

# Terms of Use and Social Media Policy **ALLEGANY****SPEAKS**.COM

## ALLEGANY SPEAKS

The Allegany Speaks forum has been established to foster discussion and encourage the sharing of ideas and information by Allegany County community members on a variety of topics. This forum is open to the public, without regard to ethnicity, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, disability, religion, or political affiliation. Our policy is to accept the majority of comments made on our discussion boards. However, we urge participants to be civil and abide by all usage guidelines established in these Terms of Use.

We follow and adopt the terms of the MDH terms and privacy policies located at <https://health.maryland.gov/pages/terms.aspx> unless otherwise stated below.

Use of this website, and any other content originally produced by Allegany Speaks signifies acceptance of all terms and privacy policies issued on this page. In addition to prohibiting posts which are in any way a violation of State or Federal law, Allegany Speaks requires users to agree to and abide by the following stipulations:

- All content submitted on AlleganySpeaks.com is considered to be in the public domain. Do not submit any personal information on this website that would lead to individual identification. Wherever possible, any concepts, ideas, or designs are also submitted into the public domain so as to promote Public Health and empower communities to connect with their constituents.
- All features of this application are designed to create public data sets licensed under the public domain, GPL v3, or MIT licensing. There are no privacy restrictions on information uploaded or created through this application. Please note that the submission of any record will be publicly visible, and will only be moderated in accordance with our social media policy.
- Discussion forums on Allegany Speaks will be monitored by group administrators for compliance with this Policy. All content published on this site may be utilized for any purpose and is not considered to be private or under restricted use.
- All opinions are those of the original contributor and are not to be recognized as agency or organization statements. Social media is personal in nature, and as such, any opinions may be of professional reference or experience, but do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of associated agencies, organizations, or businesses.
- Forum groups may be created by users to discuss new topics. Creation of these discussion groups does not constitute endorsement by Allegany Speaks or its partner agencies. Allegany Speaks reserves the right to remove content and groups not in keeping with the goals and intentions of the Allegany Speaks forum.
- Profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, advertising, and political campaigning are not permitted. Such content may be removed. Other posts that may be removed include hate speech, nudity, intellectual property infringements, and defamation to a person or group of people. Posts that are considered inappropriate, off-topic, excessively repetitive and/or disruptive to the online community and this platform may be removed. Discussions of political views and philosophies should be addressed in other forums.
- Protected health information or personally identifiable information such as names, addresses, social security numbers, protected financial information, health conditions, and other confidential/private information may not be posted. If such information is found, it may be removed.
- Allegany Speaks will make every effort to respond to questions/inquiries submitted through the [voices@alleganyspeaks.com](mailto:voices@alleganyspeaks.com) email address in a timely fashion during normal business hours. Be cautious of answers posted in the forums by other users, as the information they provide, though well-intentioned, may not be correct. Allegany Speaks is not responsible for the validity of claims or information posted by individual users.
- Information shared on Allegany Speaks is not intended as a final rule for legal situations. There may be specific subjects — such as litigation, licensing processes, permitting, etc. — that will not be discussed via the Allegany Speaks web forum.
- While social media and web forums such as Allegany Speaks are available 24/7, moderation capabilities are not. Therefore, every inappropriate comment may not be addressed right away. We trust in the maturity of the community to maintain civility on the discussion boards and to ignore personal attacks and negative speech and avoid participating in the same.

Violations of the above guidelines may result in the author being banned from specific discussion groups or from the Allegany Speaks platform as a whole. This can occur without warning and at our discretion. Please contact [voices@alleganyspeaks.com](mailto:voices@alleganyspeaks.com) with questions.