

Truro Police Department

INTERNET AND EMAIL USE

Policy Number: ADM-1.04

Effective Date: June 1, 2000

REFERENCE:

Accreditation Standards:

Mass. Gen. Law

Other:

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Truro Police Department to avail its personnel with the latest technology and information sources as possible. The use of the Internet and online email is a major component of this objective.

Internet Access and online email will enable all personnel to explore millions of web sites, libraries, databases, and bulletin boards, while exchanging messages with millions of users around the world. All personnel are forewarned that some materials, accessible via the Internet contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. It is the intention of the Truro Police Department to encourage job-specific, job-related educational use, while restricting and prohibiting access to sites which contain inappropriate, sexual related, or otherwise offensive material on duty, and on the premises of the Truro Police Department.

Access to the Internet via Town of Truro computers, or on the premises of the Truro Police Department, is a privilege, not a right. While it is not the intention of the department to violate member's Constitutional rights, however, the department has an obligation to restrict online use so that the integrity and protection of all personnel can be maintained. Freedom of speech is obligatory, but only to the extent that the speech or associated activity under color of the Massachusetts and United States Constitution are not otherwise offensive, harmful, or objectionable.

PROCEDURE:

1. The following online conduct shall be prohibited:
 - a. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures.
 - b. Using obscene language
 - c. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
 - d. Harassing, insulting or attacking others
 - e. Violating copyright laws
 - f. Using another's password
 - g. Trespassing in another's folder, work or files
 - h. Intentionally wasting resources
 - i. Employing the network for commercial purposes.
2. Applicability
 - a. This policy applies to all Town of Truro owned or controlled computer systems, and all private computer systems on department property.