No Safety
Behind the Screen

Madisonville police blaze a trail in emphasizing education, safety and accountability in social networking and mobile technology

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR
A young woman in Madisonville had finally made it where she wanted to be. She went to college, graduated and landed an interview for a position that was right up her alley. With her credentials and confidence, she secured her dream job in a field for which she trained. A sense of accomplishment flooded her as she celebrated having arrived in this position. But a short time later, the excitement and celebration still fresh, she received a call that threatened her confidence, her sense of security and the very position she worked so hard to obtain.

Her boss’s voice echoed through her mind as he told her about a yellow envelope that landed on his desk that morning full of pictures of her in compromising situations, and he asked her why she received this package. She couldn’t believe her eyes, as nude pictures from her college days flashed before her — some pictures she never knew existed and others she never expected to see again.

Her boss decided that terminating her employment was his only option, in light of these embarrassing finds.

“What do you do when, as a law enforcement officer, you get the call that says, ‘I have some photos that have shown up and surfaced of me and shown to my boss,’” Madisonville Sgt. Robert Carter asked. “Could that have cost someone everything they were going for? Absolutely. Because a moment of trust in the past has turned out to be a total separation in the future.

“When you deal with individuals, your heart goes out when you see situations that could have been prevented, but it all goes back to an individual’s level of responsibility and their own individual choice,” Carter continued. “People have to control themselves and kids have to make sure they understand the consequences of what they are doing.”

Today’s officers are policing in a world of ever-changing technology and never-ending opportunities for people to share information, pictures and videos across a variety of social networking sites and mobile networks. The task of educating themselves and the public to the potential dangers of this technology is pertinent and necessary.

The Madisonville Police Department has taken this task of education very seriously. Carter and School Resource Officer Bob Couchman began teaching Internet and technology safety courses to community members, students and other law enforcement officers about seven years ago. In these classes, Carter and Couchman walk participants through how information posted on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace can be used as pieces in a puzzle to compound a full picture that they never intended to share. They emphasize that when individuals share on these sites, they are not sharing with a select few friends and family, they are sharing with the world.

“Thats what people dont think about because it seems so harmless — it is information that I would share in this room,” Carter said. “But when you share, you are sharing with the world — that is good people, that’s bad people. That’s people you want to share with and those that come to you because they have something to gain from you and are hoping you have something to lose.”

In student classes, Couchman will pull a random name off the class list and do simple Internet searches on the student to see how much personal information he can uncover just from the information that students have chosen to put on social networking sites. Many times he is able to uncover information about the student’s boyfriend or girlfriend, the student’s parent’s names and address and can bring up an image of the student’s home on Google satellite. The wide-eyed looks he gets at that point often grab the students’ attention and help them understand the importance of being guarded about how much information they make available, Couchman said.

“Social networking is a good thing if it is used correctly, but the thing we say time and time again is more is not better,” Carter said. “A little chocolate tastes good; a whole lot of chocolate is going to give you cramps. That is the situation we are seeing.”

“Many times our young people are led astray because of their lack of knowledge about social networking,” he continued. “They put themselves in a grown-up world that is not do alone.”

Often the best chance at reaching students and adult’s alike is having a connection with them, building a relationship or forming a friendship with them — allowing them to develop trust in the officer, Carter said.

“Everything we are discussing about social networking is not possible, cannot exist and will not be successful unless you have the trust of the individuals that you serve,” Carter said. “Without trust, you are dead in the water.”

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

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“When an individual finds themselves dealing with social networking gone foul, their level of trust is gone,” he added. “They are saying how did this happen? I don’t understand — why me?”

Madisonville Chief Wade Williams is steering the agency toward a greater understanding of the importance of community partnerships and overall relationship building.

“The fact that they know a police officer and can pick up a phone and call — they’ve got to have a person they know as officer so and so, not just the police, but someone they know by name,” he said. “With social networking and electronic information it is here to stay. It’s either you choose to get in front of it and use it to your benefit or you get used by it.”

“We choose to get in front of it and use it for the benefit of law enforcement and the community,” he continued. “We want to get out there and make that partnership. When you build relationships in neighborhoods, they tie into you and trust you, and you can get more information and a lot more done because policing is something that a police department cannot do alone.”

