

COUNTY OF SAN BENITO, CALIFORNIA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

CHAPTER: 0500

Social Media Comment Policy

Policy Number:
2016-05-005

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of the County's Comment Policy is to make the public aware of the County's terms for participating in County online discussions and to establish policy which identifies the types of public comment that may be considered inappropriate and subject to deletion from County online discussion sites.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all County of San Benito online sites that permit public comment, including but may not be limited to: websites, portals, blogs and social networking sites.

RESPONSIBILITY

Agencies/Departments that establish and administer online discussions are responsible for ensuring policy compliance.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. County Agency/Department Online Sites that permit public comment (websites, portals, blogs, county established social network sites, etc.) shall prominently display the County's Comment Policy on each online page that displays discussion content.
2. When possible, online discussions shall be moderated by a designated moderator, appointed to the purpose of the discussion forum.
3. Comment postings that do not comply with the County's Comment Policy shall be rejected when received via a moderated online discussion, and promptly removed from public view, when received via an unmoderated discussion. This includes, but is not limited to, statements, links, video, images, documents, etc.
4. The County's Official Online **COMMENT POLICY** is:

The County of San Benito welcomes you and your comments.

The purpose of this discussion is to present information relevant to the stated purpose of this site, regarding matters of public interest in the County of San Benito, including its many residents, businesses and visitors. We encourage you to submit your comments, but please note this is a moderated online discussion site and not a public forum.

Please note that the comments expressed on this site do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the County of San Benito, its officers, agents, affiliates, or employees. If you have any questions concerning the operation of this online moderated discussion site, please contact us at_____.

By posting anything to this site, you agree to the following terms:

- Users will treat others with respect.
- Users warrant that they own or have permission to post the information contained in their postings, including but not limited to video, photos, or digital reproductions and that no copyright or trademark infringement has taken place due to posting it on this site. Further, the County of San Benito does not guarantee or warrant that any information posted by users on this site is correct, and disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage resulting from reliance on any such information.
- Users of this site do not retain any rights over their postings. Postings are intended for public view and any personal information posted constitutes a waiver of any rights to privacy or confidentiality.
- Once posted, the County of San Benito reserves the right to delete submissions that contain vulgar language, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, or religious group. Further, the County of San Benito also reserves the right to delete comments for reasons including but not limited to the following: (i) spam or include links to other sites; (ii) clearly off topic; (iii) advocate illegal activity; (iv) promote particular services, products, or political organizations; (v) infringe on copyrights or trademarks; (vi) violate County's policies related to social media.

RELATED REFERENCES

1. County Social Media Use Policy (P2016-05-000)
2. Social Media Appropriateness of Content Policy (P2016-05-004)

SUNSET DATE

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 05/10/2023.

Version History:

Version Number	Change Request Number (if applicable)	Date	Author	Summary of Change	Effective Date
Original	NA	05/10/2016	IT	NA	05/10/2016