



ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL MANUAL





Administrative and Operational Manual

April 1, 2026

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0-000 AOM INTRODUCTION

0-001 MANUAL OVERVIEW

This document is hereby established as the Administrative and Operational Manual of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, hereafter referred to as the "Manual" or the "AOM." The rules, policies, and procedures contained herein are binding upon all persons who work under the authority of the Sheriff of Charles County, Maryland.

This document is intended to address the responsibilities and conduct of employees in the performance of their duties as employees of the Sheriff's Office, both on- and off-duty. It is recognized that no policy document can anticipate all possible circumstances an employee may encounter.

It is also recognized that employees may be required to, in the face of exigent circumstances, act in a manner which may immediately seem inconsistent with, or not covered by, the policies within the Manual. When such actions arise, the employee must assume the responsibility for any action taken which is contrary to, or not covered by, this Manual. However, any supervisory, management, or administrative review of the employee's actions will be completed in the light of the facts known to the employee at the time of such action.

Concurrently, employees who take actions clearly inappropriate, or failing actions clearly required in the instant case, will be properly held accountable. This stance is designed to allow for as much latitude of action in unanticipated circumstances as is needed, while at the same time holding employees responsible for their actions and judgment.

0-001.1 NATURE OF THE MANUAL

This Manual is an administrative document. Its dictates require conformance by those persons who are subject to the authority of the Manual. The Manual does not create or modify law. Violations of the rules, policies, and procedures set forth in the Manual may expose persons who are subject to its authority, to administrative sanctions. The Manual is not, however, intended to create a greater civil or criminal liability than would otherwise be available under law. Finally, the Manual is not, and should not be construed to be, a contract.

0-001.2 TERM OF THE MANUAL

The Manual will be labeled according to the date it is published. All material contained in the Manual is valid until replaced, changed, or rescinded in writing. The Manual remains in effect through changes in the administration of the Office of the Sheriff, unless it is specifically revoked in writing by the Sheriff.

0-001.3 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE AND SAVING CLAUSE

This Manual is superior to any and all other documents within the Office of the Sheriff, Charles County, Maryland. Any portion of other documents, which is in conflict with the Manual, is void. Other documents, or portions of documents, containing rules, policies, or procedures which are not in conflict with the Manual, remain in force until replaced or rescinded.

If any part of this Manual is found to be in conflict with any law of Maryland or of the United States, or decision of any Court of competent jurisdiction, that part of the Manual so in conflict, is null and void. However, all other parts of the Manual shall remain in full force. In the event of any conflict between any sections of the Manual, the most recently dated section shall control.

0-001.4 KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

All persons who are employees or agents of the Office of the Sheriff of Charles County, Maryland, are responsible



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for the contents of the Manual as it exists in either paper or electronic format and as such, are to obey the rules, policies, and procedures contained therein. Employees and agents further understand they are responsible for all Manual revisions and updates. Sworn personnel and corrections officers will know from memory those sections of this Manual which deal with arrest, use of force, handling of prisoners, and the emergency operation of vehicles.

If the performance of a particular position requires that some information within the Manual be known without references to the Manual, the employee in that position will maintain that level of knowledge. No excuse for poor performance based upon lack of knowledge of the Manual will prevail.

The Manual will be referred to for guidance in situations where it may apply, and knowledge from memory will not suffice. This practice will be followed in those cases where normal functions of the employee's position permit such timely references. Otherwise, the employee will commit such sections, as needed, to memory.

0-002 PROCEDURES FOR DISSEMINATION, AUDITING, AND STORAGE OF AGENCY WRITTEN DIRECTIVES

An electronic copy of the most current AOM and current SOPs will be published on the Agency Intranet, available to all personnel.

Changes and updates to the AOM are posted on the PowerDMS system for review and signature. The server for the Intranet and PowerDMS are backed up and copies of the AOM and SOPs are maintained on the Planning shared network drive for immediate backup access.

Each new employee is provided instructions on how to locate and sign for the Agency AOM and individual policy updates through PowerDMS during their new hire orientation. New employees will also complete a Manual Agreement Form #458 acknowledging the instruction was received.

