

Electronic Mail

204.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and application of the electronic mail (email) system provided by the Department. Email is a communication tool available to employees to enhance efficiency in the performance of job duties. It is to be used in accordance with generally accepted business practices and current law. Messages transmitted over the email system are primarily those that involve official business activities or that contain information essential to employees for the accomplishment of business-related tasks and/or communications directly related to the business, administration or practices of the Department. Occasional personal use of the email system is permissible, providing such use does not violate policy and does not interfere with work performance. Occasional use implies that the use of time is minimal, similar to a short personal phone call.

204.2 EMAIL RIGHT OF PRIVACY

All email messages, including attachments, transmitted over the department networks or through a web browser accessing the department system are considered department records and therefore are the property of the Department. The Department reserves the right to access, audit and disclose for any lawful reason, all messages, including attachments, transmitted or received through its email system or placed into its storage.

The email system is not a confidential system and therefore is not appropriate for confidential communications. If a communication must be confidential, an alternate method to communicate the message should be used. Employees using the department email system shall have no expectation of privacy concerning communications transmitted over the system.

Employees should not use personal accounts to exchange email or other information that is related to the official business of the Department.

204.2.1DISCLAIMER SIGNATURE

Any email originating from a department employee and sent outside the department network should contain the following disclaimer placed at the bottom of the message:

"This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message."

204.3 RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF EMAIL

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the email system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

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Email messages addressed to the entire department are only to be used for official business-related items that are of particular interest to all users. All email is subject to review and scrutiny with regard to appropriate content or violation of any prohibitions. In the event that a user has questions about sending a particular email communication, the user should seek prior approval from the Chief of Police or a Division Commander. Personal advertisements or announcements are not permitted.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message under another user's name or email address or to use the password of another to log into the system. Users are required to log off the network or secure the workstation when the computer is unattended. This added security measure would minimize the misuse of an individual's email, name and/or password.

204.4 EMAIL RECORD MANAGEMENT

Email may, depending upon the individual content, be a record under the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act (CRS § 24-72-301 et seq.) and must be managed in accordance with the established records retention schedule and in compliance with state law.

The Custodian of Records shall ensure that email messages are retained and recoverable as outlined in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

