



Internet Filtering Policy for LBPD

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled utilizes third-party filtering software on all Library workstations and devices using the Library's Wi-Fi network. The Library receives federal funding in support of public Internet access. Federal law requires libraries receiving such funding to install filters (software which blocks access to Internet material containing visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography or are harmful to minors) on its Internet computers. Maryland law 23-506.1 requires that a library adopt and implement policies and procedures to prevent minors from access to obscene materials or child pornography.

The law requires that a filter protect against access to material that is:

- Obscene
- Child Pornography
- Harmful to Minors

Internet sites which pose a threat to the library's networks or computers are also blocked, including:

- Malware
- Malicious Software and Actions
- Phishing
- Spyware

The policy of the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled is to provide access to materials available through the Internet while providing reasonable measures to protect minors from exposure to material that may be deemed "obscene" and to protect children from online forums where personal information may be transmitted. Further, the policy of the library is to filter any software that may compromise the security of the network. The Library uses third party filtering software and firewall protections to accomplish these goals. This policy and the filtering tools are reviewed annually.

There may be circumstances where a customer is unable to access legitimate resources. At the discretion of the person in charge, filters may be limited (for minors) or disabled (for adults with proper identification). Any concerns or questions about this policy should be directed to the Library Director.