The Agency auditing process with regard to knowledge of the Manual is as follows:

- All AOM updates and changes will be placed on the PowerDMS system;
- Upon the release of policy updates on PowerDMS, the copy of the AOM posted on the Agency Intranet will be simultaneously updated to reflect those policies being released;
- A notification email will be sent to all personnel Agency-wide, containing a description of new material posted on PowerDMS;
- Each employee is responsible for reviewing and signing for this material. Typically, a 30-day deadline will be set for all employees to review and sign for the material;
- The Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation may coordinate with commanders/subject matter experts to administer periodic testing of Agency personnel on PowerDMS after a Manual or individual policy revision is published. The testing shall be directed toward recently issued revisions of the Manual or those areas of the Manual which are critical to the operation of the Agency;
- The results of the testing shall be monitored by commanders.

Commanders and supervisors shall regularly monitor PowerDMS to ensure employees under their supervision are signing for policies placed there and are completing any tests associated with new policy. This does not relieve the employee from his obligation to know the contents of the Manual, and no defense of lack of supervisory instruction will prevail.



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0-002.1 GRAMMATICAL CONSTRUCTION

Within the Manual, the use of masculine and feminine pronouns is avoided if practical. In those cases where the writer uses the masculine pronoun in referring to Agency personnel in general, the feminine pronoun is hereby specifically included. Similarly, plural references include the singular, and vice versa. "Will" and "shall" are mandatory verbs, and "may" and "should" are permissive.

0-002.2 SOURCE REFERENCES

Some of the material contained within the Manual is a compilation or synopsis of other sources. When this is specifically relevant to a particular section of the Manual, citation of the reference materials are not generally provided, but there will be a notation to refer elsewhere in policy for the relevant material. Persons using this Manual are required to consult these sources, in cases where amplified information is necessary.

0-003 ORGANIZATION OF THE MANUAL

The Manual is divided into chapters, sections, and sub-sections for ease of use and referral. Sites of the Manual are in the following manner: 3-401.6 where 3 is the chapter, 401 the section and 6 the subsection. Alternately the reference could read: Chap. 3, Sec. 401.6. The chapters and sections of the Manual generally contain the following information:

- **Table of Contents**

The Table of Contents gives a quick overview of the sections of the Manual and materials to be found within them. The Table of Contents can aid in the finding of material when the reader is not sure of a specific title or the reader wants to browse the information contained within the Manual.

- **Introduction**

The Introduction contains a description of the Manual and defines its purpose. It also generally explains the Manual's form and functions.

- **Chapter 1**

The mission statement of the Agency and its current and future goals as described in the Strategic Management Program (SMP) are stated. The professional ideals and ethics for Agency personnel are outlined.

- **Chapter 2**

The Agency organization is defined and displayed in organizational charts. The various positions within the Agency, as well as duties and responsibilities of administrators, directors, and supervisors, and explanations of divisions, sections, and sub-sections are included.

- **Chapter 3**

The administrative policies and procedures of the Agency are defined and explained. Uniforms and employee appearance are also presented.

- **Chapter 4**

The operational policies and procedures of the Agency are defined and explained, based on the overviews presented within each division's portion of Chapter 2.



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- **Chapter 5**

The Administrative Reporting Program and methods of data collection and reporting are defined and explained. Examples of various documents and reports can be found in this chapter.

- **Chapter 6**

Risk management and safety policy is provided.

- **Special Orders**

Special Orders contain supplemental materials which are temporary in nature, generally not having a useful life of more than one year. These documents will, however, have a significant impact upon the operation and administration of the Agency during their useful life. Current pay scales are also included in this section.

0-004 REVISIONS AND NEW MATERIAL

When it is evident that some area of the Manual should be revised, updated, or deleted, the information should be provided to Planning & Accreditation, through the employee's chain of command, explaining the circumstances. All Agency personnel may submit recommendations for improvements to the Manual. The revision request may be as simple as a citation of the Manual and the reasoning for the change or by providing the affected section of the Manual with the exact revision noted.

The following sections detail the revision process.

