

RFL Social Media Policy

The Rogers Free Library (the Library) welcomes interaction with members of the community on various social networking websites, platforms, and media. Social media is broadly defined as any web application, site or account created and maintained by the library which allows users to share or obtain information. The intended audience for the Library's social media accounts is the general public, including residents of communities that are members of the Ocean State Libraries Consortium, visitors to the library, and other interested parties.

The Library invites comments, posts and messages, while recognizing and respecting differences of opinion and upholding the standards of ethics and conduct delineated in the Library's Code of Conduct policy. Comments expressed on the Library's social media accounts do not reflect the views or positions of the Library, its officers, or its employees. Social media users should exercise their own judgement about the quality and accuracy of any information presented through social media. Rogers Free Library will not be held responsible or liable for the content posted to any Library-affiliated websites. The Library further reserves the right to reproduce comments, posts and messages in other public venues, without further permission from subscribers.

The Library seeks to provide social media users with environments free from discrimination and obscenities. However, the Library's commitment to the First Amendment rights of the social media users means that it may, from time to time, allow content to be posted that expresses views that are patently offensive to members of the public. These views do not reflect the views of the Library. Nonetheless, the Library will only remove any comment, post or message (or block a user conveying such a message) when, based upon the advice of the Library's legal counsel, the comment, post, or message falls into one of the narrow categories of speech that courts have held fall outside of the scope of First Amendment protection, or the comment, post, or message may, consistent with applicable legal precedent, otherwise be removed in a manner that is consistent with the First Amendment.

Email inquiries regarding content posted to the Library's social media should be sent to: director@rogersfreelibrary.org.

Mailed inquiries should be addressed to:

Rogers Free Library, Library Director, 525 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809

Upon receipt, the Library Director will respond to the inquiry request within ten business days. If the person making the inquiry is dissatisfied with the response, an appeal may be made to the Library Board of Trustees.

The Library will not collect, sell, or knowingly transfer to any third parties any personally identifiable information related to social media engagement with the library. Users must understand that social media is permanent, retrievable, and public. Messages can potentially be read by anyone once posted, regardless of status on friends, follower, or subscriber lists. The Library recommends that users do not post their personal information or contact information on social media sites.



Interaction (posting, commenting, or messaging) with any Library-affiliated page, constitutes the indemnification of Rogers Free Library, its employees, its affiliates and the Town of Bristol from and against any and all liabilities, judgments, damages and costs incurred by any of them which arise out of or are related to content you post. The Library assumes no liability regarding any event or interaction that takes place by any participant on any Library-affiliated social networking website.

Approved by the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees 01/14/2020

Updated by the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees 06/12/2025

Updated by the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees 09/18/2025

