

Policy Statement:

While New England Law Boston (NEL|B) encourages its employees to enjoy and make good use of their off-duty time, certain activities on the part of employees may become a concern if they have the effect of impairing the work of any employee; harassing, demeaning, or creating a hostile working environment for any employee; disrupting the smooth and orderly flow of work within the office; or harming the goodwill and reputation of the NEL|B among its community. In the area of social media (print, broadcast, digital, and online services such as Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Plaxo, and Twitter, among others), employees may use such media as long as such use does not produce the adverse consequences noted above. For this reason, NEL|B reminds its employees that the following guidelines apply in their use of social media, both on and off duty:

1. If an employee publishes any personal information about the employee, another employee of the organization, NEL|B, a client, or a customer in any public medium (print, broadcast, digital, or online) that:
 - a. has the potential or effect of involving the employee, their coworkers, or NEL|B in any kind of dispute or conflict with other employees or third parties;
 - b. interferes with the work of any employee;
 - c. creates a harassing, demeaning, or hostile working environment for any employee;
 - d. disrupts the smooth and orderly flow of work within the office, or the delivery of services to the NEL|B's clients or customers;
 - e. harms the goodwill and reputation of the NEL|B among its customers or in the community at large; or
 - f. tends to place in doubt the reliability, trustworthiness, or sound judgment of the person who is the subject of the information,the employee(s) responsible for such problems will be subject to counseling and/or disciplinary action, up to and potentially including termination of employment.
2. No employee may use NEL|B equipment or facilities for furtherance of non-work-related activities or relationships without the express advance permission of the Dean's Office.
3. Employees who conduct themselves in such a way that their actions toward and relationships with each other interfere with or damage work relationships, disrupt the flow of work or customer relations, or cause unfavorable publicity, should be concerned that their conduct may be inconsistent with one or more of the above guidelines. In such a situation, the employees involved should request guidance from management to discuss the possibility of a resolution that would avoid such problems. Failure to seek such guidance may be considered evidence of intent to conceal a violation of the policy and to hinder an investigation into the matter.
4. Use of social media that involves any kind of criminal activity or harms the rights of others may result in criminal prosecution or civil liability to those harmed, or both.
5. Social media access and use involving NEL|B equipment and resources are subject to NEL|B's "New England Law Boston's Policy on Internet, Email and Computer Usage" at all times.