



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Title: Internet Filtering Policy

Policy Number: 06.02

Revised Date: 07/2025

July 1, 2007, Virginia statute requires public libraries receiving state funds to filter public internet access. Richmond Public Library receives state funding each year through State Aid to Public Libraries.

- This statute requires that libraries install filters to block internet access to “child pornography...obscenity...and, with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to juveniles...”
- Richmond Public Library employs filtering software through the City of Richmond’s Department of Information Technology (DIT) protocols.
- Patrons may request that the filter be disabled. Library users under the age of 18 must fill out a “Request to Disable Internet Filtering Software” form; library users 18 and over may verbally request the filter be disabled and should not fill out a form. Staff will disable the filter upon request for any patron.
- The City’s DIT works with the library to implement the filtering software and make adjustments to filtering that “over blocks” or “under blocks”.
- The Library Board of Trustees has adopted an internet use policy, which has been posted on the Richmond Public Library website, www.RVALibrary.org.
- The Acceptable Internet Use Policy should be enforced in conjunction with the Internet Filtering Policy.
- All public libraries in Virginia are filter internet access to be in compliance with state and federal mandates for receiving funding support for Internet access.

Approved: September 2007

Reviewed: February 2012

Revised: July 23, 2025