

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT FOR IPDC GROUP LIST EMAILS

The Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC) recognizes the value of email discussion groups to improve the quality of representation of clients represented by its members. An email discussion group is a closed forum wherein members can post questions, seek advice, brainstorm, and share materials with other members. To this end, IPDC encourages the responsible use of IPDC's group email discussions forum known as the "Listservs." Because email discussion groups are largely unregulated and member messages to and from group members are difficult to control, IPDC adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of listserv and IPDC's community page.

It is the policy of IPDC to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct by members while using IPDC resources. It shall be a violation of this policy for any user to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies outlined in this document. IPDC retains the following rights:

1. To remove a user temporarily or permanently for violation of this policy at any time and without warning.
2. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of listserv discussions and/or maintaining a log of listserv activity for later review.
3. To determine who will have access to each listserv group and to exclude those who do not abide by IPDC's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of the listserv forum.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Use

1. All use of listserv and IPDC's community page must be in support of legal and professional objectives and must be consistent with the mission and objectives of the IPDC.
2. Any comments denigrating public defenders or public defender clients is unacceptable.
3. Harassing conduct, which includes epithets slurs or negative stereotyping, threatening, intimidating or hostile acts, denigrating jokes, and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group will not be tolerated. Members are expected to be polite and professional.
4. Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is strictly prohibited.
5. Any use of the listservs or IPDC's community page for commercial, political lobbying or commentary, or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
6. No use of the listserv or IPDC's community page shall serve to disrupt the use by others. Hate mail, chain letters, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited.
7. Members shall not share information and messages to and from members with any non-member, including, but not limited to, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and non-member attorneys.
8. Notwithstanding the above, a member may post a question or comment on behalf of an attorney who is not a member of IPDC so long as the poster discloses that (1) the post or question is from a non-member and (2) the non-member is engaged in the practice of criminal defense.

Disclaimer

1. IPDC cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the listserv, either appropriately or inappropriately. The onus is on the person posting a message to exercise caution. The listserv may include lawyers who represent adverse interests in matters.
2. While messages and materials are restricted to users who have access to the listserv groups and community materials, IPDC cannot control subsequent dissemination of messages or content to non-IPDC members, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers, etc. Members are advised that any message sent to an email group could be shared by a member to a non-member in violation of this policy.
3. IPDC makes no warranties (expressed or implied) concerning the content of any advice or information received by a user.
4. IPDC reserves the right to change its policies and rules at any time.
5. IPDC reserves the right to change a member's settings in the listserv to display the member's name and email address in the "From:" line of each post.