Relationships are vital because often what people put out through social-networking sites or via text and multi-media messaging they do assume personal security. They are often in the comfort of their own homes and assume that the messages they type or the pictures they send are only going to the intended party. They believe that by being in their own

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LEN contacts for social networking sites

Madisonville Police Sgt. Robert Carter and Officer Bob Couchman encourage law enforcement officers to make the effort to find the law enforcement contacts within each of the popular social networking sites. Each site has law enforcement contacts that can be so, helpful, Carter said.

“These contacts will make officers very aware they are law enforcement, but Madisonville police have had good results with using these contacts in the case that something needs to be removed to protect a citizen,” he said.

Carter emphasized that it is important to establish these relationships in times of rest or peace because the times that officers find storms in life is not the time to go looking for this information.

Carter and Couchman have found that the law enforcement divisions within these social networking sites are usually made up of retired officers.

“We’ve had things removed off Facebook within 30 minutes, boom, like it never happened,” Couchman said.

Carter urges the law enforcement community to prepare now.

“My advice would be go ahead and make those contacts because at the end of the day it’s better to have them and need them, than to need the knowledge and not have it,” he said.

For a jump start on finding the law enforcement contacts for sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, visit www.search.org/programs/hightech/sps/.

“Then boom, it just goes everywhere,” Carter said. “Once it’s posted, it’s out there. We have to get that point into those kids’ heads; they don’t understand. What is cute to mom and dad, what is cute to my peers, what is cute tonight at this slumber party is indeed cute and funny to someone else that has ill intentions.”

It all goes back to educating people about the implications of the choices they make, regardless of what type of privacy they think they have in the material they are obtaining or sending.

“There is something about the safety of being behind a screen,” Carter said. “I can talk to you in written text and say things that I would never say to you verbally. The parameters of what we know to be normal and what we know as limits — sometimes in those times when each of us may not be thinking to the best of our abilities, things happen. Those things are irreversible.”

This is not an issue that simply revolves around the home computer anymore. As more and more people are using iPhones and other smart phones that offer 24/7 access to pictures, video, texting and other social media, these issues have gotten even more difficult to combat. The immediate and constant access to mobile communication means that the information out there is not stagnant; it is constantly changing, every day, every second, Carter said.

“In regards to technology and social networking, we cannot risk being reactive,” he said. “We have to take a proactive approach to see what is going to be the best method and best vehicle to get individuals prepared to deal with this age of technology.”

These questions Carter suggested everyone should ask themselves before putting information out on social networks or sending messages through mobile phones are:

• Is this something I am comfortable sharing with the entire world — not excluding anyone, that includes my exes, the sickos, everyone — yes or no?
• Is this something I want to see 20 years from now or see posted on a billboard? It’s cute now in high school, but one day I’m going to be a professional. And as a professional is this something that can come back and haunt me? Now it’s not the photo album that sits under mom’s coffee table that she embarrasses you with when you come home for family visits. It’s out there.
• Is this something that you would be comfortable with your pastor or person you think so highly of seeing? Would you show it to grandma?

Giving people a sense of personal accountability is important in helping people not get used by the technology that they find so useful.

“There is no expectation of privacy on social networking sites,” Carter said.

But someone also has to take responsibility for reining in these issues before it becomes too big to handle. Carter stressed:

“...No one has grabbed the reins and said ‘Let’s go’ — it has to be law enforcement, we are the ones that have to do that,” he said. “The responsibility is on us and since that is us, we have to be prepared to deal with that from our citizens to our own families. As we build this ark it is going to take us all pitching in.

“‘Times have changed,’” he continued. “‘With change comes growth, with growth comes new responsibilities. With those new responsibilities we have the opportunity to see and experience a positive change. But seeing and experiencing positive change and growth also comes with growing pains — sometimes it is uncomfortable and that’s where we are now.’

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Operators

Operators are key words that can be entered into search engines to search more specifically. For example, if you were investigating a case involving Mike Smith, a MS-13 gang member in Lexington, the following are some ways you could find results with the information about him and his online activity.

Mike Smith Latin Kings OR Mike Smith MS-13 - finds results with either Mike Smith and Latin Kings or Mike Smith and MS-13. Helpful if you don’t know which gang he is associated with.

MS-13 Lexington Ky. - limits the results to information about MS-13 in Lexington, Ky.

