



**TERRYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 238 MAIN STREET, TERRYVILLE, CT 06786 860-582-3121**

### **Terryville Public Library Social Networking Policy**

Policy preface: The Terryville Public Library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to discuss Internet safety with their children and to monitor/supervise their online activity. As with our policies within the library, the library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

In keeping with the Terryville Public Library's mission the library may participate in the use of various "social software" applications. These virtual tools allow the community and the library staff to share information and library resources without mandating a visit to the physical library. The Terryville Public Library regards online social software applications in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission to meet the community needs for educational, informational, cultural and recreational pursuits.

Social software is broadly defined as any web application, site or account created and maintained by the library which allows users to share or obtain information. Many social networking sites allow users to become a "friend", "fan" or otherwise associate their own "profiles" or virtual presences with the library's profile.

The library does not collect, maintain or otherwise use the personal information stored on any third party site in any way other than to communicate with users on that site, unless granted permission by users for library contact outside the site. The purpose for contact outside the site may include program promotion, volunteer opportunities, reference help, or other similar activities. Users may remove themselves at any time from the library's "friends" or "fan" lists, or request that the library remove them. Users should be aware that third party websites have their own privacy policies and should proceed accordingly.

Use of the library's websites and links are solely at your own risk. The library staff does evaluate the extended resources, but cannot assume liability for the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or usefulness of any external information to which it links. The links do not constitute an

endorsement, authorization, sponsorship or affiliation by the library to the owners or any products or services mentioned on the site. Any comments posted do not necessarily reflect the policies of the library.

Comments, posts, and messages are welcome on Terryville Public Library social networking sites. Users are strongly encouraged to check facts, cite sources and present balanced views. While the library recognizes and respects differences in opinion, all such interactions will be monitored and reviewed for content and relevancy (before publishing when possible). Having stated that, the library is not obligated to take any actions.

All postings which contain any of the following are subject for removal and the poster barred from posting any subsequent messages to library social networking sites:

- Obscene or racist content
- Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Potentially libelous statements
- Plagiarized or copy-written material
- Private, personal information published without consent
- Comments totally unrelated to the content of the forum
- Hyperlinks to material that is not directly related to the discussion
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Organized political activity
- Photos or other images that fall in any of the above categories

In addition, the Terryville Public Library reserves the right to edit or modify any postings or comments for space or content, while retaining the intent of the original post. The library shall also be granted the right to reproduce comments, posts, and messages in other public venues such as in a newspaper or on the library website. Identifying information, other than first name, will be removed unless prior approval is granted by the user.

The Terryville Public Library assumes no liability regarding any event or interaction that takes place by any participant in any library-sponsored social networking service, and does not endorse or review content outside the "pages" created by Terryville Public Library staff. Participation in Terryville Public Library social networking services implies agreement with all library policies, including its Social Networking Policy, Internet Computer Use Policy, and the Terms of Service of each individual third-party service. If a user does not agree to these terms, they are not to use the services provided.

The role and utility of social networking sites will be evaluated periodically by library staff, and may be terminated at any time without notice to subscribers.

Adapted from the Whitman Public Library (MA), Keene Public Library (NH), and Niagara Falls Public (NY) Libraries

Original content by the Terryville Public Library (CT)

Approved by the Terryville Public Library Board of Directors May 19, 2010