



Linn County Social Media Sites Terms of Use

Linn County (County) maintains a social media presence to serve as a mechanism for communication between Linn County and the public regarding County news, programs, services, activities, events, and public safety information.

Please know that all messages sent or received by Linn County officials and employees in connection with official County business are public records subject to disclosure under the Iowa Open Records law. By posting or commenting on any social media site used by the County, users are making a conscious choice to disclose information about themselves, including potentially identifiable characteristics to the public.

The following Terms of Use apply to all social media sites (“site” or collectively “sites”) for Linn County and all of its departments, divisions, and programs (collectively “County”). The County reserves the right to revise, change, modify, or remove portions or all of these Terms of Use with or without prior notice to you, the user/visitor (“user”). Any updates or changes to the Terms of Use will be posted here and linked to all the County’s sites. Your use of the site (e.g. posting comments, liking posts, liking pages, viewing content, etc.) will be deemed acceptance of the Terms of Use. If you disagree with any part of these Terms of Use, please do not use any County site and immediately exit the County site you are currently accessing.

Limited Public Forum

All social media sites used by Linn County are designated as Limited Public Forums. The County welcomes a person’s right to express his/her opinion and encourages posters to keep comments relevant to the topic in question. Posting of any content on any social media site used by the County, by any visitor, follower, subscriber or fan, constitutes acceptance of the Terms of Use described here in this policy.

For purposes of this policy, a social media site is the website or app offered to the public to provide audio, video, still-photo or written communication between other members of the public and/or representatives of certain groups, businesses, organizations, or departments. Examples of social media sites include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Nextdoor, LinkedIn, website blogs with commenting capabilities, and forums.

The definition of content as used in this policy refers to any written copy, photos, graphics, videos, live-video streams, comments, or any form of communicative content exchanged between parties.

Official Requests or Emergency Requests for Assistance

Linn County social media pages are informational in nature and are not designed to handle official requests or notices from the public. All requests and notices to Linn County must be made through the applicable County department.

Do NOT report emergencies on any County social media sites. County social media sites are not monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In case of an emergency, dial 911.

Moderation of Content / Rules for Commenting

The County seeks to maintain an environment on its social media sites which is relevant, civil, and appropriate for all ages. When applicable, the County uses platform-provided content moderation/filtering options to limit foul or obscene content. County social media accounts are monitored for compliance with Community Standards Rules listed below. Content that deviates from the Community Standards will be removed without prior notice, and as soon as possible.

Linn County requires that all posts to its social media pages must adhere to the individual platform's **Community Standards Rules** and expressly reserves the right to remove or block submissions that contain:

- Profane, vulgar, or obscene content;
- Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or any other protected group status;
- Sexual content or links to sexual content (other than educational);
- Personal attacks or defamatory comments;
- Threats to any person or organization;
- Comments in support of, or in opposition to, any political campaigns or ballot measures;
- Solicitation of commerce and advertisements;
- Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity;
- Information that may tend to compromise the safety and security of the public or public systems;
- Content that violates a legal ownership interest, such as a copyright or trademark, of any party;
- Harassment or content which constitutes and/or facilitates stalking;
- Content which violates the right to privacy or contains confidential information; or
- Encouragement of violence.

External Links

The provision of direct links should not be construed as an endorsement or sponsorship of these external sites, their content, or their hosts. The County specifically disavows legal responsibility for what a user may find on another site, whether or not operated by the County. The views and opinions of the authors of documents published on or linked to the County's social media accounts do not necessarily state or reflect the opinion, policy, or position of the County.

Linn County is not responsible for the content, quality, accuracy or completeness of any offsite materials referenced by or linked through the County's social media accounts. By using the County's social networking sites, the user acknowledges and accepts the risk of injury or damage from viewing, hearing, downloading, or storing such materials rests entirely with the user. Furthermore, the County is not responsible for any materials stored on other social networking sites or websites, nor is it liable for any inaccurate, defamatory, offensive, or illegal materials found on other social networking sites or websites.

The County does not endorse any content, viewpoint, products, or services linked from its social networking sites and shall not be held liable for any losses caused by reliance on the accuracy,

reliability, or timeliness of such information. The County does not warrant the accuracy or reliability of or endorse any products or service providers listed or linked to its site.

Third Party Terms and Control

The County neither owns nor controls the third-party platforms which host its social media sites in addition to these Terms of Use. The County cannot control the removal of comments associated with removed posts.

Disclaimer

The County's social media sites are not monitored around the clock. All information provided by the County on its social media sites is on an "as-is" basis. If you need an official source of information about the County, please contact the relevant County department. The County disclaims any liability for advertisements, videos, promoted content, or comments accessible from any external websites. Any inclusion of external content or comments on the County's social media sites does not imply endorsement of, or agreement by the County, nor do such posts or comments reflect the opinions or policies of the County. All posts and comments on the County's sites by the public are the opinion of that commenter. Users participate at their own risk, taking personal responsibility for their comments, usernames, and any information placed on the site by such user.

Elected Officials

Unless expressly stated otherwise, all comments by Linn County elected/appointed officials to a third party's social media page is their personal opinion and not the opinion of Linn County.

User Privacy

Users shall have no right to privacy on the County's social media sites. County social media sites are subject to the Iowa Open Records law and records retention requirements as established by applicable law and County policies. Any content posted on a County social media site may be a public record subject to public disclosure, as are their lists of followers (i.e. the individuals who "like" or show support of a user's comment or post).

License to Reuse Posts and Comments

By posting or commenting on a County social media site, you are granting the County and its affiliates, officers, employees, consultants, and representatives a worldwide, irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, adapt, copy, distribute, transmit, publicly display, translate, and reformat your comment in any existing or future media. You additionally agree that the County may publish or otherwise disclose your name or username in connection with your post or comment.

Accessibility

It is the County's goal to provide maximum access for all users of the County's social media sites. Departments using social media will use reasonable efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities may have access to Linn County's social media presence. If the Communications Department learns that a social media provider offers an accessible tool, the department will identify that alternate version on the County's website to inform users that the tool is available.

Termination of Site

The County reserves the right to terminate any County social media site at any time without notice.