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Name of Patron

## Merrill District Library Internet Access Policy

**The Merrill District Library requires that this Internet Access Policy be reviewed, and an agreement signed prior to Internet use. Parent or Guardian approval is required for users under the age of 18. A responsible adult, eighteen years or older, must accompany children below the fourth grade. The right to Internet access at the Library may be revoked due to violation of the following rules.**

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### **Purpose of Internet Access**

Merrill District Library is providing public access to the Internet as an information and educational resource to the community.

### **Definition and Content**

The Internet is an international electronic network of computers linked together by telecommunications. Access to the World Wide Web, a collection of the text and graphics of documents from around the world, is available at the Internet station.

The Internet may contain material which is not accurate or current, or which some may regard as controversial. The library has no control over materials found on the net and cannot censor nor protect its users from offensive material. Because the library is a public area, we ask you to respect other library patrons around you and consider this before accessing potentially controversial material.

### **Note to Parents:**

Effective October 1, 2003, Public Act 212(PA 212) Michigan requires restricted access of all Internet public computers used by children under 18 years of age. To comply with this law, the Library provides Internet access computers; one filtered and one unfiltered.

- Users below the fourth grade must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian/responsible adult, and use the filtered computer
- Users in the fourth grade and up to the age of 18 must use the filtered computer.

**Please note:** The filter will prevent access to many sites considered inappropriate for children, but it is technically impossible to prevent access to all objectionable resources. The parent/legal guardian is responsible for the content of the information accessed by their child.

### **Role of Library Staff**

Library staff cannot provide in-depth training on the Internet or other programs, but may be available to offer suggestions and answer questions.

The library staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor the public's use on the Internet. Yet the library reserves the right to ask an individual to discontinue a display of information and images which cause a disruption or does not meet the information and educational purpose of the Internet.

**User Responsibilities**

1. Sign the Internet Access Policy. Users under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the policy. In addition, users under the fourth grade must have a parent/guardian/responsible adult with them while they use the Internet.
2. Sign in at the circulation desk before using a computer and sign out upon completion.
3. Time limit of 30 minutes.
4. Printing will cost 15¢ per page.
5. Use the Internet for educational and information purposes. E-mail may be used, but no chat rooms are allowed.
6. Avoid accessing fee-based services, as the library will not be responsible for paying these costs.
7. Refrain from illegal use of the Internet including copyright violations.
8. Refrain from sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics that may be reasonably construed as sexually explicit and/or pornographic.
9. Avoid damaging or altering the setup of the computer equipment.

**Agreement**

I have read and agree to abide by the provisions of the Merrill District Library Internet Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Legal Guardian Approval  
(For those under 18 years of age)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age of Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date