

Social Media Public Comment

Index Code: 303.1

Effective Date: April 24, 2024

I. Purpose: The purpose of this directive is to establish guidance on moderating public comments on the Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff official social media platforms if those comments violate terms as described herein.

II. Policy The purpose of the Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff's official social media platforms is to provide information of public interest to county residents, businesses, visitors and other members of the general public. The Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff's Social Media Public Comment policy provides individuals who choose to communicate or otherwise interact with the Sheriff's Office via its official social media platforms with guidelines for engagement. These agency social media sites serve as a limited public forum and all content published is subject to monitoring.

These platforms are not moderated 24/7. In case of emergency please call 911 for assistance. To report an incident requiring police assistance, please contact the duty officer at 410-758-0770.

The Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff reserves the right to limit comments that do not meet the purpose of the platforms as set out below. Posting and commenting on these platforms constitute acceptance of the terms listed. Violation of these terms may result in the comment(s) being removed.

III. Examples

The following are examples of *unacceptable* social networking content that may cause removal:

1. Any content or comments that do not relate to the jurisdiction or authority of the jurisdiction itself.
2. Any content or comments that do not relate to the topic of the account or its individual posts.
3. Content that promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected class of people.
4. Solicitations of commerce and/or including content that contains gratuitous links.
5. Promotions or content related to political organizations or endorsements of any type.
6. Advocation of illegal activity or violence, or remarks that compromise the safety or security of the public.
7. Infringement of copyrights or trademarks.
8. Confidential or non-public information, including but not limited to any personally identifiable information and any content that violates the legal rights of the owner of said content.
9. Sharing of obscene or profane material that appeals to the prurient interest.
10. Sharing of spam or disruptively repetitive content.

IV. General Provisions

Additionally, communication made through any social media network messaging system will in no way constitute a legal or official Public Information Request. For information on submitting a Public Information Request visit our website at <https://queenannessheriff.org/media/public-information-requests/> and/or download the Public Information Request Form.

This comment policy is subject to amendment and/or modification at any time to ensure its continued use is consistent with its intended purpose as a limited forum.

Please note that third-party opinions, comments, and statements expressed on this social media site do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of any deputy or employee of the Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff or that of the Sheriff, nor do we guarantee accuracy of such information posted by members of the public. If you have any questions concerning the operation of our social media platforms and the moderated discussion rules, please contact the Public Information Officer.



Sheriff Gary Hofmann