

Subject: Rule feedback regarding "mass reporting" of "old tweets"

Hi. I used email rather than the abuse report form because this message does not pertain to a particular Tweet, but is feedback and a suggestion related to a class of attack that goes against the spirit of the rules as I understand them.

Upon sending an off platform communication to employees of a law firm that I am involved with (@SeyfarthShawLLP), I was met with an account "suspension" based on weeks-old Tweets which may have qualified as abusive to most observers. I successfully appealed the Tweets and took pause to scrutinize the rules which I have now done (and thank you for the opportunity for growth):

It seems that I experienced what amounted to an "attack" which involved rapidly reporting old Tweets pertaining to their account upon their receipt of an email (with no reference to the Tweets—perhaps they had them saved). In my view they should have immediately reported these Tweets if they felt that there was an issue; the timing was too fast for them to have found them and done so in the moment, mere minutes. I appreciate Twitter's patience with the outlandish nature of the content posted on my account, and indeed I find myself to be in compliance with the rules in spirit and when taking into account the history of the relationship between the other party and I.

I can behave more in line with middle-class cultural norms in the future as my acclimation to homelessness completes and my options to attain housing and rejoin society grow; however, I have been made to fear that my account can be suspended at whim if the other party finds anything objectionable by using existing Tweets that remain online for the reason stated in my appeal: Tweets may be evidence in proceedings and may not be tampered with; this should apply generally to all Tweets over some age, for example 1-2 weeks old. I'm all for deleting old Tweets on some types of accounts, while others may value from having a full log such as my own. I may pause the account when I've reached self-sufficiency, and intend to analyze the content for signals when I have the opportunity.

The theme of my account is experiencing homelessness and deprivation and posting unfiltered to the extent possible. It's been my last portal to the tech world, and indeed the world as a whole during the height of the pandemic. This is not always clean nor pretty and I am most grateful for Twitter's accommodation of the mess to-date.

I hope this feedback can make it into policy, as the ability to attack a controversial user by "mass reporting" old Tweets indeed "attempts to use fear to silence other people" and is effective. It was fair to suggest that I review the rules and give an opportunity to appeal the removal; yet, the lasting impact is that the account is "retweet only" and I fear posting new content if old content that is very 'spicy' can be used as the basis to induce a suspension.

In summary: I hope that explicit rules will be developed or made public in regards to "mass reporting" "old Tweets," such that accounts like mine with 'spicy' posting histories need not worry about suspensions via the old content as retaliation for new posting. As far as tampering with evidence, perhaps an intermediate "archive Tweet" or similar feature could allow accounts to curate their timeline while keeping history online.

Thank you and warm regards,

Harlan Jacob Iverson