Policy on Internet Social Networking Sites While on Internship

As an intern in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at CMH, you are now professionally employed by the hospital and consequently have become one of its representatives, both inside and outside its physical grounds. With the advent of social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter, your professional reputation and standing has even greater reach and consequences than ever before. Potential employers, post-doctoral residency programs, and your current and former patients and their friends and relatives can potentially gain access to these public presentations of your image, personal characteristics, personal or tagged photos, and personal opinions/beliefs.

We strongly recommend that you be mindful of how you represent yourself in social networking sites and how much access you give others to your personal information, especially if you plan to list your designation as working as a psychology intern in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at CMH. A good general guideline is “the front page” test – if you would not want to see the information on the front page of the newspaper, then it probably should not be made public knowledge. Take advantage of the privacy settings afforded to you by these sites and restrict the type of information that can be accessed by outside parties.

It is our program policy to prohibit social networking “friendships” with any CMH Psychology Training faculty member while in training here at the hospital to avoid the appearance of impropriety or the formation of a dual relationship. It is important to remember that your relationships with faculty members carry inherent power differentials, as they evaluate your progress toward your successful completion of the training program and may write letters of recommendation for you in the future.