



## Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

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Approval Date: March 23, 2015  
To: All WAS Staff  
From: Steven D Garvin, President WAS  
Subject: Public Act 11-47. An act concerning the unauthorized taking or transmission of images of victims by first responders of crimes or accidents.  
Directive: 15-001

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Waterford Ambulance Service Staff, Please review the attached Public Act 11-47.

This Public Act concerns the unauthorized taking or transmission of images of victims by first responders of crimes or accidents. The purpose of this Public Act and WAS Policy is to protect the privacy rights of victims of crimes, accidents and other incidents requiring the response of public safety or emergency medical personnel by prohibiting such first responders taking or disseminating unauthorized images of the victims.

Images do not just have to identify the person by sight, it can also identify the person by;

- License Plate
- Unique vehicle
- Other distinguishing features

There are times when we can take images in the performance of our duties, such as a Fire Department or WAS designated photographer, EMS Crew to show a Doctor a MOI, or to document an accident for an Investigation.

In these cases, the photographer will have specific authorization from a Fire or EMS Officer and such photos will not be disseminated via Social Media including, but not limited to posting on facebook, my space, blogs, message boards, texting, forwarding camera phone pictures and video, etc.



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With social media becoming more integral with daily life, and the use of smart phones with photo and video cameras that instantly post images to such media, the mindset has been, “anything is fair game”. In our professional capacities, we have a moral and civil responsibility to edit our social media postings. The public puts it’s faith and trust in us to “do the right thing” when it comes to posting Fire Department Events and Incidents on-line.

It is not the purpose of this Act to stop emergency personnel from posting online, but to set expectations on conduct and ask you to consider the effect your post will have.

Violations of this policy will be reviewed within the WAS Progressive Discipline & Corrective Action Policy, and can lead to immediate Written Warning, Suspension, or Termination depending on the severity of the situation.

Thank you

*Steven D. Garvin*

President, Waterford Ambulance Service



## **Waterford Ambulance Service Directive**

### ***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1099***

### ***Public Act No. 11-47***

#### ***An Act Concerning The Unauthorized Taking Or Transmission By First Responders Of Images Of Crime Or Accident Victims.***

Section 1. Any peace officer or firefighter, as those terms are defined in section 53a-3 of the general statutes, or any ambulance driver, emergency medical technician or paramedic, as those terms are defined in section 19a-175 of the general statutes, who responds to a request to provide medical or other assistance to a person and, other than in the performance of his or her duties, knowingly

(1) takes a photographic or digital image of such person without the consent of such person or a member of such person's immediate family, or

(2) transmits, disseminates or otherwise makes available to a third person a photographic or digital image of such person without the consent of such person or a member of such person's immediate family, shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.