

## **Middle Country Public Library Social Media Policy**

Social media is defined as any web-based tool such as a blog, micro-blog, online forum, content-sharing website, or other digital channel established for online interaction and connection. The Library maintains a presence on several social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. These sites allow users to interact with the Library to communicate and share opinions.

Comments and posts are welcomed on the Library's social media sites. Comments should be related to posted topics within MCPL's social media page or post. Postings containing any of the following may be removed:

- Obscene comments or hate speech
- Personal attacks, harassment or threatening language
- Potentially libelous statements
- Plagiarized or copyrighted material
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Political or religious messages
- Material that is deemed off-topic or inappropriate
- Private or personal information
- Falsification of identity
- Hyperlinks to material not directly related to the discussion
- Any illegal activity
- Solicitations for donations, or membership requiring a fee
- Photos or other images that may fall within any of the above categories
- Content that promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, political ideology, veteran status, marital status or sensory, physical or mental disability or any other recognized characterization within federal or state law
- Information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems
- Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party

The Library reserves the right to edit or remove any comment or posting for space or content. After a warning of inappropriate comment, the Library reserves the right to permanently block from the site persons(s) who violate these guidelines.

The Library does not collect, maintain, or otherwise use the personal information stored on any third-party site in any manner other than to communicate with users on the site. Users should be aware that third party websites may possess their own privacy policies.

MCPL social media accounts are not open to comments promoting or opposing any person campaigning for election to a political office, or promotion or advertisement of a business or commercial transaction.

Patrons encountering harassment via a social media site should file a complaint using the reporting mechanisms established by the site.

In consideration of the access to posting of comments, the user agrees to indemnify the Middle Country Public Library, its Board of Trustees, employees and representatives from and against all liabilities, damages and costs incurred which arise out of or are related to the posted content.