



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Social Media Terms of Use Policy

Effective Date: February 1, 2019

Revised Date: October 14, 2025

Authorized By: Joseph J. Cole, Chief of Police
Approved By: Town Council, Chesterfield, IN

PURPOSE

The Chesterfield Police Department uses social media to share information with our community, including public safety updates, emergency notifications, community events, crime prevention tips, and other matters of public interest. Our goal is to foster constructive dialogue and transparency between the department and the public while maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all participants.

LIMITED PUBLIC FORUM

Each Chesterfield Police Department social media accounts—including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), YouTube, and others—are Limited Public Forums. This means that while we welcome public engagement, all comments and interactions must comply with these Terms of Use and applicable laws. Posting content or comments on a Chesterfield Police Department social media platform constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of these terms.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. By engaging on a Chesterfield Police Department social media platform, you agree that:
 1. You are personally responsible for your comments, username, and any information you provide.
 2. Comments must be relevant to the topic of the post.
 3. You will not post content that violates these Terms of Use or any federal, state, or local laws.
- B. Emergency & Non-Emergency Communications
 1. Social media is not monitored 24/7 and should not be used to report emergencies or request police assistance.
 - a. **For emergencies**, dial 9-1-1.
 - b. **For non-emergency assistance**, call (765) 378-3354.
- C. Publicly posting criminal activity, investigative leads, or information relevant to an investigation may result in you being contacted as a potential witness.



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MODERATION OF CONTENT

- A. The Chesterfield Police Department reserves the right to remove, hide, or restrict content or users that violate these Terms of Use. Content subject to removal includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Comments not relevant to the post topic (including repetitive, random, or unintelligible content)
 2. Profane, obscene, sexually explicit, or pornographic content or language
 3. Defamatory statements or personal attacks against any individual, including officers, staff, or community members
 4. Threats or advocacy of violence or illegal activity
 5. Content that promotes discrimination or hate speech based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or any other protected class
 6. Harassment, stalking, or bullying of any individual
 7. Comments supporting or opposing political campaigns, candidates, or ballot measures
 8. Commercial advertisements or solicitations (including sale of goods or services)
 9. False or misleading information that could compromise public safety
 10. Posts that could interfere with ongoing investigations, reveal confidential information, or endanger officers or the public
 11. Content that violates copyright, trademark, or privacy laws
 12. Links to external websites or unrelated material
 13. Multiple identical posts (“spam”)
- B. All content is monitored, and the department will take action—up to and including reporting violations to the platform and law enforcement if necessary—when comments threaten safety or public order.

PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES

- A. The Chesterfield Police Department is committed to protecting the safety and dignity of its employees.
1. Direct attacks, harassment, or doxxing (posting personal or private information) of officers or staff are strictly prohibited.
 2. Users engaging in such conduct may be blocked, banned, or referred for criminal investigation under applicable harassment or threat statutes.



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DENIAL OF ACCESS

The Chesterfield Police Department reserves the right to deny access to its social media pages for any individual who violates these Terms of Use; such denial may occur without prior notice. If you believe your comment was removed or access was restricted in error, you may appeal the decision by contacting tharmeson@chesterfield.in.gov or by calling (765) 378-3354 and ask to speak with the department's Public Information Officer.

ENDORSEMENTS AND OPINIONS

- A. "Liking," "Following," or "Subscribing" to another account does not constitute endorsement by the Chesterfield Police Department.
- B. Comments posted by the public represent the opinions of the individual commenter and do not reflect the views or policies of Chesterfield Police Department or the Town of Chesterfield.

APPLICABLE PLATFORM STANDARDS

- A. All content posted on Chesterfield Police Department social media platforms is also subject to the terms and community standards of each respective service provider, including:
 - 1. [Facebook Community Standards](#)
 - 2. [Instagram Community Guidelines](#)
 - 3. [X \(Twitter\) Rules](#)
 - 4. [YouTube Community Guidelines](#)
- B. The department reserves the right to report any violations of these standards to the platform for further action.

PUBLIC RECORDS & LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Content posted on Chesterfield Police Department social media platforms may constitute a public record under Indiana law and be subject to disclosure under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act (APRA). The department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of any information posted by external individuals.



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APPROVED & ADOPTED

This Terms of Use Policy is approved by the Town of Chesterfield governing body and authorized by the Chief of Police. Conversely, the Terms of Use Policy remains in effect until amended. It is designed to ensure compliance with the U.S. Constitution, protect public safety, and maintain the integrity of department communications.

CONTACT

For questions regarding these Terms of Use or the department's social media policies, please contact:

Chesterfield Police Department
Attn: Public Information Officer
17 Veterans Blvd, Chesterfield, IN 46017
 (765)378-3354
 tharmeson@chesterfieldpolice.in.gov