



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Investigations Division

TITLE: Detective Social Media Account Policy		NO: A-700	
APPROVED: Commander Raul Murillo			
EFFECTIVE: 4/21/2020	REVIEWED: 03/24/2023	REVISED:	UPDATED: 03/24/2023

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office operates multiple agency social media accounts to effectively distribute information to the community. One feature that is generally not permitted on agency accounts is the ability to send messages directly to users. Frequently, individual social media account users will indicate their knowledge of information in a case or may post potential evidence in a criminal investigation. For this purpose, having the ability to communicate directly with members of the public via social media can be beneficial to a criminal investigation. For this reason, a Detective Facebook Inc. account has been created for the purpose of communication.

The Detective Facebook Inc. account belongs to the Kern County Sheriff's Office and is viewable to all public users. All use and communication will be in accordance with KCSO DPPM Section I-100, DPPM Section J-3200, DPPM J-3300, Kern County Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 7 - Information Technology (Electronic Communications Usage Policy – Exhibit A), and Administrative Bulletin No. 11. These policies outline Social Media usage, electronic communications, the release of information, and data retention requirements.

DIRECTIVE A

The password, settings, and general management of the account will be the responsibility of the Detective Section Lieutenant or their designee. Such items shall not be altered/changed without written permission from the Detective Section Lieutenant or Investigations Division Commander.

DIRECTIVE B

The Detective Facebook Inc. account is not a substitute for the Sheriff's Office Facebook Inc. account. All postings for information or wanted persons shall continue to be through the main Facebook account of the Sheriff's Office via the Public Information Officer (PIO).

All communications on the Detective Facebook Inc. account shall be either completed by, or approved by, a Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, or Commander and shall be digitally signed with the sender's title, name, and badge number (e.g. Detective John Doe / #1000).

DIRECTIVE C

The Detective Facebook Inc. account is discoverable in court and subject to the California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests. Therefore, no confidential communications shall take place on the account. If a member of the public contacts Detectives, via the account, wishing to provide information, contact information shall be sought to contact them either in person or by telephone.

DIRECTIVE D

The Detective Facebook Inc. account shall only be accessed by department issued/maintained devices or computers.