



BJA Privacy Webinar—The Importance of Privacy and Social Media Policies in Law Enforcement

On **January 30, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, EST**, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), will be hosting a privacy Webinar titled **“The Importance of Privacy and Social Media Policies in Law Enforcement.”**

BJA recognizes that privacy is a core value of society—a right that is protected by federal and state constitutions and expected by citizens. BJA, through DOJ, encourages law enforcement agencies to vigorously protect information privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Law enforcement officials, no matter what rank, must ensure that taking into account and respecting the privacy and civil rights of individuals is a fundamental responsibility of the job and essential to building communities of trust. Without this trust, information sharing initiatives are at risk to public condemnation and civil liability.

Today, a new technological resource is available to law enforcement—social media. Many government entities, including law enforcement, now use social media to interact with the public, provide information on crime trends and community events, and share tips on keeping citizens safe. Unfortunately, social media sites are also being used to instigate or conduct criminal activity. These sites are now viewed as another resource in the law enforcement investigative toolbox and should be used in an appropriate manner that adheres to the same principles that govern law enforcement activity.

The BJA privacy Webinar will feature privacy policy development and implementation presentations from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation ([GBI](#)) and the Connect South Dakota (Connect SD) statewide information sharing system. GBI presenters include Mr. Vernon Keenan, Director, and Chair, Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council ([CICC](#)); Dawn Diedrich, Esquire, Director of the Office of Privacy and Compliance; and Special Agent in Charge Scott Dutton, Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The GBI panel will provide a background on the fusion center privacy policy development movement—a proactive effort that, by 2010, resulted in every designated fusion center in the United States having a U.S. Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#))-approved privacy policy that was determined to be “at least as comprehensive as the Information Sharing Environment ([ISE](#)) Privacy Guidelines,” <http://www.ise.gov/privacy-civil-rights-and-civil-liberties-protection-framework>.

GBI panelists will discuss some of the positive outcomes experienced from GBI’s proactive privacy protection efforts and will share the reasons why it was important for GBI’s information sharing initiative to have a privacy policy as well as a social media policy. Refer to the following link for an article on GBI’s social media policy, www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2951&issue_id=62013. Ms. Diedrich will articulate the process GBI used to develop a privacy policy and share information regarding GBI’s annual privacy report. Agent Dutton will share with attendees the challenges and successes with daily operational compliance with the privacy and social media policies and explain the process GBI uses to audit for compliance, update the policies, and implement privacy training.

Next on the panel is Sheriff Michael Milstead of the [Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Office](#), South Dakota, and Chair of the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative ([Global](#)) Strategic Solutions Working Group ([GSSWG](#)), and Mr. Bryan Gortmaker, Director, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Sheriff Milstead and Director Gortmaker will discuss the background, goals, and achievements of the Connect South Dakota (Connect SD) statewide information sharing system and, particularly, its privacy protection efforts. Connect SD received funding and technical assistance from BJA and other partners and was successful in connecting records management systems (RMS) and jail management systems (JMS) together across the state. In particular, this presentation will feature South Dakota’s proactive efforts to ensure that privacy protections were established at the outset through a Connect SD Privacy Policy. Director Gortmaker will share insights on how South Dakota encouraged law enforcement agencies, statewide, to adopt and implement the policy and their success in providing privacy training to all law enforcement agencies in South Dakota. Sheriff Milstead will discuss the need for agencies to develop policies to address body-worn camera usage, and finally, he will provide an overview of the broad range of BJA privacy tools, templates, and guidance which Connect SD utilized and which are available to all law enforcement (it.ojp.gov/privacy).

The Webinar will be accessible on January 30, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., EST, and is scheduled to last one hour. On that day, select <https://iir.adobeconnect.com/r48tmyrx65x/> to view the video portion of the presentation, and dial (866) 200-5786 and enter Access code 2614808 to hear the audio conference.