0-004.1 RESEARCH

Planning & Accreditation shall conduct research concerning the subject matter of Manual revisions. This research shall include the review of any material submitted to Planning & Accreditation by the Sheriff or other person noting the need for the Manual revision. It will also include the consultation with members of the Agency who may have special expertise in the subject matter area. Outside organizational planners, the manuals of other agencies, OGC and law references, online resources, and any other source material available will be referenced given the time constraints applied by the Agency to each particular revision. An electronic file will be established within the office of Planning & Accreditation for each Manual revision. This file will contain all materials associated with the revision. Included shall be at least:

- information and correspondence supplied to initiate the revision and all follow-up email correspondence with the initiator, subject matter experts, and other employees involved in the revision process;
- material developed by the research conducted in reference to the revision;
- each draft developed as a result of the revision process;
- any proposed changes to drafts and their source;
- a copy of the marked up policy revision published on the Agency's document management system;
- a copy of the revision without mark ups published in the AOM; and
- a completed Form #889 Policy Approval attached to the approved policy revision.

0-004.2 DRAFTS

The Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation, or designee, shall initiate the creation of a draft of the proposed revision to the Manual. The draft will be clearly labeled "Draft," followed by the number of the draft and the date the draft was created. Each succeeding draft shall be numbered and dated sequentially and no change made in a draft unless the next number in the sequence is assigned to the changed draft. When the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation is satisfied that there is a reasonable draft ready to address the subject matter of the Manual revision, the draft will be circulated to the management staff of the Agency for the review process.



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0-004.3 POLICY REVIEW PROCESS

Drafts shall be circulated to all Agency management staff to include at least:

- the Sheriff;
- Chief of Staff;
- the Assistant Sheriffs;
- Division Commanders / Directors;
- Deputy Directors / Lieutenants;
- the Agency Office of General Counsel;
- the President of FOP 24;
- the President of CCCOA;
- Quartermaster;
- Chief Firearms Instructor.

Management personnel shall review those drafts and determine if there is any needed change. In this regard, the draft (except those specifically marked confidential) may be circulated among any subordinate personnel in order to solicit advice from those who have special expertise in a particular area.

Suggested changes and other feedback will be submitted by Agency email to Planning & Accreditation by the due date indicated on the distribution email circulated with the draft. In keeping with both the FOP MOU and the CCCOA Agreement, personnel will have 15 days in which to review the draft policy. Planning and Accreditation will ensure all feedback received during the review period is shared with the commander or other employee responsible for the policy, and the entire policy review group for further discussion / feedback.

In some cases, there may be a need to expedite this process and in those cases, with the approval of the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, one of the Assistant Sheriffs, or Executive Services Division Commander the draft review outlined in this section may be omitted. In these cases, the policy may be sent straight through the approval process which may include the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, Executive Services Division Commander, and the General Counsel.

Occasionally, the draft review process and the abbreviated review process outlined in this section may be omitted for very minor revisions. In these cases, it is optional for the Commander, Executive Services Division to review and approve the revision. Examples would be position title changes, references to obsolete forms, misspellings, etc.

0-005 COMMAND REVIEW AND APPROVAL

When Planning & Accreditation, in coordination with the commander or other employee responsible for the policy, has considered all suggested changes as a result of the management review process and made appropriate changes, the final AOM draft, marked up document management system draft, along with a completed Form #889 Policy Approval will be presented through the chain of command to the Assistant Sheriffs and / or Chief of Staff for approval. The Commander, Executive Services Division may forward the policy to the Office of General Counsel for legal review if he believes there is need for such review. The Commander, Executive Services Division / Assistant Sheriffs / Chief of Staff may approve the policy or defer for approval by the Sheriff.

The final draft does not need to be presented through the chain of command to the Assistant Sheriff or Chief of Staff for approval for minor revisions already reviewed and approved by the Commander, Executive Services Division.

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Each policy, when submitted for final approval, may be submitted to the Office of General Counsel to be reviewed for legal sufficiency. The Office of General Counsel shall review each policy submitted to them and formally approve or make final recommendations to the Assistant Sheriffs / Chief of Staff. Some policies may have this step omitted if the Commander, Executive Services Division feels the change is not significant enough to warrant such legal review.

