

Internet and Computer Access and Safety Policy

I. Purpose

The Carroll County Public Library System (CCPLS) provides computer and wireless Internet access to support the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community. This policy establishes guidelines to ensure these resources are used responsibly, safely, and in compliance with all applicable laws, including the *Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)* <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

II. Policy

Patrons must agree to this policy before using the library's wireless network or public access computers.

III. Public Computer Access

CCPLS provides public access to computers equipped with basic productivity software and Internet connectivity. Access is available to all library users in good standing and is subject to time limits.

IV. Availability and Time Limits

- Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- When others are waiting, sessions are limited to 45 minutes per day.
- If no one is waiting, time limits may be extended.
- Computers will be shut down 10 minutes before closing to allow staff to complete closing procedures.

V. Responsibility for Equipment

- Patrons are responsible for any malicious damage to library computers or hard drives. Such damage may result in:
 - Loss of library privileges
 - Payment for repair or replacement costs

VI. Printing

- All public computers are connected to the network printer.
- Patrons are responsible for the cost of all printed materials.

VII. Staff Assistance

- Library staff can provide limited assistance with computer use as time allows.
- In-depth troubleshooting or instruction is not provided.

VIII. Content Filtering and Site Requests

- Adults (18+) may request that a blocked site be unblocked.
- Requests may be denied in order to comply with library policy.

IX. Library Rights

- CCPLS reserves the right to deny computer use privileges to any individual.
- Appeals may be directed to the CCPLS Director.

X. Prohibited Activities

- Patrons may not:
 - Use computers for illegal activities
 - Violate software licensing agreements
 - Disrupt library services or disturb other patrons
 - Connect personal mobile devices to public access computers

XI. Wireless Internet Access

- No library card is required for Wi-Fi access.
- Patrons using library Wi-Fi on personal devices must comply with CCPLS computer use policies.
- Library staff does not troubleshoot personal devices.

XII. General Internet Usage

- **Copyright Compliance**
 - Users must comply with U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code).
 - Unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials is prohibited, except as allowed under “fair use.”

- Responsibility for copyright infringement lies with the individual user.

XIII. Liability

- CCPLS assumes no liability for:
 - Loss or damage to user data
 - Damage or injury arising from privacy invasion
 - Accuracy or content of information obtained from the Internet

XIV. Parental Responsibility

- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their children's Internet use.
- All content is filtered in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

XV. Prohibited Content

- Mississippi Code § 97-5-29(3) prohibits public display of sexually oriented material, including on viewing screens.
 - Patrons may not access or display:
 - Obscene material
 - Child pornography
 - Material harmful to minors

XVI. Acknowledgment

By using CCPLS computers or the wireless network, patrons agree to abide by this policy.

Policy Revised: March 2026