

USE OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR JUROR OR PROSPECTIVE JUROR RESEARCH

Except as authorized by the Court, attorneys, parties, witnesses, and their respective representatives may not initiate contact with any juror concerning any case in which that juror was summoned to appear. Attorneys may, however, seek leave to use websites available to the public, including social media websites, for juror or prospective juror research. If leave is granted, the following parameters will apply:

- (1) The website or information must be available and accessible to the public and not the result of an attorney's own social media account;
- (2) The attorney may not send an access request to a juror's social media accounts;
- (3) No direct communication or contact may occur between the attorney and a juror or prospective juror as a result of the research, including, but not limited to, Facebook "friend" requests, Twitter or Instagram "follow" requests, LinkedIn "connections" requests, or other forms of internet and social media contact;
- (4) Social media research must be done anonymously. A search on a social media site may not disclose to the juror or prospective juror the identity of the party who is making the inquiry; and
- (5) Deception may not be used to gain access to any website or to obtain any information.
- (6) Third parties working for the benefit or on behalf of any attorney must comply with these same restrictions.
- (7) If an attorney becomes aware of a juror's case-related posting on the internet while the case remains pending in this Court, the attorney shall report the posting to the Court.