaining access through the library to obscene materials or to child pornography by means of the Internet.

This service disables access to certain sites and chat rooms at these computers. Upon customer request, library staff may unblock a site. However, the library reserves the right to deny the request if the materials the customer seeks to access appear to violate the state law. The librarian in charge shall review the librarian's decision regarding the unblocking of a site and the librarian in charge shall notify the customer of the decision within 30 minutes of his/her request.

The following actions are prohibited:

- Sending, receiving, or displaying inappropriate materials, defined as text or graphics, which may be reasonably construed as obscene or constitute child pornography (as specified in the Maryland Annotated Code, Title II Subtitle 203, 207, 208).
- Engaging in any activity which facilitates sending, receiving, or displaying inappropriate materials to a minor.
- Making any attempt to access chat lines or rooms.

- Making changes to the set up or configuration of the software or hardware of the library's public access computers.
- Using unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.
- Loading or downloading software from the Internet or using personal software programs on the library's computers. In order to prevent computer viruses, customers may only download data to CDs and USB flash drives that are available for purchase at the library.
- Making any attempt to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; seeking unauthorized access to the library's or any other computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Installing or running any streaming video or live audio programs from the Internet as these put an undue burden on the communications network.

The library reserves the right to schedule time on Internet access computers. Users may be asked to present a current Harford County Public Library card or some other form of identification. The computers may be used for 30 minutes at a time or longer if no one is waiting.

To ensure the equitable delivery of all library services, the amount of time that reference staff has to provide Internet instruction is limited. Classes in the use of the library's online resources are offered on a regular basis.

## Recommended Resources for Use by Children, Teens and Parents

Go to the library's website [hcplonline.info](http://hcplonline.info), and click on the tab "Research a Topic" where you will find links to the following resources. They are listed below in the order that they appear in the Research a Topic selection box:

### Articles and Journals

[HCPLonline.info/research/articles](http://HCPLonline.info/research/articles)

You will find links to several databases that provide access to thousand of magazine and newspaper articles.

### Ask a Question

[HCPLonline.info/research/ask](http://HCPLonline.info/research/ask)

You will find two ways to contact our staff. You may use the *Contact a Librarian* email reference service or *Maryland AskUsNow!*

Always open: *AskUsNow!*

[HCPLonline.info/locations/askusnow](http://HCPLonline.info/locations/askusnow)

*Maryland AskUsNow!* is a 24/7 live online interactive service

for the residents and students of the state of Maryland. Questions from outside of the state that are about Maryland are also accepted. It uses the expertise of trained librarians to provide answers to questions, research guidance, and help navigating the Internet. All you have to do is log in with your question and you'll be connected with a librarian who can help you.

### A-Z Databases

[HCPLonline.info/research/databases](http://HCPLonline.info/research/databases)

HCPL provides databases that are subscription-based resources specifically selected to serve the needs of our customers. These resources are of the highest quality and often supplement or replace reference materials in print formats. Plus, they are available from home using a HCPL library card and pin to help with those last minute homework assignments!

### Homework Help

[HCPLonline.info/research/homework](http://HCPLonline.info/research/homework)

Designed for elementary, middle and high school students, this section of our website brings together websites and databases designed to assist with homework assignments. Use Tutor.com to access *Live Homework Help* on this page.

*Live Homework Help* is an online tutoring service that Harford County Public Library makes available to students at no charge. With a focus on students from 4th grade through high school, this tool has already helped many students discover this excellent addition to our existing reference service.

### Recommended Websites

[HCPLonline.info/research/websites](http://HCPLonline.info/research/websites)

As part of Harford County Public Library's website, this Internet subject directory consists of websites selected by librarians in a variety of subject areas. There is a special category called "Homework Help" with selected websites divided into subject areas to support homework assignments.

Two other resource pages on our website are:

**KIDS** [HCPLonline.info/kids](http://HCPLonline.info/kids)

"Kids' Pages" is a fun and safe place for kids on the Internet. The "Kids' Pages" include a quick link to library events just for children, access to the library's catalog for searching, booklists, homework help, and LEAP Science. It also provides a link to the *Tumblebooks Library*, a collection of online animated, talking picture books. The site includes specially selected websites and blog posts for fun and education.

**TEENS** [HCPLonline.info/teens](http://HCPLonline.info/teens)

"Teens' Pages" is a section of the library's website that provides information about library teen events, links to booklists, homework help, and information about our many Teen Advisory Groups (TAG). The "Teens' Pages" also provides a link to our *Teen Online Book Club*, and offers fun and informational blog posts and book recommendations!