

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180

Internet Use Policy

Stoneham Public Library's Mission Statement reads: *"A free public library is essential to the preservation and growth of our democratic institutions. The mission of the Stoneham Public Library is to ensure that all people of Stoneham have free and open access to recorded information and ideas. The Stoneham Public Library promotes these ideals by focusing on its independent learning role. The Library is committed to cost-effective information delivery using traditional materials and state-of-the-art technology. In addition, our staff is dedicated to efficient public service in a welcoming atmosphere."*

The Stoneham Public Library does not control or monitor Internet use – patrons are solely responsible for the content of the sites accessed. Any use that is illegal or involves obscene or threatening materials is, of course, strictly prohibited and will result in the loss of Internet privileges at the Stoneham Public Library. Further, patrons are expected at all times, to be in compliance with federal and state law as well as any applicable copyright restrictions. Patrons must utilize the electronic resources available at the Stoneham Public Library responsibly, always with the awareness that the Library is a public setting for individuals to fulfill their informational needs.

Patrons will be asked to use their library card number in order to access public computers and abide by the time restrictions set forth through the reservation software installed on the Library's computers. Use of another patron's card for the express purpose of overextending one's time on the computers will result in the session being ended by Library staff as will any violations of the Library's behavior policy.

The computers in the Children's Department of the Stoneham Public Library are reserved for children under the age of thirteen. Adult use of these computers is restricted to those individuals who are assisting a child with the computer, conducting a search of children's materials, or are waiting for a child who is participating in a supervised library program. All other adults are asked to use computers in the Adult Library. Children in need of a computer will have priority over any adult in the Children's Department.

Free wireless Internet access is provided in the Library. Patrons wishing to take advantage of this service will need a WiFi-compliant 802.11a, b or g wireless Ethernet device installed in their laptop or a laptop with built in WiFi capability. The Library cautions patrons that it cannot assure user privacy on public computers and individuals should be aware of that when using the Internet.

Instant messaging is not allowed on any computers in the Library. There are no other limits to available electronic information. Therefore, children under the age of eight must be accompanied by an adult when using the computers. Parents and guardians must assume full responsibility for the information selected and accessed by their children.

While Library staff members are here to assist with Internet use, we remind patrons that some Internet functions may require technical support beyond our capabilities.

Patrons are required to comply with both the Internet Use Policy of the Stoneham Public Library and the North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE), keeping in mind that additional restrictions may well apply. Violation of either policy will result in the following:

Warning 1:

The material you are viewing is in violation of our Adult Internet Use Policy. Continued violation will result in suspension of your internet privileges for a week.

Warning 2:

This is your second warning. The material you are viewing is in violation of our Adult Internet Use Policy. Your internet privileges are suspended for a week.

Warning 3:

This is your final warning. The material you are viewing is in violation of our Adult Internet Use Policy. Your internet privileges are suspended **indefinitely**.

The Library's computers have printers available for public use. Patrons should be aware that printed pages cost 10¢ for black and white copies. This helps defray the cost of ink cartridges. This charge also applies to a patron using his or her own paper.

Approved October 7, 2013.