



## Texas Department of Criminal Justice

**Bryan Collier**  
Executive Director

August 23, 2016

By electronic transmission only

Adam Schwartz  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
815 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
[adam@eff.org](mailto:adam@eff.org)

Re: TDCJ social media rule

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

We have reviewed your August 16, 2016, letter with the specific example of a group of offender and legal advocates who maintain web pages and social media accounts that benefit offenders or spotlight legal issues directly affecting offenders. The advocates make no pretense about who they are and you represent that they maintain ultimate editorial control over the content of the social media accounts. The social media accounts by name are clearly not presenting themselves as being social media accounts maintained by an offender.

Ms. Christensen and Ms. Grosse in your cited example maintain the sort of internet presence regarding an offender or class of offenders that TDCJ's rule is not meant to affect. I appreciate your willingness to engage with me on this topic.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Felfe Howell".

Sharon Felfe Howell

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*Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.*

**Office of the General Counsel**

**Sharon Felfe Howell, General Counsel – [sharon.howell@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:sharon.howell@tdcj.texas.gov)**

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