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Consumer Stories...Be careful what you "tweet"

Posted: Aug 13, 2009 12:06 PM EDT

Updated: Aug 14, 2009 5:53 PM EDT

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CHARLOTTE, NC (WBTV) - In a recent post on Twitter, a woman from Illinois made statements about having a moldy apartment, and she named her apartment complex in the "tweet".

The complex management company said that wasn't true and now she's being sued for \$50,000.

"It's called defamation. If you make a false statement concerning someone else and it tends to be defamatory which means there is contempt, scorn, or ridicule in the statement, you can be sued," said Charlotte School of Law professor Beau Baez.

Baez says there are two things to remember in order to keep your postings online on the right side of the legal line.

Only one set of eyes, other than the person who is the subject of the posting, has to see that message to open you up to the potential for a lawsuit.

Second, if you re-tweet someone else's defamatory tweet you could be in trouble too.

"We call those people repeaters. If you repeat a false statement you can be held liable just like the person who passed the initial information. The third and fourth person repeater are equally liable under defamation," Baez said.



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