

Benedek Memorial Library

Internet Safety Policy

The Benedek Memorial Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that serve the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of the community. The Library upholds and affirms the rights of each individual to access constitutionally protected material. This policy is guided by the laws and principals of intellectual freedom, privacy, confidentiality and the Library Bill of Rights.

Access to the Internet (provided to the Benedek Memorial Library through the Southern Tier Library System) enables the Benedek Memorial Library to provide electronic information beyond the confines of its collection. It allows global access to ideas, information and commentary. Utilization of the Internet as an information resource allows the Library to considerably enhance existing print and electronic resources.

Currently, the Internet is an unregulated medium. While it offers access to a wealth of excellent material, it also offers access to both constitutionally protected and other materials that may be offensive or disturbing to some people. Since the Internet is a constantly changing environment, it must be recognized that the Library cannot control the information accessed through the Internet. Therefore, the Library assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, authenticity or suitability of content. Nor does provision of access to the Internet imply endorsement of the content or its reliability.

The Benedek Memorial Library both affirms the right of each individual to access constitutionally protected material and acknowledges that it is the right and responsibility of the parents/legal guardians who may be concerned about their children's use of electronic resources to provide guidance in the use of the Internet. However, in order to comply with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) and N-CIPA (Neighborhood – Children's Internet Protection Act), the Benedek Memorial Library utilizes software provided by the Southern Tier Library System to filter the Internet as stated.

It is the policy of the Benedek Memorial Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions [Key terms are as defined in the Children’s Internet Protection Act.]
See below.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet (or other forms of electronic communications) access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Benedek Memorial Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of the Benedek Memorial Library staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children’s Internet protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the library staff.

Adoption : The Board of Trustees of the Benedek Memorial Library (previously legally identified as the Savona Free Library) adopted this Internet Safety Policy at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on June 16, 2008.

CIPA definitions of terms:

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE. The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. Harmful to minors.

HARMFUL TO MINORS. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.