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# Information Technology Use

## 342.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the proper use of Modoc County Sheriff's Office information technology resources, including computers, electronic devices, hardware, software and systems.

### 342.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Computer system** - All computers (on-site and portable), electronic devices, hardware, software, and resources owned, leased, rented or licensed by the Modoc County Sheriff's Office that are provided for official use by its members. This includes all access to, and use of, Internet Service Providers (ISP) or other service providers provided by or through the Sheriff's Office or department funding.

**Hardware** - Includes, but is not limited to, computers, computer terminals, network equipment, electronic devices, telephones, including cellular and satellite, pagers, modems or any other tangible computer device generally understood to comprise hardware.

**Software** - Includes, but is not limited to, all computer programs, systems and applications, including shareware. This does not include files created by the individual user.

**Temporary file, permanent file or file** - Any electronic document, information or data residing or located, in whole or in part, on the system including, but not limited to, spreadsheets, calendar entries, appointments, tasks, notes, letters, reports, messages, photographs or videos.

## 342.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Modoc County Sheriff's Office that members shall use information technology resources, including computers, software and systems, that are issued or maintained by the Sheriff's Office in a professional manner and in accordance with this policy.

## 342.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to emails, texts, or anything published, shared, transmitted, or maintained through file-sharing software or any internet site that is accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed on any Sheriff's Office computer system.

The Modoc County Sheriff's Office reserves the right to access, audit, and disclose, for whatever reason, any message, including attachments, and any information accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed over any technology that is issued or maintained by the Sheriff's Office, including the Sheriff's Office email system, computer network, and/or any information placed into storage on any Sheriff's Office system or device. This includes records of all keystrokes or Web-browsing history made at any department computer or over any Sheriff's Office network. The fact that access to a database, service, or website requires a username or password will not create

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an expectation of privacy if it is accessed through Sheriff's Office computers, electronic devices, or networks.

The Modoc County Sheriff's Office shall not require a member to disclose a personal username or password for accessing personal social media or to open a personal social website; however, the Sheriff's Office may request access when it is reasonably believed to be relevant to the investigation of allegations of work-related misconduct (Labor Code § 980).

### **342.4 RESTRICTED USE**

Members shall not access computers, devices, software or systems for which they have not received prior authorization or the required training. Members shall immediately report unauthorized access or use of computers, devices, software or systems by another member to their supervisors.

Members shall not use another person's access passwords, logon information and other individual security data, protocols and procedures unless directed to do so by a supervisor.

#### **342.4.1 SOFTWARE**

Members shall not copy or duplicate any copyrighted or licensed software except for a single copy for backup purposes in accordance with the software company's copyright and license agreement.

To reduce the risk of a computer virus or malicious software, members shall not install any unlicensed or unauthorized software on any Sheriff's Office computer. Members shall not install personal copies of any software onto any Sheriff's Office computer.

When related to criminal investigations, software program files may be downloaded only with the approval of the information systems technology (IT) staff and with the authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

No member shall knowingly make, acquire or use unauthorized copies of computer software that is not licensed to the Sheriff's Office while on department premises, computer systems or electronic devices. Such unauthorized use of software exposes the Sheriff's Office and involved members to severe civil and criminal penalties.

Introduction of software by members should only occur as part of the automated maintenance or update process of Sheriff's Office- or county-approved or installed programs by the original manufacturer, producer or developer of the software.

Any other introduction of software requires prior authorization from IT staff and a full scan for malicious attachments.

#### **342.4.2 HARDWARE**

Access to technology resources provided by or through the Modoc County Sheriff's Office shall be strictly limited to department-related activities. Data stored on or available through Sheriff's Office computer systems shall only be accessed by authorized members who are engaged in an active investigation or assisting in an active investigation, or who otherwise have a legitimate law

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enforcement or department-related purpose to access such data. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by a supervisor.

### **342.4.3 INTERNET USE**

Internet access provided by or through the Modoc County Sheriff's Office shall be strictly limited to department-related activities. Internet sites containing information that is not appropriate or applicable to department use and which shall not be intentionally accessed include but are not limited to adult forums, pornography, gambling, chat rooms, and similar or related internet sites. Certain exceptions may be permitted with the express approval of a supervisor as a function of a member's assignment.

Downloaded information shall be limited to messages, mail, and data files.

### **342.5 PROTECTION OF AGENCY SYSTEMS AND FILES**

All members have a duty to protect the computer system and related systems and devices from physical and environmental damage and are responsible for the correct use, operation, care, and maintenance of the computer system.

Members shall ensure Sheriff's Office computers and access terminals are not viewable by persons who are not authorized users. Computers and terminals should be secured, users logged off and password protections enabled whenever the user is not present. Access passwords, logon information, and other individual security data, protocols, and procedures are confidential information and are not to be shared. Password length, format, structure, and content shall meet the prescribed standards required by the computer system or as directed by a supervisor and shall be changed at intervals as directed by IT staff or a supervisor.

It is prohibited for a member to allow an unauthorized user to access the computer system at any time or for any reason. Members shall promptly report any unauthorized access to the computer system or suspected intrusion from outside sources (including the internet) to a supervisor.

### **342.6 INSPECTION OR REVIEW**

A supervisor or the authorized designee has the express authority to inspect or review the computer system, all temporary or permanent files, related electronic systems or devices, and any contents thereof, whether such inspection or review is in the ordinary course of his/her supervisory duties or based on cause.

Reasons for inspection or review may include, but are not limited to, computer system malfunctions, problems or general computer system failure, a lawsuit against the Sheriff's Office involving one of its members or a member's duties, an alleged or suspected violation of any department policy, a request for disclosure of data, or a need to perform or provide a service.

The IT staff may extract, download or otherwise obtain any and all temporary or permanent files residing or located in or on the Sheriff's Office computer system when requested by a supervisor or during the course of regular duties that require such information.