

Editorial – Exceptions to the rule

As mentioned in [the cover story](#), **the rule** for us amateurs is to welcome and include people of all kinds into the fold, whether or not they hold a license. Yet, there are some Earth-dwellers that we actually exclude from our wonderful craft and hobby of amateur radio.

National exclusion

As of [06-07-2022 no countries](#) are banned or prohibited from amateur radio operation. At one time, however, at least Yemen, North Korea, and Ukraine were banned from sending or receiving amateur radio communication, but all those [bans have been lifted](#) as of the date of this newsletter article.

License suspension

Getting onto amateur radio as a control operator and transmitting requires an FCC license. According to the Part 97 rules, however, an amateur who has had his or her license suspended or revoked is in some ways worse off than a person who was never licensed. For example, a suspended person cannot legally participate in third-party communication, but a person who has never held an FCC license can.

Criminal past

Starting 09-07-2017 one of the questions introduced on the [FCC Form 605 application](#) is whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony. The purpose of the question is to ensure the applicant possesses *the basic qualifications* to hold an FCC license. The license candidate who acknowledges a felony conviction on the form is not automatically refused a license, but must submit an explanation within 14 days of applying, or the FCC will dismiss the application.



Offenses

An amateur radio club can bar or ban a legally licensed individual from club activities, a net, or a repeater, often because of substantiated misconduct or repeated rule violations. Furthermore, club or group leadership might find it necessary to prevent individuals from engaging with club-associated social media in an effort to ensure the safety of other members and protect the good name of amateur radio.

You're not the ham police

Even after becoming aware of a person who should be excluded in the craft, it's not your responsibility to read him or her their rights. Leave the exclusion to organization leaders, while you remain cordial and welcoming to them. Once you become aware of an unlicensed individual who is attempting to transmit using amateur radio frequencies, you should not engage the person in casual conversation, but the Part 97 rules permit you to inform the person of club meetings or exam sessions.

Nothing personal

When engaging with another human being, on or off the air, it's possible and often easy to become offended by their wordage, attitude, demeanor, or tone of voice. If you do, either try talking with others instead, or practice being forgiving, understanding that they might not have intended to cause you harm. While we should always refrain from openly criticizing others, it's likewise difficult for most of us to take criticism, however well-intended. Don't let these be excuses to avoid, ignore, or shut out people, just because you don't like something about them, or because they hurt your feelings.

Anything to add? Email editor@utaharc.org