



# Plum Borough Community Library

**Policy Title:** Internet and Computer Use Policy

**Date Issued:** *February 18, 2025*

**PURPOSE:** The Internet is an unregulated global communication network and information resource with a highly diverse user population and information content. The library does not assume responsibility for the accuracy, quality, or timeliness of Internet information. As with all library materials, the determination of viability and usefulness of internet information rests with the individual user.

**Public Computer Use:** Users do not need a library card to access public library computers. Users are required to type in their first name to access the computers. Computers will time out after inactivity and will restart for security purposes. After each session, computers will reboot and not save any information on the computer. Computers will shut down 10 minutes prior to the library closing.

## **User Responsibilities**

The library provides Internet access to library cardholders and guests of the library and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. Plum Borough Community Library expressly prohibits any use of library computers or its wireless services to conduct illegal activities or to access material that is obscene, contains or makes reference to explicit sexual materials as defined by PA law (18 Pa Cons. Stat. Sec. 5903), contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors. Patrons should not access sites that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting. Patrons are responsible for complying with copyright laws and licensing agreements, for paying any fee-based service charges, and for securing wireless devices from physical or digital theft.

## **Wireless network access**

Users utilizing the library's Wi-Fi must comply with all other policies of the Plum Borough Community Library, including but not limited to the Internet Policy. The wireless internet is also filtered. The library does not require users to register a password to access the Wi-Fi. Patrons need accept terms of use when signing in. Users use the library's wireless Internet access at their own risk. Users using the library's network are solely responsible for protecting their personal information and assume all risks of an invasion of privacy or disclosure of personal information that may occur when using the library's Wi-Fi.

## **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or computers for Internet access. [Supreme Court decision: *United States v. American Library Association, Inc.*, No. 02-361 (June 23, 2003)] Plum Borough Community Library complies with the requirements of CIPA.



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All computers in the Plum Borough Community Library are filtered. Please be aware that filters are unreliable, at times blocking sites of legitimate informational or educational value, or allowing access to sites that are illegal, obscene, or sexually explicit within the meaning of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec 5903.

Plum Borough Community Library uses filtering software that blocks or filters Internet access to some Internet sites that may not be consistent with the policy of Plum Borough Community Library.

A parent or legal guardian, not the library or its staff, is responsible for monitoring a child's use of the Internet and for the information selected and/or accessed by that child. The library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use. All children under the age of 11 need to be supervised by an adult in accordance with the library's *Unattended Child Policy*. See that policy for more details.

Plum Borough Community Library computers cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including any activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws, including activities in violation of 18 PA Cons Stat. Sec. 5903, which prohibits certain acts of public indecency.

Any adult (18 years of age or older) may request the filter or technology protection measure to be disabled without significant delay by a Plum Borough Library Staff member authorized by the Library Director, consistent with the privacy policy of Plum Borough Community Library.

An authorized Plum Borough Library staff member may override the filter or technology protection measure for a minor (age 17 years or younger) in the event that the filter wrongly blocks or filters Internet access to a site with legitimate international value.

Plum Borough Community Library cannot be responsible for any patron's unauthorized use of a computer with a disabled filter.

## **Disclaimers**

Plum Borough Community Library has no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential loss or damages related to the use of information or services accessed through the library's computer equipment or Wi-Fi service

The library, having installed and enforced the operation of filtering software in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, has no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering technology, or for its possible circumvention by users. Only parents and guardians can guide their children's use of the library and its resources.

## **Complaint Procedures**

Any patron who wishes to file a written complaint concerning the filtering software on the library computers may do so within thirty days of an incident to the Library Director and/or the Library Board of Trustees.