

# HURST STORES

## INTERNET AND EMAIL ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Voicemail, email, and internet usage assigned to an employee's computer or telephone extensions are solely for the purpose of conducting Hurst Stores/Hurst Company (HS/HC) business. Employees should NOT use a password, access a file or retrieve any stored communication without authorization.

Some job responsibilities at HC/HS require access to the internet and the use of software in addition to the Microsoft Office suite of products.

Only people appropriately authorized, for Company purposes, may use the internet to access and download additional software. This authorization is generally exclusive to decisions that the Administration department makes in conjunction with each manager.

### **Software Access Procedure**

Software needed, in addition to the Microsoft Office suite of products, must be authorized by your manager and downloaded by an IT specialist or person designated by the Administration department. If you need access to software or websites not currently on HS/HC network, talk with your manager and consult with the Administration department to explain what returns you expect to receive from the product.

All reasonable requests that are not considered a network risk will be considered for you and other employees. The purpose of this policy is not to restrict employee access to products that will make you more productive. The goal is to minimize the risk to the organization's network.

### **Company Owned Equipment**

Any device or computer including, but not limited to, desk phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, and iPads that HS/HC provides for your use, should only be used for Company business. Keep in mind that the HS/HC owns the devices and the information in these devices. If you leave HS/HC for any reason, HS/HC will require that you return the equipment on your last day of work.

You may use personal electronic devices that are not connected to the HS/HC network to access any appropriate internet site during breaks and lunch.

### **Internet Usage**

Internet use, on Company time, using company-owned devices that are connected to the HS/HC network, is authorized to conduct Company business only. Internet use brings the possibility of breaches of the security of confidential Company information.

Internet use also creates the possibility of contamination to our system via viruses or spyware. Spyware allows unauthorized people, outside of HS/HC, potential access to Company passwords and other confidential information.

Removing such programs from the HS/HC network requires IT staff to invest time and attention that is better devoted to making technological progress. For this reason, and to assure the use of work time appropriately for work, we ask staff members to limit internet use.

Additionally, under no circumstances may Company owned computers or other electronic equipment, including devices owned by the employee, be used on Company time at work to obtain, view, or reach any pornographic, or otherwise immoral, unethical, or non-business-related internet sites. Doing so can lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

### **Social Media**

We understand that part of what you do in social media is outreach that recruits new employees and customers and enhances our Company brand. Many employees have social media responsibilities in their job description including the social media marketers, tech support, and recruiters.

We also understand that the relationship of our employees to an online world that you spend time in 24/7 can lead to the blurring of work time and off work time. We strongly encourage you to limit the use of social media to work-related content and outreach during work hours.

Additionally, you are prohibited from sharing any confidential or protected information that belongs to or is about HS/HC. You are strongly encouraged not to share disparaging information that places your Company or coworkers in an unfavorable light.

HS/HC's reputation and brand should be protected by all employees. The lives and actions of your coworkers should never be shared online. Please note the preferences of fellow employees who are parents before you use the name of their children online.

In social media participation from work devices or during working hours, social media content that discriminates against any protected classification including age, race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or genetic information is prohibited.

It is our company policy to also recognize sexual preference and weight as qualifying for discrimination protection. Any employee, who participates in social media, who violates this policy will be dealt with according to the HS/HC harassment policy.

### **Email Usage at HS/HC**

Email is also to be used for Company business only. Company confidential information must not be shared outside of HS/HC, without authorization, at any time. You are also not to conduct personal business using HS/HC computer or email.

Please keep this in mind, also, as you consider forwarding non-business emails to associates, family or friends. Non-business related emails waste company time and attention.

Viewing pornography, or sending pornographic jokes or stories via email, is considered sexual harassment and will be addressed according to our sexual harassment policy. Immediate termination is the most frequent disciplinary action that HS/HC may take in these cases.

### **Emails That Discriminate**

Any email content that discriminates against any protected classification including age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information is prohibited. It is our company policy to also recognize sexual preference and weight as qualifying for discrimination protection. Any employee who sends an email that violates this policy will be dealt with according to the harassment policy.

These emails are prohibited at HS/HC. Sending or forwarding non-business emails will result in disciplinary action that may lead to employment termination.

### **Company Owns Employee Email**

Keep in mind that HS/HC owns any communication sent via email or that is stored on company equipment. Management and other authorized staff have the right to access any material in your email or on your computer at any time. Please do not consider your electronic communication, storage or access to be private if it is created or stored on work systems.

If you need additional information about the meaning of any of this communication, please reach out to your manager or the Human Resources staff for clarification.