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# State of Alabama Department of Corrections

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COMMISSIONER

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION  
NUMBER** 234

**OPR: PUBLIC INFORMATION**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **I. GENERAL**

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes responsibilities, policies, and procedures for governing the use of social media.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the ADOC to utilize social media as a resource for the ADOC to provide information and to provide guidance for employees in the use of social media, social networking sites, and other sites and services that permit users to share information with others.

### **III. DEFINITION(S) AND ACRONYM(S)**

- A. **Employee/Staff:** Any person employed by the ADOC as a full-time, part-time, conditional, or temporary employee, and all other persons including, but not limited to, contractors, authorized service providers, vendors, interns, and volunteers in the classified and unclassified service.
- B. **Public Information Officer (PIO):** An individual designated to coordinate the dissemination of information and statements concerning Departmental activities.
- C. **Social Media:** Computer-mediated tools that allow people to create, share, or exchange information, ideas, and pictures and videos in virtual communities and social networks.
- D. **Social Media Platform:** Refers to websites or applications utilized for social networking. Examples include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Periscope, and blogs.

### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Warden/Division Director is responsible for ensuring that this policy is made available to all ADOC employees.

- B. The ADOC PIO shall be responsible for overseeing and confirming decisions regarding the official ADOC Social Media Platform(s).
- C. Employees are responsible for adherence to ADOC policies and procedures relating to social media.

V. **PROCEDURES**

- A. The ADOC Public Information Officer shall:
  - 1. Create a social media presence on behalf of the ADOC utilizing authorized social media sites. Prior to authorizing new sites, the PIO shall confer with the Information Systems (“IS”) Division to ensure any new sites will comply with the procedures of this AR.
  - 2. Evaluate requests for usage of ADOC’s Social Media Platforms including, but not limited to, verification of authorized staff and requests to post information on behalf of the ADOC.
  - 3. Maintain a list of social media domains, active account logins, and passwords.
  - 4. Ensure that ADOC Social Media Platforms are secure by limiting the number of individuals with passwords, updating passwords no less than every ninety (90) days, and following the policies and procedures established in AR 315, *Computer Usage and Security Guide*.
  - 5. Ensure material on the official ADOC Social Media Platforms are monitored for inappropriate content. Inappropriate content includes, but is not limited to statements, photographs, video, or audio that:
    - a. Contains obscene or lewd material;
    - b. Would incite violence or promote illegal activities (including postings made utilizing illegal devices);
    - c. Could be viewed as harassing, threatening, or bullying;
    - d. Discloses confidential, privacy, or security related information of the ADOC, in accordance with AR 005, *Public Information*;
    - e. Could disrupt the ability of the ADOC to perform its function;
    - f. Contains copyright or trademarked material;
    - g. Promotes a commercial operation; and,



Regulation 208, *Employee Standards of Conduct and Discipline*, including, but not limited to, termination.

4. Wardens/Division Directors shall forward any content they believe should be posted on an ADOC Social Media Platform in writing to the ADOC PIO for appropriate action.

C. Employees acting in a private capacity using private resources:

1. Employees shall not provide any information relative to the ADOC, an investigation, litigation or confidential or security-related information to a public or private source unless authorized by the Commissioner/designee, PIO, or the Legal Division.
2. Material posted on social media can be viewed by the public and misconstrued to represent the official position of the ADOC. Therefore, an employee must take every precaution to ensure that his/her activity in a social media forum does not lead the public to reasonably believe that the employee is acting on behalf of the ADOC, and shall at all times clarify that any opinions given on social media are personal in nature.
3. Employees shall not post on their private accounts any image or photograph or image that belongs to the ADOC, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Photos of any ADOC building, facility, or grounds;
  - b. Any image of an inmate (with or without permission);
  - c. Documents, reports, investigatory documents, photos, videos, policies, or procedures of the ADOC.
  - d. Use or display of the ADOC emblem or uniform in any manner that would otherwise violate this AR.
4. Even if an employee has disclaimed association with the ADOC when using social media, the employee must not be engaged in activity that violates any ADOC policy, or any other applicable directive, regulation, and/or law(s). This includes, but is not limited to, friending, following, or otherwise associating with inmates in violation of AR 318, *Inmate Employee Relationships*.
5. Employees shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to demonstrate the public's trust and confidence inherent in their position as a public servant, even during off-duty hours. In accordance with AR 208, *Employee Standards of Conduct and Discipline*, employees shall not take part in disgraceful conduct on or off the job that impairs their ability to perform their job. Examples of inappropriate posts that would constitute disgraceful

conduct include, but are not limited to, statements, photographs, video, or audio that:

- a. Contains obscene or lewd material;
  - b. Would incite violence or promote illegal activities;
  - c. Could be viewed as harassing, threatening, or bullying;
  - d. Discloses confidential, privacy, or security related information of the ADOC, in accordance with AR 005, *Public Information*;
  - e. Could disrupt the ability of the ADOC to perform its function; and,
  - f. Would constitute discrimination, harassment, or that would contribute to the creation of a hostile work environment on the basis of a person's race, sex, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, color, or any other status protected by law, regulation, rule, or policy.
6. A social media site is not an appropriate forum for airing internal workplace grievances, including complaints or comments about any inmate, coworker, or supervisor.
  7. Employees shall refrain from using personal social media while on work time or on equipment provided by the Department. Employees shall not use an ADOC issued e-mail address to register on social networks, blogs, or other online tools for personal use.
  8. Any violation of this regulation may subject an employee to corrective action including, but not limited to, termination, in accordance with ADOC AR 208, *Employee Standards of Conduct and Discipline*.

## **VI. DISPOSITION**

Any forms used or content included on any ADOC Social Media Platform will be disposed of and retained according to RDA.

## **VII. FORMS**

ADOC Form 234-A, *Social Media Policy Agreement*

## **VIII. SUPERCEDES**

This is a new Administrative Regulation and does not supercede any other regulation.

## **IX. PERFORMANCE**

- A. Code of Alabama 1975, as amended

- B. AR 208, *Employee Standards of Conduct and Discipline*
- C. AR 315, Computer Usage and Security Guide.
- D. AR 318, *Inmate/Employee Relationships*
- E. AR 005, *Public Information*



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Jefferson S. Dunn  
Commissioner

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT NAME)

- I understand that I have been approved to use social media to represent the ADOC in an official capacity.
- I understand that employees who are not authorized users and who use social media in a manner that would indicate that they represent or are acting on behalf of the ADOC shall be subject to appropriate corrective action.
- I agree not to provide usernames, emails, passwords, or other login information to any ADOC Social Media Platform to any person who is not properly authorized by the Commissioner or his/her designee.
- I agree not to provide any information relative to the ADOC, an investigation, or litigation to a public or private ADOC Social Media Platform(s) including, but not limited to, those sponsored by newspapers, radio stations, or television stations, unless authorized by the Commissioner/designee, PIO, or the Legal Division.
- I agree not to be engaged in activity that violates any ADOC policy, or any other applicable directive, regulation, and/or law(s).
- I agree not to post comments on ADOC Social Media Platforms that is inappropriate or that otherwise might discredit the ADOC.
- I understand that a social media site is not an appropriate forum for airing internal workplace grievances including, but not limited to, complaints or comments about any inmate, coworker, or supervisor.
- I certify that I have read AR 234, *Social Media*, and agree to comply with all terms and conditions therein.
- I understand that my failure to do so may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Administrative Regulation 208, *Employee Standards and Discipline*, including, but not limited to, termination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date