-MS-13 Lexington - finds the words inside the quotation marks next to each other in results

MS-13 - Lexington - finds these words within 20 words of each other

Site:MS-13 - every site the word will be in the title

InSite:MS-13 Lexington - very specific, will find only Web site titles with MS-13 and/or Lexington

InSite:MS-13 OR InSite:Mike Smith Lexington, Ky. - will find sites with the two tied together in Lexington

Site:gov MS-13 - searches just web sites that have .gov at the end. The same works for .edu

Site:gov OR site:ms-13 - finds site with specific authority on the subject outside the parentheses

Site:FB.gov - site:ms-13 - reveals everything the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Web site has available online with MS-13 in the title.

Site:FB.gov - searches only that site

Filetype:pdf - reveals PDF only results. Works the same with ppt abbreviation for power point results, mp3 for music files, or xls for Excel documents

Filetype:pdf intitle:methamphetamine - reveals any PDFs about meth available on government Web sites

Mike Smith Inanchor:MS-13 - reveals results with MS-13 in the links part of the Web address with the words Mike Smith on the page somewhere

Using these operators is commonly known as Google hacking. While the name sounds unsavory, it’s perfectly legal.

“All you’re doing is finding stuff on Google that is not as easily found,” said Kirby Plessas, president and CEO of the Plessas Experts Network.

For more training materials, type filetype:ppt intitle:google-hacking into your search engine.

Kirby Plessas

Kirby Plessas is an Open Source Intelligence Expert providing training in Internet research techniques and analysis to a variety of law enforcement and intelligence agencies throughout the United States. An Army veteran trained as an Arabic Linguist, she also worked at the Defense Intelligence Agency for Radiance Technologies in Kittery, Maine and Urban Analysis.

She has been declared the Department of Homeland Security Technical Expert for Internet Research. She consults and speaks to government entities about using Open Source and Social Media (Web 2.0) for their unique needs. Kirby has taught a number of classes for the U.S. Department of Justice.

You can reach Kirby Plessas at (202) 848-0031 or kirby@plessas.net.

The Facebook’s home Web page, creator Mark Zuckerberg touts that the site is “giving people the power to share and make the world more open and connected.”

He isn’t kidding.

It’s no secret that Facebook, which connects more than 500 million active users, has its privacy flaws. But for law enforcement looking to exploit those flaws in an effort to catch dumb criminals, that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

Kirby Plessas, an open source intelligence expert based in Washington, D.C., recently shared some of her skills with local law enforcement at the Department of Criminal Justice Training. Among the tricks of the trade she shared were tips on tracking criminals on Facebook, even when they think their pages are locked from anyone they haven’t befriended.

“Facebook is holier than Swiss cheese,” Plessas said. “People think they have their privacy, but they don’t.”

Although Facebook has worked hard to make its users think they’re keeping their information more private, each time you log in, you are asked to accept new settings for friends’ eyes only are leaving quite a bit for law enforcement to track.

ZESTY

Plessas identified several avenues for searching social networks, including one called Zesty. When you type zestyca/Facebook into your Web browser, the resulting plain, white page is unassuming. The page, owned by a Google engineer who wanted to expose Facebook’s flaws, displays a simple search bar and a little encouragement: “What does Facebook publish about you and your friends?”

Here’s how you can use it:

If you already know how to find your suspect’s Facebook page, open a separate window on your computer and go to that page. When you have it open, look at the Web address (or URL). At the end, there should be a number, or sometimes, a name.

For example, it should look like this:


With your mouse, highlight and copy the number (192289516870, in this case) and return to the Zesty page. Paste or type that number into the search bar and click “Go.” What appears seems convoluted, but look closely. There is a table with a label to the left that says “metadata.” (See screen grab on the left.) Across it should see several red links that say things such as photos, statuses and videos. Clicking on those links will show you anything the user has left public.

“If it is really and truly not locked down, you can go in there and look at their photos, see their wall posts — I thought that was very helpful,” said Eric Long, a Richmond police detective specializing in child and Internet crimes, who attended the class.

You can look at the photos and videos to identify your suspect as the right person, to see if they posted snapshots of evidence, victims, to see who their friends are to bring them in for questioning or any other reason you may discover to be helpful. Through the statuses, you can find privacy settings, those who accept the default settings are actually dialing down their privacy, Plessas said.

And now, thanks to a simple online tool, those who haven’t fully adjusted their settings for friends’ eyes only are leaving quite a bit for law enforcement to track.

