



# **SENECA COUNTY**

## **Emergency Medical Service**



**Subject: Social Networking Websites & EMS Information**

**Reference Number: 43**

**Effective Date: 10/29/09**

**Review Date: November 2011**

### **Purpose:**

To outline the use of the popular Social Networking Websites (Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, etc...)

### **Background:**

The privacy provisions of the federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and the Seneca County Personnel policy manual do not prohibit the use of these types of websites. The use of these websites can be beneficial for transmitting information to the public or large groups of individuals in an effort to increase public awareness of EMS and the goals of Seneca County EMS. These types of websites shall never be used to discuss, display, or announce any specific information regarding the operations of Seneca County EMS at the scene of any emergency, before or after the incident.

### **Policies**

1. No information about a patient, persons at the scene, scene, incident, motor vehicle accident, rescue, or any other type of operational related data shall be posted, displayed or otherwise placed on any website at any time, without approval from the Seneca County EMS director.
2. Information about emergency operations at incidents may contain protected patient health information that is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
3. There is no reason to ever display this type of information on any social networking website.
4. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action to the employee or volunteer member.
5. The Seneca County EMS Director is the designated contact to report violations of this policy.

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