



Authorized Personal Use of Public Property

DGO Policy Internal 11

Effective Date: 10/1/2021

Revised Date:

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Approved By: Jenney Rees

References/Authority: Utah Code 76-8

1 PURPOSE

This policy provides public servants guidance as to authorized personal use of public property, as defined in Utah code section 76-8-101(5), to help them avoid unintentional violations of Utah Code sections 76-8-402 and 404, Offenses Against the Administration of Government. Violation of Utah Code section 76-8-402 is a felony.

A public servant is not guilty of a violation of Utah Code for authorized personal use of public property.

This policy constitutes a “written policy of the public servant’s entity” for purposes of Utah Code section 76-8-402(1)(b)(iii).

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This policy is applicable to all Department of Government Operations (DGO) employees.

3 POLICY

3.1 Definitions

DGO: Department of Government Operations

Public Servant: As defined in 76-1-601(16) means a public officer, an appointed official, employee, consultant, or independent contractor of a public entity, or a person hired or paid by a public entity to perform a government function. For purposes of this policy, “public servants” will be used to refer to “employees.”

Public Property: As defined in Utah Code Section 76-8-101(5) means real or personal property that is owned, held, or managed by a public entity.

3.2 Policy

Employees are responsible for protecting and conserving government owned or leased property and for using official time in an honest effort to perform official duties. This policy does not grant to employees or create an inherent right to use government resources, and one should not be inferred. The privilege to



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use public property for personal reasons may be limited or revoked at any time by appropriate management, including a supervisor, division director, or executive management.

Employees do not have a right to, and should not have an expectation of, privacy while using government resources at any time, including when they are accessing the internet or using email, instant messaging, or telephones. Employees who want their personal activities to be private should not conduct such activities using public property.

To help improve the effectiveness of government services, incidental or de minimus personal use of public property by employees is authorized under Utah Code Section 76-8-402 and is further authorized under this policy. Incidental or de minimus personal use includes:

1. Use of public property for limited personal use when an employee is using the public property to perform the employee's duties of office or employment; and
2. Use of public property of a personal nature when such use of the public property:
 - a. Is allowed to be used by the general public;
 - b. Is allowed for training or skill development;
 - c. Is provided or required to be provided to the public servant as an employee benefit or convenience, such as lunchroom, fitness, and/or nursing room facilities;
 - d. Provides value to DGO or the State of Utah that substantially outweighs the personal benefit received by the employee;
 - e. Is otherwise permitted by an employee's manager or supervisor in writing prior to usage; or
 - f. Is otherwise permissible under state or federal law, administrative rule or policy.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 above, incidental personal use does not include any use that:
 - a. Significantly interferes with the mission or operations of DGO;
 - b. Significantly interferes with the performance of the employee's or any other employee's official duties;
 - c. Significantly compromises the integrity of public property; or
 - d. Is for private financial gain, including, but not limited to, conducting outside business, employment, or other income-generating activities.

This policy does not modify the requirements of laws, rules, or policies regulating state employees' use of public property, including but not limited to the following:

- DGO_Pol_Int_01_Code of Conduct;
- Utah Administrative Code R477-9-7, Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources
- The Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act;
- Utah Code Section 67-19-19 - Political activity of employees - Rules and regulations - Highway patrol - Hatch Act;
- DTS Policy 5000-002.1 - Enterprise Information Security Policy (Statewide);
- DTS Policy 5000-0003 – Enterprise Mobile Device Policy (Statewide);
- DTS Policy 5000-0004 – Enterprise Web Filter Policy (Statewide);
- Utah Administrative Code R895-7, Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources;
- Division of Finance Policies, including:
 - FIACCT – 05-15.00 – Purchasing Card
 - FIACCT – 10-01.00 – Travel – Personal Use of State Vehicles;
- Utah Administrative Code R27-3 - State Vehicle Use Standards;
- Utah Administrative Code R27-6 Fuel Dispensing Program;



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- Governor's Executive Order 002 2014: Establishing an Ethics Policy for Executive Branch Agencies and Employees; or
- Any DGO specific statutes, rules, or policies.

4 RELATED DOCUMENTS (e.g., procedures, other policies, forms etc.)

- None



Amendment/Change Log

<Policy Name> Amendment/Change Log					
Date	Section/ Heading	Change/Edit	Additional Information (if needed)	Change Approved By	Change Approval Date