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If a person has selected Facebook's recommended privacy settings, you should be able to read the statuses they post as well as any comments on that status from their friends. Following the browser will not work on this site. To go back using the standard "back" button on your computer, you can feel out what public information they have to offer online, too.

Plessas said this tool works best with the Facebook 3D number.

(Editors’ note: It should be noted that there are dozens of other sites to gathering case information via Web sites like Topix.com. Long uses RSS feeds to keep up with the news, but said it also can be helpful for gathering case information via Web sites like Topix.com. “People pass that off as a bunch of idiots sitting around gossiping,” Long said. “If you read on them, some of these people have more information than somebody else would know unless they are directly involved. A lot of the cases that we work, they’ll have information we haven’t released yet. They sit there and talk back and forth to each other about it. It can be very helpful.”)

Kelly Foreman can be reached at kelly.foreman@ky.gov (or forward to what you previously were viewing, use the arrows to the left of the initial search box.)

“Then everybody had MySpace.com, you could get on there and look at all their photographs, see all their friends and everything they do,” Long said. “But everybody has kind of switched over to Facebook and they have stopped that. You can see their picture if you can find them. So, I think this is of huge importance, to get in and see what they’re doing, I have worked several cases of men supposedly talking online to juveniles and you get on their Facebook page or MySpace page and you can see pictures of them with the victim. Pictures of them hanging out with the victim. The same pictures on their MySpace site are on the victim’s computer or vice versa.”

Plessas identified another Web site, youropenbook.org, also seeks to show-case Facebook’s not-so-private settings. A tagline on the main page reads, "Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life. Whether you want to or not." The site searches public status updates of users with any keyword. Even without a Facebook account, an officer could type in something they are looking for by keyword — such as an assault, theft stolen at a recent home invasion — and see who might be talking about it. The site also brings up users’ photos and names along with anything they wrote.

Facebook’s bait-and-switch on privacy and their overly complex settings cause many users to post messages intended for their friends to everybody, according to the site’s operators. “That’s the entire planet, to all time, everyone can see something,” Plessas said. Facebook could have serious consequences if you’re looking for a job, applying for college or trying to get medical insurance.

Or, as Plessas said, if you’re committing criminal activity and posting about it online, "that’s the entire plan to Facebook’s not-so-private settings. A book and they have stopped that. You can feel out what public information they have to offer online, too."

http://facebook.com/ kelly.foreman@ky.gov

No one has to add you as a friend to see what they are saying. "It’s like the rumor mill on steroids," Plessas said.

But if you’re looking to quick search information posted to Twitter, there are sites for that, too. Search twitter.com uses keywords to find Twitter users. Some, like searchtastic.com, allow you to export results to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Additionally, Twitter and Google made an agreement in Feb. 2010 to make tweets searchable through Google, Plessas said.

RSS FEEDS

But, if visiting a handful of Web sites and sifting through search results sounds like time-consuming work, there’s a simple answer. Literally. Real Simple Syndication, otherwise known as RSS feeds, is a way to bring everything you’re looking for to you, as soon as it is updated. News stories, blog entries, Tweets — even Craigslist postings — all can be delivered straight to you from RSS feeds delivered into an RSS Reader, such as Google Reader. So, if an officer was investigating a burglary case in which an Xbox 360 was stolen, an RSS feed could be established to send the officer news stories published online about the burglary; any comments made online about the case; people involved or the missing property as well as anyone a used Xbox 360 is posted on Craigslist for sale.

Creating a reader account is simple, too. It requires creating a Gmail e-mail address through Google and clicking on their "Reader" link. Many Web sites that have constantly updated information have a little orange button with a white graphic that looks somewhat like pulsing waves. Clicking on this icon usually will take you straight to a link that page into your reader. But even if the button isn’t there to automatically link you to the information, it isn’t hard to create the link yourself.

For example, if you wanted to create an RSS feed every time a used Xbox 360 popped up for sale in your Lexington, KY, Craigslist group, here’s how you would do it:

On your computer, go to www.google.com, then, in the search bar enter site:Lexington.craigslist.org Xbox 360. Once Google has completed its search, copy that URL from the top of the results page, open a new browser window, open the Web site www.opensearch.com. Paste the URL copied into the search bar. Click search. Once the search results have populated, return to the URL at the top of the page and paste it into the search bar. Once there, type your special search term, for example, "Aframit RSS" to the end of the URL and press enter. The results will be delivered straight to a page with an option to add the feed to your Google reader.

