

## **SOCIAL SOFTWARE POLICY**

The Barrington Public Library uses various online social software services to provide public forums for sharing ideas, opinions, and information about library-related subjects and issues. These forums are intended to create welcoming and inviting online spaces where library users can interact with library staff and other library users while finding useful and entertaining information related to the library's activities and resources. The Barrington Public Library regards online social software in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving the informational, educational, and leisure needs of Town of Barrington.

### **Definition of online social software**

Online social software is defined as any website or application which allows users to share information. Social software can include, but is not limited to, blogging, instant messaging, social networking sites, wikis, posts to community reviews, and patron ratings of library materials via the library's website.

### **Parental Controls and Privacy**

As with more traditional resources and the Internet, the Library does not act in place of, or in the absence of, a parent/guardian and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent/guardian may place on a minor's use of social software applications.

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 library-related information with users on that site, unless granted permission by users for Library contact outside of that specific site. Users may remove themselves at any time from the Library's friends, fans, or follower's 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.

Users are encouraged to protect their privacy by not posting personally identifying information, such as last name, school, age, phone number, or address.

### **Commenting**

Comments, posts, and messages are welcome on the Barrington Public Library social networking sites. While the Library recognizes and respects differences in opinion, all such interactions will be regularly monitored for content and relevancy (before publishing when possible). All posts which contain any of the following will be removed:

- Obscene or racist content
- Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Potentially libelous statements
- Plagiarized or copy-tight protected
- Private personal information published without consent of individual
- Comments unrelated to the library, its mission, or its activities
- Hyperlinks to materials that are not directly related to the discussion topic
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Organized political activity
- Photos or other images unrelated to the library, its mission, or its activities

### **Liability and Participation**

The Barrington 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 content

outside of the pages maintained by the Library and the posts created by Barrington Public Library staff in the course of their work duties. The library reserves the right to use any posts on library social networking sites for use in PR materials. The library will strip any personal information from the comment/post such as last name, school, phone, or e-mail.

### **Ongoing Use Evaluation**

The role and utility of social networking services in relation to the goals and purposes of the Library will be evaluated periodically by the Library staff and Board of Trustees, and may be terminated at any time without notice to subscribers.

By posting a comment you agree to indemnify the Barrington Public Library and its officers and employees from and against all liabilities, judgments, damages, and costs (including attorney's fees) incurred by any of them which arise out of or are related to the content that you post. Forums and messaging may not be used for commercial purposes or for organized political activity.

The Barrington Public Library reserves the right to monitor content before it is posted on all their social sites, and to modify or remove any messages or postings that it deems, in its sole discretion, to be abusive, defamatory, in violation of the copyright, trademark right, or other intellectual property right of any third party, or otherwise inappropriate for the Service. The Barrington Public Library also reserves the right to edit or modify any submissions in response to requests for feedback or other commentary. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Barrington Public Library is not obligated to take any such actions, and will not be responsible or liable for content posted by any subscriber in any forum, message board, or other area within the social networking service.

If you do not agree to these terms, you should not utilize the service as violation of the terms can lead to legal liability.

Approved by the Barrington Public Library Board of Trustees on 10/27/2010