

BCSO Social Media Policy

To highlight our commitment to transparency in government, the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) provides web-based tools for outreach, education, and information. These tools are not intended to replace the channels currently in place for press and constituent communication. Rather, these tools are meant to augment our ability to educate, empower, and inform the residents of Barnstable County.

Please note that Records Retention Law of the Commonwealth requires the BCSO team to preserve records created or received by a state employee. Pursuant to this retention requirement comments posted or messages received via an official state agency page on a third-party website (such as an official agency profile on a social network) will be treated as state governmental records and may be permanently archived. Information that you submit voluntarily through social media sites associated with this agency where such information is publicly available, including your name, city or town, and the substance of anything that you post may be disseminated further by being posted online at this website or be publicly discussed by a member of the administration.

The policies below pertain only to BCSO content; individual agencies may have different policies. Please be sure to review the privacy policies and terms of use for any social media accounts you access through a link from BCSO as they may differ based on the agency hosting the content.

The information below pertains only to BCSO.

Facebook

To view the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Facebook page, visit [Barnstable County Sheriff's Office | Bourne MA | Facebook](#). While people use Facebook in many different ways for both personal and professional reasons, as a matter of policy:

- The BCSO use of Facebook is intended as a means to provide announcements and updates on current events or notices to any other users who elect to “Like” our Facebook page and to engage with constituents to provide customer service regarding Sheriff’s office services.
- The account is maintained and monitored by members of the BCSO social media team.
- Facebook is one of the many means we're using to connect residents with their government. We'll review and update Facebook as much as possible as we monitor and maintain other channels of feedback.
- Unless you protect your updates, messages, or comments you post to BCSO’s Facebook page may be public records and may also be publicly available.
- We expect conversations to follow the rules of polite discourse and we ask that participants treat each other, as well as our employees, with respect. The following comments will be removed if posted:
 - Profanity and vulgar or abusive language
 - Threats of physical or bodily harm
 - Sensitive information (for example, information that could compromise public safety)
 - Offensive terms that target protected classes, such as ethnic, racial, religious groups, sexual orientation, or identity.
 - Any other comments found by the BCSO social media team to be offensive, inappropriate, or illegal
- For the benefit of robust discussion, we ask that comments remain “on-topic.” This means that comments must relate to the topic that is being discussed within the particular social media site.
- All questions, complaints, or other constituent matters should be sent to BCSO@bsheriff.net or can be received by calling 508-563-4300. All press inquiries should be sent to pressinquiry@bsheriff.net

- Also note that Facebook is governed by Facebook's separate website policies, including its **Privacy Policy** and **Terms of Service**. These policies apply to your use of Facebook.

Instagram

To both increase transparency and save money on photo hosting and streaming, BCSO publishes photo content, to our Instagram account at <https://instagram.com/barnstablesheriff>

BCSO is responsible solely for the content uploaded to the official Instagram account, and not for any related videos or linked photos linked from other users, nor for any advertising or other content contained on the Instagram application or website.

If you use any of our photos for another work, such as a story, blog post, printing, etc., we require that you provide credit by stating at or near the photo, "Photo courtesy of [insert description of credit]."

Also note that this photo share is hosted by Instagram and is governed by Instagram's separate website policies, including its **Terms of Use** and **Privacy Policy**. These policies apply to your use of Instagram.

Twitter

To view the BCSO Twitter page, visit www.twitter.com/bcsosheriff2. Twitter is a free social networking site that allows users to send and read other users' short updates (up to 140 characters in length). While people use Twitter in many different ways for both personal and professional reasons, as a matter of policy:

- The BCSO use of Twitter is intended as a means to provide announcements and updates on current events or notices to any

other users who elect to watch or follow our Twitter feed and to engage with constituents to provide customer service regarding Sheriff's office services.

- The account is maintained and monitored by members of the BCSO team.
- We do not as a matter of course follow individuals who follow us, but we do follow other official government-sponsored Twitter accounts, including official state agency Twitter accounts, media, and others as deemed appropriate by BCSO.
- Twitter is one of the many means we're using to connect residents with their government. We'll review and update Twitter as much as possible as we monitor and maintain other channels of feedback.
- Unless you protect your updates, messages you post on Twitter received by the Agency may be public records and may also be publicly available. Because not everyone knows that we are on Twitter, we occasionally search for tweets that talk about BCSO but don't reference our account, "@bcsosheriff2" and let that user know about our account. We periodically perform these searches to enable us to more effectively listen to and engage with constituents.
- All questions, complaints, or other constituent matters should be sent to BCSO@bsheriff.net or can be received by calling 508-563-4300. All press inquiries should be sent to pressinquiry@bsheriff.net Also note that this micro-blog is hosted by Twitter and is governed by Twitter's separate website policies, including its [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) These policies apply to your use of Twitter.

LinkedIn

To view the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) LinkedIn page, visit [Barnstable County Sheriff's Office: My Company | LinkedIn](#). While people use LinkedIn in many different ways for both personal and professional reasons, as a matter of policy:

- The BCSO use of LinkedIn is intended as a means to provide announcements and updates on current events or notices to any other users who elect to "Like" our LinkedIn page and to engage with constituents to provide customer service regarding Sheriff's office services.
- The account is maintained and monitored by members of the BCSO social media team.
- LinkedIn is one of the many means we're using to connect residents with their government. We'll review and update LinkedIn as much as possible as we monitor and maintain other channels of feedback.
- Unless you protect your updates, messages, or comments you post to BCSO's LinkedIn page may be public records and may also be publicly available.
- We expect conversations to follow the rules of polite discourse and we ask that participants treat each other, as well as our employees, with respect. The following comments will be removed if posted:
 - Profanity and vulgar or abusive language
 - Threats of physical or bodily harm
 - Sensitive information (for example, information that could compromise public safety)
 - Offensive terms that target protected classes, such as ethnic, racial, religious groups, sexual orientation, or identity
 - Any other comments found by the BCSO social media team to be offensive, inappropriate, or illegal

- For the benefit of robust discussion, we ask that comments remain “on-topic.” This means that comments must relate to the topic that is being discussed within the particular social media site.
- All questions, complaints, or other constituent matters should be sent to BCSO@bsheriff.net or can be received by calling 508-563-4300. All press inquiries should be sent to pressinquiry@bsheriff.net Also note that LinkedIn is governed by LinkedIn's separate website policies, including its **Privacy Policy** and **Terms of Service**. These policies apply to your use of LinkedIn.