Long uses RSS feeds to keep up with the news, but said it also can be helpful for gathering case information via Web sites like Topix.com. "People pass that off as a bunch of idiots sitting around gossiping,” Long said. “If you read on them, some of these people have more information than nobody else would know unless they are directly involved. A lot of the cases that we work, they’ll have information we haven’t released yet. They sit there and talk back and forth to each other about it. It can be very helpful.”

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Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Digg, LinkedIn, Police Pulse, YouTube. These terms are familiar to those who are technologically savvy and curious about what is happening in the world around them. Some people swear they will never join a social networking site, but as such sites become more common, the people joining range from 13 to 136 in age. They come from every race, religion and culture, with as many varied sites as there are users. A member can talk to someone in Italy as easily as he or she can talk to someone across town. But as great strides continue to be made in the technology available for personal and business use, careful consideration must be given as to how those tools can and should be used.

Statistics indicate that 47 percent of adults who are connected to the Internet use social networking sites, for both personal and business use. Seventy-three percent of teens and young adults are members of at least one social networking site. Facebook is the No. 1 social-networking site and has approximately 500 million users, with its members using the site an average of five and a half hours per month. Twitter processes approximately 10 million tweets a day from its members. And technology does not require that someone be connected to a computer in order to use the sites. With the wide variety of smart phones currently flooding the market, there are millions of mobile users who use social networking sites. But what do all these statistics mean for the user — in this case, law enforcement officers? Like anything, there can be good and bad things about the use of social networking sites. But make no mistake: it is all very public, no matter what efforts are made to keep it private.

Keeping this important fact in mind, law enforcement officers can make the most of the benefits of social networking while avoiding its pitfalls and the liability issues that accompany those pitfalls.

THE GOOD

Many police agencies around the nation, and in other countries, are setting up their own Facebook pages, available to the public to be used to “fan” the page. Frankfort, Nicholsonville, Taylor Mill and Greenville are just a few of the city police departments that have their own Facebook pages. The Kentucky State Police also has its own Facebook page. These sites keep citizens updated with information on police department-sponsored community events and other important information.

Keeping informed of what their citizens want to know is important, and social networking sites are a great way to do that. Some police departments use Twitter and YouTube to post videos. The Los Angeles Police Department’s Facebook page has videos on using canines, firearms training and SWAT.

The most important benefit of social networking sites is the manner in which they can be used to help solve crimes, enable officers to locate suspects and make arrests and help in missing persons cases.

In Maine, the Auburn Police Department was able to place its department’s Facebook page, photos of three individuals from hotel video surveillance where hotel property had been stolen. To help identify the page the individuals and were able to provide anonymous tips as to the identity of the suspects. Arrests were made for burglary and criminal mischief.

In another case, the police department was able to make an arrest of a juvenile who had threatened his school with destruction on his Facebook page. The juvenile meant the comment as a joke but the threat was taken seriously by police.

Twitter and Facebook can help mobilize thousands of people in a missing person’s case. Family members of a missing person will often set up a page on a social-networking site and from that, the possibilities of what can occur are just about limitless. In the case of Chelsea King, a California teenager who had been reported missing after falling to return from a run, more than 6,000 volunteers came together to search for her after her parents created a Facebook page and its postings went out via Twitter. While the search ended in a tragic way, the police were able to find her killer quickly, using and cataloging information much more efficiently with access to the Facebook page created by Chelsea’s parents.

THE BAD

“Working tonight looks like it’s going to be a rainy, boring shift.” “Watching a drunk guy take a water hose into his man pants ... not my idea of a good time.” “I HATE PEOPLE.” “Big drug bust ... pg.” “Things are going fine and I am havin’ a good time later.” These are a few postings out there on law enforcement officers’ social-networking pages. They are somewhat generic postings but have the potential to cause big problems for the officers down the road for different reasons.

In about the content of the officer’s MySpace page. A friend had posted a picture edited with the officer’s face, showing him standing with the celebrity he had just arrested. Further, the officer’s page contained derogatory comments about the citizens of his community, developmentally-delayed individuals and homosexuals. He eventually lost his job with the Lexington Division of Police.

