

Privacy Policy

Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Last Updated: January 26, 2026

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Our Commitment to Your Privacy

HerpesHearts is operated by Herpes Hearts Foundation as a non-profit community platform. **Your privacy is our top priority.** We will never sell your information to third parties. We will never share your personal data with advertisers or marketers. Period.

This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, protect, and handle your personal information when you use our platform.

Information We Collect

Information You Provide Directly

When you create and use your account, we collect the stuff you type into the system so we can display it. This includes

- **Account Information:** Email address (from OAuth provider), display name
- **Profile Information:** Biography, location (city, ZIP code), date of birth, photos
- **Preferences:** Personal details including marital status, faith, education, physical characteristics, relationship preferences
- **Messages:** Content of messages you send and receive through our platform
- **Interactions:** Profiles you like/favorite

Information Collected Automatically

- **Authentication Data:** OAuth tokens from your chosen provider (Google, Microsoft, Facebook)
- **Usage Data:** Login times, pages viewed, features used
- **Device Information:** IP address, browser type, operating system (for security purposes only)
- **Cookies:** Essential cookies for session management and authentication

Information We Do NOT Collect

- **Passwords:** We use OAuth-only authentication and never store passwords
 - **Payment Information:** We do not keep credit card information
 - **Location Tracking:** We do not track your real-time location
 - **Third-Party Tracking:** We do not use analytics tools that track users across websites
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How We Use Your Information

We use your information solely to provide and improve our service:

1. Platform Operation

- Create and manage your account
- Display your profile to other members
- Enable messaging between members
- Facilitate connections through likes/favorites

2. Security & Safety

- Prevent fraud and abuse
- Enforce our Terms of Service
- Protect user safety

3. Service Improvement

- Fix technical issues
- Improve user experience
- Develop new features

4. Communication

- Send service-related notifications
- Respond to your support requests
- Notify you of important platform changes

We will NEVER:

- Sell your personal information
- Share your data with advertisers
- Use your data for marketing purposes
- Track you across other websites
- Share your information with third parties except as required by law

Information Sharing and Disclosure

With Other Users

- Your profile information (as configured by you) is visible to other authenticated members
- Messages are visible only to you and the recipient
- Your email address is NEVER shared with other users

With Third Parties

We do not share your personal information with third parties, except:

1. **OAuth Providers:** Google, Microsoft, or Facebook (only for authentication)
2. **Legal Requirements:** When required by law, subpoena, or court order
3. **Platform Protection:** To prevent fraud, abuse, or illegal activities

Service Providers

We may use limited third-party services for:

- **Hosting:** Servers to run our platform
- **Email Delivery:** Transactional emails (account verification, password resets)

These providers are contractually obligated to protect your data and may not use it for any other purpose.

Data Storage and Security

Security Measures

We implement industry-standard security practices:

- **Encryption:** HTTPS/SSL for all data transmission
- **Secure Storage:** Encrypted database storage
- **Access Controls:** Restricted access to personal data
- **Regular Audits:** Security reviews and updates
- **OAuth Authentication:** No passwords stored on our servers

Data Retention

- **Active Accounts:** Data retained while your account is active
 - **Deleted Accounts:** Data permanently deleted within 30 days of account deletion
 - **Messages:** Deleted messages removed from both sender and recipient
 - **Backups:** Backup data purged within 90 days
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Your Privacy Rights

You have the following rights regarding your personal information:

Access and Correction

- View and edit your profile information at any time
- Download your data (contact us for assistance)

Deletion

- Delete individual messages
- Delete your entire account and all associated data
- Request permanent deletion of all your information

Control

- Control profile visibility settings
- Choose which information to display
- Manage photo privacy (public/private)

Opt-Out

- Unsubscribe from non-essential emails
- Disable notifications

To exercise these rights, email us at: support@herpeshearts.com

Cookies and Tracking

We use only essential cookies necessary for platform operation:

- **Session Cookies:** Keep you logged in
- **Authentication Cookies:** Verify your identity
- **Security Cookies:** Prevent fraud and abuse

We do NOT use:

- Advertising cookies
 - Third-party tracking cookies
 - Analytics cookies that track you across websites
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Children's Privacy

Our platform is NOT intended for users under 18 years of age. We do not knowingly collect information from children under 18. If we discover we have inadvertently collected such information, we will delete it immediately.

International Users

Our servers are located in the cloud (currently hosted by railway - I have no idea the geographic location). By using our platform, you consent to the transfer of your information to our servers. We comply with applicable data protection laws.

Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy to reflect:

- Changes in our practices
- Changes in applicable laws
- New features or services

We will notify you of material changes by:

- Email notification
- Prominent notice on the platform
- Updated "Last Updated" date at the top of this policy

Your continued use of the platform after changes constitutes acceptance of the updated policy.

Data Breach Notification

In the unlikely event of a data breach that affects your personal information, we will:

1. Notify you within 72 hours
 2. Describe what information was affected
 3. Explain steps we're taking to address the breach
 4. Provide guidance on protecting your account
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Your California Privacy Rights

If you are a California resident, you have additional rights under CCPA:

- Right to know what personal information is collected
- Right to know if personal information is sold or disclosed
- Right to opt-out of sale of personal information (we never sell data)
- Right to deletion
- Right to non-discrimination

We do not sell personal information.

Contact Us

For privacy-related questions, concerns, or requests:

Herpes Hearts Foundation Email: support@herpeshearts.com

For account deletion or data access requests, please include:

- Your account email address
- Your display name
- Description of your request

We will respond to all requests within 30 days.

Non-Profit Mission

HerpesHearts is committed to operating as a non-profit organization. We plan to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to ensure long-term commitment to our privacy-first mission. Our platform is supported entirely by voluntary donations through Patreon from members who believe in our mission.

We will never compromise your privacy for profit.

Consent

By using HerpesHearts, you consent to this Privacy Policy.

If you do not agree with this policy, please do not use our platform.

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This Privacy Policy is part of our Terms of Service and is legally binding.