



Resolution Adopting a Township Social Media Policy

WHEREAS, certain social media pages owned by government entities are considered a public forum by the United State Supreme Court,

WHEREAS, by considering a social media page a public forum, a government owner of a social media page must not discriminate against one for posts that are not explicitly discriminatory against protected classes or contain offensive content,

WHEREAS, the township owns a social media page,

WHEREAS, the township seeks to adopt a policy to prevent challenges to township actions on that social media page by having set procedures to remove comments without being discriminatory,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of _____, _____ County, Minnesota, adopts the following social media policy to mitigate free speech issues when regulating its social media page(s).

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of _____, Minnesota this _____ day of _____, 20____.

By The Town Board

Town Board Chair

Attest: _____

Clerk

TOWNSHIP'S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

I: PURPOSE

A: This social media policy allows for _____ Township (hereafter the "Township") to limit comments that would tend to disparage, discriminate, or contain content that is offensive against other persons also viewing the social media page. This policy will give the town or its employees the power to (pick one) *prevent any comments from the page (OR) remove all comments over a set period of time, and if any breach disparaging, discriminatory, or offensive content issues, remove them sooner than the designated period.*

II: SCOPE

A: This policy does not apply to personal or professional social media pages owned by a township officer or an employee of the township.

B: This policy specifically applies to the following social media accounts:

1. Township's Facebook page;
 2. Township's blog page;
 3. Township's Twitter page;
- Add more as needed*

III: POLICY

A: The Township's social media page(s) are the property of the Township.

B: The Township reserves the right to remove the social media page at any time for any reason.

C: The town designates _____ (*select an office or specific employee*) to be the social media administrator.

The social media administrator will monitor and manage the Township social media accounts, which includes posting photographs, notices, or articles (*Include if allow comments*) as well as delete any comments that violate this policy and delete all comments at the designated period.

(IF THE TOWN ALLOWS FOR COMMENTS)

D: The township has the discretion to remove the following comments at any time:

1. Profane, obscene, violent, pornographic, or sexual content;
2. Threats to any person or organization;
3. Content that defames any person or organization;
4. Content that promotes or perpetuates discrimination of a legally protected class;

5. Commercial solicitations;
6. Advertisements, contests, or giveaways;
7. Details regarding ongoing investigations, legal, or administrative proceeding that could prejudice the process;
8. Trademarked images or graphics;
9. Content that suggests or encourages illegal activity;
10. Content in support or opposition of a political campaign.

E: The Township will remove all comments on the social media page on _____
_____. *(Example, first Monday of every month.)*