

Thank you very much for joining us for this roundtable discussion on privacy and social media. This is part of a credibility study by the Associated Press Media Editors (newly renamed) that will cover several facets of social media. LJWorld.com and the Lawrence Journal-World, as well as KnoxNews.com and the Knoxville News-Sentinel are the two newsrooms looking at the intersection of social media and privacy. Today we'll give you a couple of examples of where someone's life was changed — or they felt it was changed — because of information shared via social media. After each, we hope to discuss what we or another news organization did right or wrong, or what could go differently. If you have any examples of your own that you'd like to share, please speak up. This is a discussion, not a lecture. If after you leave, or if there's something you'd like to say individually, rather than in front of the group, please get in touch with Jonathan Kealing. He can be reached via email at jkealing@gmail.com. Thanks again for joining us tonight. We hope to have a lively discussion.

Situations:

- 1) Over the police scanner, a reporter hears a report of a "Code Black" (dead body) at a home in the area. A quick phone call to emergency dispatchers advises it's being treated as a medical — an unattended death. A quick tweet is put out saying that an ambulance and police are investigating an unattended death, but it's believed to be a medical. No other action is taken by the reporter, but a competing news organization goes to the house later and bangs on the door, disturbing a grieving spouse. The spouse calls the original news organization and complains.
- 2) A father kills his estranged wife and two children before killing himself. The man's Facebook page is public. It includes numerous pictures of himself with his children and wife, and frequent wall posts on how much he misses his children and the fun they used to have together, with other posts from friends and relatives trying to console him. He does not mention that he is legally barred from seeing his children because he had been charged with holding the family at gunpoint as he threatened to kill his wife. The wife has a Facebook page, but hers is restricted to only be viewable by her friends, so there's no way to see what, if anything, she was saying.
- 3) Two reporters are covering a public forum where community members are speaking with elected officials about the closure of the local social services office. Many speakers are identifying themselves by name and as the reporters are tweeting about the meeting, they are identifying the speakers. There are numerous cameras and hundreds of people in the room. A few days later, one of the speakers calls the newsroom and is upset that her name was listed in the tweet.
- 4) A man is arrested and charged with killing his wife. We find the Facebook page of the woman's daughter, who is about 14. On her profile, which is public, she expresses her grief and shock and says repeatedly that she is sure that her stepfather killed her mom and makes allegations that he had previously abused her mother.