VALENTINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Policy

In order to receive discounts for Internet access and internal connections services under the universal service support system, school and library authorities must certify that they are enforcing a policy of Internet safety that includes measures to block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions. These include visual depictions that are (1) obscene, or (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors.

The Valentine Public Library provides resources in a wide variety of formats to meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the diverse community it serves. The Internet is an integral part of the resources available to assist library users in finding the information they need.
The Valentine Public Library complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act by addressing the five key requirements:

- Prohibits access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet
- Protects the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- Prohibits unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
- Incorporates measures designed to restrict minors' access to harmful materials

The Valentine Public currently restricts access by minors to inappropriate matter with the use of filtering software. All computers proxy to a router running this software and it cannot be bypassed. Their safety and security when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications and unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities is addressed by insuring that minors are always supervised at a computer. Children visiting the library are only allowed to use online computers if they have a permission slip signed by their parent or guardian. Computers in this designated children's area do not have online access and are for age appropriate gaming and learning. The library's goal is to provide children Internet access in a safe environment. Children will be directed to appropriate information for their informational needs.

Adults, defined by the law as over the age of 18, may choose to use unfiltered computers for Internet access. The Valentine Public Library uses a computer control system. In order to use any library computer you must first enter a pass code which is a patron card number or a temporary pass code given at the front desk. The information provided is validated against our patron database. If you are an adult and your research requires that you be unfiltered, you will be assigned to a computer that has the option to bypass the filtering proxy.

Use of the Internet is also governed by the Computer Policy. The user may not use the Internet for any illegal activity or place any material on the Internet related to any illegal activity.

The Valentine Public Library is committed to user confidentiality. The confidentiality of library records is a core part of library ethics and the Valentine Public Library follows the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association. Confidentiality extends to information sought or received, and materials consulted, borrowed, and include database search records, reference interviews, circulation records, interlibrary loan transactions, registration records, and all other personally identifiable uses of library materials, facilities, or services. The Valentine Public Library does not sell, lease, or otherwise distribute or disclose patron name, email address, postal address, telephone number, or other personal information to outside parties.

The Internet is a continually evolving resource and the information and links on the Internet change rapidly and unpredictably. The library cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of information on the Internet. Users should carefully evaluate the information they find when using this resource. The Valentine Public Library does not encrypt data sent or received through our Internet services.

Companion Document to Computer Use Policy, Adopted by the Board of Trustees, Dec. 22, 2014. Reviewed and approved 10/23/2018.