

# **BAY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

The Bay County Library System uses current forms of social media to provide public forums for sharing ideas, opinions, and information about library-related subjects and issues. These forums are intended to create welcoming and inclusive 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 library does not collect, maintain, or otherwise use personal information. Users may remove themselves at any time from the library's lists, or request that the library remove them. Users should be aware that third party websites have their own privacy policies with which they may want to become familiar.

Responsibility for social media engaged with by youth rests with the youth's parents or guardians. The library does not stand in loco parentis. Each social media site additionally has its own minimum age requirements.

Comments, posts, and messages are welcome on Bay County Library System social media. While the library recognizes and respects differences in opinion, all such interactions will be monitored regularly for content and relevancy (before publishing when possible). All postings which contain any of the following will be removed and the poster barred from posting any subsequent messages or comments to library social media:

- Obscene or racist content
- Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Potentially libelous or slanderous statements
- Material that condones illegal actions or provides instructions for committing illegal acts
- Material in violation of copyright law
- Private, personal information published without consent
- Comments unrelated to the content of the forum
- Hyperlinks to material not directly related to the discussion
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Photos or other images that fall in any of the above categories

The Bay County Library System reserves the right to edit or modify any postings or comments for space or content, while retaining the intent of the original post. Identifying information, other than first name, will be removed unless prior approval is granted by the user.

The Bay County Library System assumes no liability regarding any event or interaction that takes place by any participant in any library-sponsored social media, and does not endorse or review content outside the "pages" created by library staff. Participation in Bay County Library System social media implies agreement with all library policies. If a user does not agree to these terms, they are not to use the services provided.

The library asks that individual user complaints be sent directly to the Library Director so they can be addressed efficiently. Social media is not the mechanism used by the library to document or address library user problems and concerns, or influence library policy, procedures, or programs.

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.

Board approved 7-26-23