



**MIDSTATE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
EMS ADVISORY**

<b>NUMBER</b>	<i>04-10</i>
<b>DATE</b>	<i>08/24/10</i>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<i>Social Networking</i>

**PURPOSE**

To encourage EMS Providers to refrain from posting information or photos regarding calls, patients, or situations related to EMS operations.

**BACKGROUND**

The use of internet posting mechanisms, such as blogs, personal websites, social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter etc.) and others has become common among all age groups. Although EMS providers are cognizant of the need to avoid posting any patient identifiers which would constitute clear HIPPA violations, there are dangers in posting subtler, identified information. Because it is impossible to anticipate who might view a post, such as someone with a connection to a patient, even the most generic or subtle reference to any EMS incident has the possibility of being linked to the actual case, or of being mistakenly linked to a different patient.

**LIMITATIONS**

Providers should NEVER engage in internet posting or blogging regarding patient care. Our patients not only trust EMS providers with their lives, but, their privacy as well. Violations of this trust must be interpreted as professional misconduct.

Questions can be referred to the Program Agency.

**REFERENCES**

None

