

**Town of Mashpee
Board of Selectmen**

Policy No: 33

Media Relations Policy

The Board of Selectmen maintains the goal of informing the public, to the greatest extent possible, regarding the business of operating our Town government. It is the policy of the Board of Selectmen to ensure the open and free access to the media of all Town affairs, as well as the presentation of information regarding Town government in an open and fair manner. To this end, the Board of Selectmen adopts the following guidelines for relations with the various news media:

- When communicating with the media, authorized employees and agents of the Town shall have the ethical obligation for observing the criteria of truth, clarity and fairness, to help ensure that reporting of Town affairs is accurate and unbiased.
- Opinions and personal viewpoints given should be clearly identified as personal in nature and should not be presented as official positions of the Town government.
- Employees and agents of the Town should review and be cognizant of recent Board of Selectmen actions in order to familiarize themselves with the position of the Board on issues related to their duties which may be of interest to the news media.
- Employees and agents of the Town are strongly encouraged to recognize that any statements made to the media are public statements and, as such, are subject to publication or public broadcast with attribution.

***Adopted by the
Mashpee Board of Selectmen
July 29, 1996***