There are more examples of officers across the country using poor judgment in their postings, such as posting pictures pretending to shoot someone; or a wrecked cruiser and then commenting “oops, shouldn’t have had that last beer.” It demonstrates providing too much information about their thoughts on law enforcement, the people they arrest and the people they protect. All of it can and will have a negative impact on that law enforcement officer.

There are plenty of law enforcement officers who have social-networking pages who do not make those remarks, post inappropriate comments or “statuses,” or post inappropriate pictures. They are cognizant of choosing to accept people as friends and they actually know the people on their friends list. These officers love working in law enforcement and only want to do that job to the best of their ability. Social networking sites can still get them into trouble.

Trouble will come in the form of the form of loss of respect and credibility with the prosecutor and the courts. It will bring unwanted attention from defense attorneys. These officers post about the big drug bust their agency just had and post pictures standing next to the...
No Texting Law Now in Effect

Although the ban on sending or reading text messages on a personal communications device took effect in July 2010, until January 1, 2011, officers were only permitted to give warnings for violations. Because of the delay, many officers did not receive the violation codes for these offenses, as they were not included with the July update that covered all the other new laws that took effect at the normal time. Both offenses are violations.

The codes are as follows:
- 00266 – 189.292 – Communication device violation, 1st offense.
- 00267 – 189.292 – Communication device violation, 2nd or subsequent offense.
- 00268 – 189.294 – Communication device violation, < 18 YOA, 1st offense.
- 00269 – 189.294 – Communication device violation, > 18 YOA, 2nd or subsequent offense.

MILITARY LEAVE REMINDER

With so many law enforcement and telecommunications personnel serving in the military, it should be noted that in 2006, the Kentucky General Assembly made a change in the number of days of annual leave such members must be given. KRS 61.194 and 396 provides that all state and local employees shall be paid their regular compensation for up to 21 calendar days per year, when in the performance of duty or training in their respective branch of the military (for the U.S. Public Health Service). Unused leave may be carried over for up to two years.

Questioning Suspects in Custody

When a suspect is already in jail, having been arrested on a warrant, may an officer go to the jail to question the suspect? In Kentucky, the answer is critical. Of course, the subject must be advised of Miranda rights, but if the right to counsel already has attached, either because they have specifically invoked the right, or because counsel has been assigned at arraignment, the subject must specifically waive the right to counsel present. If an attorney has already made an appearance in the case, it may be advisable to contact the attorney, if the subject is willing to talk.

PREGNANCY AND DRUG USE

Last year, the Kentucky Supreme Court reinforced a principle that a pregnant female cannot be charged with endangerment or abuse of her child based on having ingested illegal drugs while she was pregnant.

In 1992, the General Assembly passed the Maternal Health Act, 1992 Ky. Acts, ch. 442. The preamble of that act strongly suggested that the General Assembly intended that maternal use of drugs or alcohol during pregnancy would not subject the woman to any additional punishment for the risk posed to the child in the womb. (In other words, she could be charged with possession, but not with wanton endangerment or assault where the child is the victim.) The purpose of this was to prevent women from being discouraged from seeking medical care because they feared prosecution for drug or alcohol abuse. The following year, the Kentucky legislature passed a provision to dismiss the charge of criminal abuse against a mother who had used oxytocin during her pregnancy. KRS 514.160(3) c. v. Welke, 864 S.W.2d 260 (Ky. 1993); Cochran v. Com., 315 S.W.3d 325 (Ky. 2010).

NEW DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBER

The definitions of “family members” for the purposes of fourth-degree assault changed with the passage of 2010 House Bill 1, also known as Aman- dau’s Law. This change went into effect on July 13, 2010. The legislature removed language defining the phrases from KRS 431.005(2), substituting instead, a reference that matches the meaning to the same terms in KRS 431.030. This removed the often confusing phrase “related by consanguinity [blood] or by affinity [marriage] within the second degree.” The new definition of “family member” is as follows: spouse, including a former spouse, a grandparent, a parent, a child, a stepchild, or any other person living in the same household as a child if the child is the alleged victim. As such, siblings, in-laws, first cousins and aunts/uncles are no longer automatically “fam- ily members.” They will only be family members if they live in the same household as the perpetra- tor and they are younger than 18 (assuming they are the victims) or (as the perpetrator), they live in the same house as the victim, who is younger than 18.

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