

	Abbotsford Police Department Policy and Procedure	
	Operations	Community Policing
	II.M.060	Media Relations

POLICY

- (1) The Abbotsford Police Department (AbbyPD) may disseminate information to the public via the Media where the information is deemed to be:
 - (a) in the public interest; and/or
 - (b) in support of a police investigation.
- (2) Disclosure of personal information to the Media will be made in compliance with all legislation.
- (3) Information may be withheld from the Media if its dissemination could jeopardize public or police safety, compromise the integrity of a police investigation or negatively impact the operation or administration of AbbyPD.
- (4) Where AbbyPD can control the content and format of releases posted to a Social Media platform:
 - (a) private information will be removed at, or prior to, the conclusion of the investigation; and
 - (b) the public's ability to post comments related to that release will be suppressed if the ability to suppress is supported by the Social Media platform.
- (5) AbbyPD strives to maintain a positive, collaborative, and courteous relationship with the Media. All reasonable efforts will be made to disseminate information and respond to Media requests in a timely manner.
- (6) Only personnel authorized by AbbyPD may:
 - (a) speak or otherwise release information to the Media on behalf of AbbyPD; and/or
 - (b) post information to AbbyPD electronic Media platforms.

Paragraphs (1) through (6) constitute Policy approved by the Police Board on April 26, 2023.