

# Acceptable Use Policy

Patchwork — patchwork.work

*Last updated: 17 May 2026*

This Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) sets out the rules for using Patchwork in a way that is safe and respectful for everyone. It forms part of our Terms of Service.

Patchwork is built for plural systems and people in those communities. We ask everyone to use it with care for others.

## 1. Definitions

The following terms are used throughout this document:

- “Faen Laud” refers to Niles McCrystal, the individual developer and operator of Patchwork, operating under the trading name Faen Laud. Where this policy refers to “we”, “us”, or “our”, this means Faen Laud.
- “Patchwork” refers to the desktop application and associated server infrastructure developed and operated by Faen Laud.
- “You” or “User” refers to any person who downloads, installs, or uses Patchwork.

## 2. Prohibited Conduct

You must not use Patchwork to:

### 2.1 Harm or harass others

- Threaten, abuse, stalk, or harass other users
- Send unsolicited or unwanted communications to other users
- Engage in targeted harassment or coordinated abuse against any person

### 2.2 Compromise security or access

- Attempt to gain unauthorised access to the Patchwork server, other users’ accounts, or any related systems
- Probe, scan, or test the vulnerability of any Patchwork system without explicit permission
- Circumvent, disable, or interfere with security features of Patchwork
- Transmit malware, ransomware, viruses, or other harmful code

### 2.3 Abuse the service

- Use automated tools or scripts to interact with Patchwork’s server in ways that place excessive load or disrupt service for others

- Create accounts for the purpose of abusing the friend system or server infrastructure
- Attempt to de-anonymise or identify other users without their consent

## **2.4 Break the law**

- Use Patchwork for any purpose that violates applicable local, national, or international law
- Infringe the intellectual property rights of others

## **3. The Friend System**

The friend system is designed for connecting with other plural systems you trust. When using the friend system:

- Only send friend requests to people who have consented to receive them.
- Do not use friend connections to monitor, pressure, or control someone.
- Respect that others may unfriend or block you at any time, for any reason.

## **4. Reporting Concerns**

If you experience or witness abuse of Patchwork by another user, please contact us at [legal@patchwork.work](mailto:legal@patchwork.work). We take all reports seriously, though we cannot view the encrypted content of messages.

## **5. Consequences of Violation**

If we determine that you have violated this policy, we may suspend or terminate your access to Patchwork's server features (such as the friend system and encrypted messaging). We will use judgement and consider the severity and context of any violation.

Because Patchwork is local-first, we cannot disable your ability to use the application itself on your device — only server-side features can be suspended.

## **6. Changes to This Policy**

We may update this Acceptable Use Policy from time to time. Continued use of Patchwork after updates are posted means you accept the revised policy.

## **7. Contact**

Questions about this policy: [legal@patchwork.work](mailto:legal@patchwork.work)