

860

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

Employees shall not use any form of social media, including Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, online forums, message boards or bulletin boards, blogs and other similarly developed formats, in any way so as to tarnish the Department's reputation. Any online activity that has the effect of diminishing public trust and/or confidence in the Department will hinder our efforts to fulfill our public safety mission. Online actions that detract from the Department's Mission or reflect negatively on your position as a peace officer or professional staff will be viewed as a direct violation of this policy.

860.02

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the Social Networking Policy is to address issues associated with employee use of social networking sites and to provide guidelines for the regulation and balancing of employee speech and expression with the legitimate needs of the Department. Information posted on social media sites may be used in Administrative Investigations, to impeach officer testimony, or by defense attorneys at trial. Therefore, it is important for law enforcement officers to realize the direct effect such use has upon their reputation and perception of the Department.