

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION 4: RULES AND CONDUCT

SUBJECT: 405 SOCIAL NETWORK/ELECTRONIC MEDIA

EFFECTIVE: 11/20/2017

1. **PURPOSE:** Public Safety agencies should have a written policy on social networking, blogging, email and texting, especially as it relates to on-duty activities and responsibilities to the Police Department. The Department has policy and procedures that outline the proper dissemination of information.
2. **POLICY:** The Policies and Procedures and this order deal with conditions of employment and obligations of department members. Violation of the provisions in this Order may be grounds for disciplinary action.
3. **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. Posting one's photograph while wearing the uniform of the Pineville Police Department while engaged in any activity that could reflect negatively on the Department or the Law Enforcement profession.
 - b. Posting, publishing or releasing photographic or written media information regarding official police activities, or scenes. (i.e. crime/crash scenes)
 - c. Posting photographs of Department property, equipment or speech in any manner that could be misconstrued or considered defamatory of the department or its members. This includes the parameters and prohibitions ordered in the Rules of Conduct as written in Section 4, Subject 401 (16).
 - d. Although not banned, any social media or electronic media activities should be regulated as to not interfere with required duties, nor cause any neglect of duty.
 - e. No official website or e-mail address related to the Department should be used for registering with social media sites.
 - f. Any public declarations or postings that express the opinion of the individual should be accompanied by a disclaimer that states the viewpoints are not reflective of the Pineville Police Department.
 - g. Members shall not knowingly or recklessly post false information about the agency, superiors, co-workers, public officials or others that have a relationship to or with the Pineville Police Department. This includes the wrongful disparagement of fictitious characters that resemble known personnel or officials.

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4. **WARNING:** The use of a Pseudo name or moniker is not prohibited; however, members should realize that with modern technology, personal knowledge and/or information attached through social media applications, it is not difficult to learn or identify an account holder's true identity and/or their employer. The use of a pseudo name or moniker does not relieve the member from the responsibilities as set forth and required in this section.

5. **REPORTING:** If a member of the Police Department receives, through any social or electronic media site, any complaint of misconduct by a member, or information that could have an adverse impact on the Department or community that officer should make this information known through proper internal channels.

6. **EXCEPTIONS:** Republishing existing approved information from official Department media sites is acceptable. Any exception to this policy must be approved, in writing, by the Chief of Police or his designee.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police