

## 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.

### 204.2 POLICY

Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) members shall use email in a professional manner in accordance with this policy and current law (e.g., California Open Records Act).

### 204.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to emails accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed on any department technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

### 204.4 RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF EMAIL

Messages transmitted over the email system are restricted to official business activities, or shall only contain information that is essential for the accomplishment of business-related tasks or for communications that are directly related to the business, administration, or practices of the Department.

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

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. In the event that a member has questions about sending a particular email communication, the member should seek prior approval from a supervisor in the member's chain of command.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message under another member's name or email address or to use the password of another to log into the system unless directed to do so by a supervisor. Members are required to log off the network or secure the workstation when the computer is unattended. This added security measure will minimize the potential misuse of a member's email, name, or password. Members who believe a password has become known to another person shall change the password immediately.

### 204.5 EMAIL RECORD MANAGEMENT

Email may, depending upon the individual content, be a public record under the California Open Records Act and must be managed in accordance with the established records retention schedule and in compliance with state law.

The Chief Probation Officer, or the authorized designee, shall ensure that email messages are retained and recoverable as outlined in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.