



Children & Family Services
Administrative Offices

2440 6th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

phone: (707) 476-4700 | fax: (707) 445-6254

Caregiver: Internet, Electronic Communication & Social Media Guidelines

As a resource parent, you are entrusted with confidential about the foster child in your care. It is the child's right and expectation that confidential information will be respected and safeguarded by their caregivers. Sharing a foster child's information in an email or on a social networking site with friends, other foster parents, and others not involved with direct services to that child/family constitutes a breach in confidentiality.

- Do not post pictures that may contain identifying information of foster children via the internet, (Facebook, MySpace, email, or on any other websites).
- Do not post information pertaining to the foster children: names, ages, or any identifying information on the internet or other forms of electronic communication.
- When communication with others, do not share the private information about the foster children in your home or the private information about their parents/family of origin.

It is no longer possible to imagine our society today without the internet. The use of social media, in particular, is available just about everywhere you go with smartphones and wifi hotspots. The term 'social media' refers to websites and networks where users have the opportunity the share photos, videos, opinions or even reviews and reports on their experiences. Blogs, Wikipedia, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter are all examples of social media.

Email and social networking have created their own category of security concerns. These technologies make it very simple to disseminate information. And once that information leaves your building, it can rarely, if ever, be recalled. Assume that nothing will stay private on the internet.

Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Consider what would happen if a post becomes widely known and how that may reflect on the poster. Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created, and comments can be forwarded or copied.

Once something has been published online it is extremely difficult to remove. By simply performing a search and cross-referencing the results, for example, conclusions can be drawn about your personal relationships, professional responsibilities, and views on specific subjects.



Mental Health
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Public Health
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Social Services
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- **Treat confidential information confidentially.** You are not allowed to share confidential information that you learn about the foster child or their family of origin.
- **Observe the law.** Do not publish slanderous, malicious, insulting, or otherwise illegal content.
- **Photography:** Photographs posted on social media sites can easily be appropriated by visitors. Do not under any circumstances post pictures of foster youth.

