



Montgomery County Website Links Policy

This policy sets out requirements in regards to linking from and to the Montgomery County official website.

The Montgomery County website contains links to other Internet sites and resources as a convenience to the viewer. Montgomery County is not responsible for, and accepts no liability for, the availability of these outside resources. Linked websites are not under the control of, nor maintained by, Montgomery County and the County is not responsible for the content of these websites, which can and do change frequently; nor for any internal links the displayed websites may contain. In addition, the inclusion of a linked website does not constitute an endorsement or promotion by the County of any of these sites or materials found there.

Viewers should also be aware that Montgomery County is not responsible for the privacy practices of those sites when linked to them through the County's website. Viewers must be aware when they leave the County's website via links to other sites, the information found is beyond the scope of County's control. These other sites may send their own cookies to users collect data or solicit personal information. Viewers should read the privacy statements on these linked websites.

Links to Other Sites

The purpose of the Montgomery County website is to promote the programs, services, policies and objectives of Montgomery County. The County reserves the right to refuse any website link or to delete links already posted at any time, in conformance with this policy, without notice.

Any request for an external link will undergo review to determine its relevance and appropriateness, using the following criteria:

The County will consider providing a link to the following types of websites, but not limited to:

- a federal, state or local governmental agency or public school;
- a community organization that receives funding from the Montgomery County Commission;
- a City board, commission or committee;
- agencies, organizations and companies sponsoring or otherwise participating in County activities as related to that activity;

- non-profit organizations that provide a public service to the community;
- organizations that provide life-sustaining, public safety and public health information;
- an established news-gathering organization, being either a newspaper of regular, paid circulation, a radio station that provides local news regularly, or television station that provides local news regularly and maintains a national network affiliation; and local "web portals" which direct users to community services in the Montgomery County viewing area.

The County will not consider providing a link to the following types of websites, but not limited to:

- businesses or non-profit organizations unless they fit any of the criteria stated above;
- a business that fits the criteria but does not pay taxes in Montgomery County or is delinquent on county/city sales tax;
- political campaigns and endorsements;
- political organizations or other organizations advocating or opposing a local, state or federal issue or ballot proposal;
- adult material
- promotion of illegal materials or information, such as hate speech or obscene content;
- religious organizations or the promotion of religious information; and
- individual or personal websites.

Certain private websites to which Montgomery County may provide an external link may include advertising or promotional material in the information display. Montgomery County is not responsible for nor supports or promotes such advertising.

Links to the Montgomery County Website

It is not necessary to obtain advance permission to link to the Montgomery County website if you are making a simple link to the homepage. Please note the Montgomery County website may change URLs and subpage paths at any time.

Links to the County's website must not be made within frames or otherwise present the County's content as that of an outside site. Any link to the County's site should be a full forward link that passes through the client browser to the County's site unencumbered. The BACK button should return the viewer to the external website, if they wish to back out of the County's website. Although content on the County's website is public information, Montgomery County maintains and will defend a copyright interest in these pages.

Do not link directly to individual graphics or tables within the County's websites, especially in an effort to place the downloading burden on the County's server. Such action may be considered a misuse of County resources. Contact the Montgomery County I.S. Department to get permission to use a copy of County's graphics on external websites.

Removal Process

Montgomery County may remove any external link for the following reasons:

- the website no longer fits the aforementioned criteria;
- the link no longer points to the original information or resources for which it was approved;
- the link points to information that is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise violates the aforementioned criteria;
- access to the information has become difficult due to non-standard formatting, lengthy download times or intrusive advertising; and
- the link is permanently unreachable or remains unavailable for a lengthy period.

Approved: 7/26/2010