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Internet and Computer Use Policy

Approved by Board of Trustees, revised April 2017

The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library (FBHCL) provides access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of this community. The Board of Trustees has established the Internet and Computer Use Policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource. By using the Library's computers and/or Internet service, patrons agree to abide by the Internet and Computer Use Policy. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct.

Offering computer access and Internet service to the public is labor intensive and costly. Library staff members will offer basic computer assistance, but they should not be expected to provide training on demand.

Each patron must present his/her current, unrestricted PINES Library card to access the Internet and/or use Library computers. Those visiting the area may be allowed to use the Internet service and/or computers after presenting a picture identification that includes a current address and reading the library's policy regarding Internet and computer use.

Patrons under the age of 18 must have written parental consent witnessed by a Library staff member, in order to have Internet privileges. A parent or legal guardian of a minor shall be responsible for supervising the minor's Internet activity. Verification of age will be required as part of the Internet registration process.

Library computer and/or Internet activity is not private, confidential, nor free from observation. All users will identify themselves appropriately when using online services. Patrons are expected to comply with all copyright and licensing agreements and Internet and computer protection laws. Some material available through the Internet may not be accurate or factual. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy of Internet resources and databases.

Library computers and Internet service are primarily for educational and informational purposes and are not intended to support individual and corporate business enterprises. Priority of use of computer work stations and/or Internet access points will be given to educational and research applications.

Computers and/or Internet service are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons may use the computer and/or Internet service for one (1) hour each day; they may have additional time if no one is waiting. The Library reserves the right to adjust session time according to computer and Internet availability.

Computer use is limited to one person per computer unless a parent or guardian wishes to accompany a child or two patrons are working on a shared homework assignment.

Some materials available through the Internet may be offensive to certain individuals and may not be appropriate for children. Filtering software is used on the Library's Internet service; filtering software is not

100% effective. It is illegal for an individual to deliberately receive, transmit, or display pornographic material; individuals doing so will lose their privilege to use the Library's Internet and computer service.

Virus protection software is used and kept current on public access computers. Patrons should be aware that this is not 100% effective and that saving information to disks or transmitting electronic information from a library computer does not insure that a virus has not been transmitted. The Library is not responsible for patrons' personal disks, USB drives, devices, and other computer/technology equipment. These items are solely the responsibility of the user.

Downloading software to the library's computers is prohibited in order to protect library equipment. Patrons may not use non-FBHCL software on the library's computers.

Computer generated prints are assessed a fee of \$.25 per printed page. Patrons are obligated to pay for all pages printed. Failing to pay can result in loss of computer and/or Internet privileges.