**Handling Social Media**

***Ethical Statement:***

Journalists should treat social media as another outlet for publication. The same ethical standards applied to writing for publications should be applied to sharing or posting information online using social media platforms. Information should be credible with appropriate attribution.

***Procedure***

* Social media is another form of publication and should be treated as such. When posting on your personal social media, ask yourself the following questions:
	+ Is this something you would write in a publication? If not, could this hurt your credibility as a journalist?
	+ Why are you sharing this?
	+ Are you sharing credible information? If not, how could this be harmful or discredit your credibility?
* Be honest, transparent and respectful to others as you would while working as a journalist.
* If you come across reports of an incident on social media, confirm the information before spreading the information as fact.
	+ Contact the owner or author of the post. Work to determine where it came from and look for another credible source to confirm the information.
* Treat online sources as you normally would. Journalists should confirm the information being presented and anonymous sources should rarely, if at all, be used as a single source representing fact.

EXAMPLE:

* Is it ethical to share information (Facebook post) without context or verification? When, if at all, would it be permissible? Example: What if the post is published by a police department?