



## **Acceptable Use Policy**

This section of your user agreement details some of the basic rules of participation in the Internet community and constitutes part of our terms of Service. By your use of the Service, you agree to be bound by the terms of this Acceptable Use Policy. Vernon Communications Cooperative reserves the sole and unconditional right to refuse, suspend or terminate Service to anyone who violates these rules as determined by Vernon Communications Cooperative, in its sole discretion.

**1. Illegal Use:** You agree not to use the Service for, or in the pursuit of, illegal purposes. Vernon Communications Cooperative cooperates with local and federal authorities in investigations into illegal Internet use, and will take both criminal and civil legal action against users who are determined to be using the Service in an unlawful way. You agree not to directly or indirectly allow a third party to use the Service in an illegal or unsuitable manner.

**2. Harassment:** You agree not to use the Service for harassment, threats, verbal use, and persistent unwanted contact of any kind. Harassment covers any use of the Service to directly or indirectly contact any other user (including users of another Internet service) in an unwanted fashion. Harassment can be active, in forms such as unwanted email, chat messages, or verbal declarations on a public forum, or can be passive in the form of defamatory information posted on web sites.

**3. Disruption/Hacking:** You agree not to make any attempt to disrupt or attack the systems or Services provided by Vernon Communications Cooperative or any third party. This includes any deliberate attempt to interfere with another user's ability to take advantage of services offered online. This also includes any effort to secure access to hardware and services without the consent of the provider of those services. Hackers will be subject to the full extent of criminal law, and Vernon Communications Cooperative reserves the right to seek damages or legal recourse against users who abuse, attack, or hack their systems, servers, or Services.

**4. Fraud/False Advertising:** You agree not to post or transmit fraudulent information on or through the Service. This can include false advertising, identity theft, or misrepresentation of any kind including phishing, forged email headers or fictitious email addresses.

**5. Unsolicited Advertising/Spamming:** You agree not to post or transmit any unsolicited material through any active medium such as email, chat, messaging, chain letters, advertisements, jokes, etc. Vernon Communications Cooperative does not tolerate unsolicited mass emailing (Spamming) of any kind, and the use of any Vernon Communications Cooperative's Services for this purpose is strictly prohibited. Content falling in this category is defined by the receiving user's desire to be contacted in the specified manner, so use good judgment if you are sending to mailing lists. You further agree not to collect or harvest account information without the expressed consent of those from whom you collect the information.

**6. Disruptive Content:** You agree not to post or transmit any disruptive content. Certain kinds of content broadcast displayed on the Internet can generate a great deal of disruption and reaction from the Internet community as a whole. This can include, but is not limited to, material that is considered obscene, offensive, or extremely controversial. While Vernon Communications Cooperative does not actively censor its users, the reaction this material can generate can be expensive and time consuming, and as such makes the continued support of users generating this kind of content of questionable business value to Vernon Communications Cooperative. You understand and agree that Vernon Communications Cooperative may suspend or terminate your Service should your usage result in significant complaint or constitute disruptive content, as determined by Vernon Communications Cooperative, in its sole discretion, from the Internet community at large.

**7. Use of Servers:** You agree not to establish or operate a web server, email server, FTP server, file server or run any other server applications and/or software providing server-like functionality in connection with the Service. Interpretation will be at the sole discretion of Vernon Communications Cooperative.

**8. Reselling or Reconfiguring the Service:** You may not resell the Service or redistribute or reconfigure the Service to allow others to use the Service in an illegal, fraudulent or inappropriate manner. Interpretation will be at the sole discretion of Vernon Communications Cooperative.

**9. Copyright Infringement:** Vernon Communications Cooperative respects the intellectual property rights of others and expects you to do the same. Vernon Communications Cooperative will terminate the account of any user who unlawfully transmits copyrighted material without a license or privilege to do so. Vernon Communications Cooperative will terminate such accounts after receiving proper notification by the copyright holder to our Copyright Agent, and if we have a good faith belief, in our sole discretion, that infringement has occurred. Our ability to terminate your account is in addition to, and not instead of, any and all other remedies that we may have against you under the law.

If you believe your work has been copied in any way that constitutes infringement, please provide our Copyright Agent with the following information:

**(a)** An electronic or physical signature of the person authorized to act on behalf of the owner of the copyright interest;

**(b)** A description of the copyrighted work that you can claim has been infringed;

**(c)** Identification of where the material (including the URL if possible) that you claim is infringing is located;

**(d)** Your address, telephone number and email address:

**(e)** A statement by you that you have a good faith belief that the disputed use is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent or by the law; and

**(f)** A statement by you, made under penalty of perjury, that the above information in your notice is accurate and that you are the copyright owner or authorized to act on the copyright owner's behalf.

Our Copyright Agent for notice of claims of infringement is Rodney Olson, CEO, and can be reached as follows:

By mail: PO Box 20, Westby WI 54667

By phone: 608-634-3136

By email: [abuse@vernoncom.coop](mailto:abuse@vernoncom.coop)

**10. Reporting Other Abuse:** To report other abuse of this Acceptable Use Policy (other than copyright infringement), please email [abuse@vernoncom.coop](mailto:abuse@vernoncom.coop)