0-007 SHERIFF'S APPROVAL

Each policy will be approved by the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, one of the Assistant Sheriffs, or Commander, Executive Services Division acting upon delegated authority from the Sheriff. Only one of these signatures is needed to show an official approval; however, at the discretion of any of these, all five may sign a particular policy.

0-008 DISTRIBUTION

Upon approval, Planning & Accreditation shall distribute the approved policy to Agency personnel. This requirement shall be fulfilled when the policy is placed into the Agency's document management system. Policies will be placed on the document management system with all additions, modifications and deletions highlighted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the revisions made. Portions of text that are struck-through indicate text that is being removed from the policy.

All administrative, management, and supervisory personnel will monitor employee participation to make sure that each employee receives and electronically signs for these policies. Records of employee electronic signatures and any test results will be stored in the document management system. When a particular distribution and / or testing cycle is complete, the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation, or designee, and members of the Command Staff will have the ability to create a report of the results.

Commanders, directors, and supervisors shall ensure that newly posted material is reviewed and / or instruction is given to confirm that staff is able to operate within the parameters of the new material.

Each time a policy revision is placed on the Agency's document management system, an accompanying email will be sent to all Agency employees, notifying them that a new policy revision has been released on the system. The email will include any pertinent details about the revision, to include any related new forms or changes to existing forms.

0-008.1 SHERIFF'S PREROGATIVE

Nothing in this section is intended to abridge the Sheriff's prerogative to unilaterally make changes to this Manual, in any manner, as he may see fit. The procedures in this section shall, however, be followed unless the Sheriff approves deviations.

0-009 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUALS

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are policies and procedures which generally affect only the personnel and functions of one particular unit, section or division of the Agency. Those SOPs are governed by the commander / director / deputy director of that section and are contained within the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for that section.

Commanders / directors / deputy directors are hereby required to establish SOP Manuals when the provisions of this Manual are not sufficient for the purposes of the section. All SOPs are required to conform to policies and procedures contained in the Manual. All personnel within the section for which the SOP Manual is established, are bound by the dictates of that SOP Manual.



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An electronic copy of each section SOP Manual will be provided to the Division Commander or Director in charge of the section establishing the SOP Manual. Each member of the section will be provided access to the section SOP Manual via the Agency Intranet.

The SOP Manual will be kept current, with changes and updates being made as needed. Each SOP will be reviewed at least annually by the current commander of that section, and all revisions or additions will be distributed up the chain of command to be reviewed by the division commander. If changes are warranted, they shall be made and the SOP updated at that time. If no changes are necessary, the reviewing commander shall notify their superior officer and Planning & Accreditation by way of email that the SOP does not need revision. It will then be re-issued with the current date, which will indicate the SOP has been reviewed during that year. The division commander/director of the issuing section may disapprove or modify any provision of the SOP, subject to approval, or delegation of approval authority, by the Sheriff or his designee.

0-010 AGENCY ALL HAZARDS PLAN (AHP)

The primary objective of the All Hazards Plan (AHP) is to facilitate order and continuity of police services during any extraordinary situation. The rules, policies, and procedures contained in the AHP are binding upon all Agency personnel who may be assigned duties associated with the Agency's response to emergency incidents or disasters. The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section, the designated Emergency Manager for CCSO, shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the contents of the AHP document are current, consistent with the Agency's policies, procedures, and best practices. All affected personnel will receive documented annual training on the contents of the Agency's All Hazards Plan. Additional training requirements are contained in the Plan. The document is to be reviewed annually.

An electronic copy of the AHP can be accessed via the Agency Intranet under the Resources tab.

0-011 AGENCY CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP)

The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) provides procedures to be used by the Agency when emergency conditions exist that affect the command structure of the Agency, the operation of the Agency facilities, and the ability of the Agency to perform all functions available during normal circumstances. The COOP is a supplement to the Agency's All Hazards Plan. The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section, the designated Emergency Manager for CCSO, shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the contents of the COOP document are consistent with the Agency's policies, procedures, and best practices. Training requirements are contained in the Plan. The document is to be reviewed annually.

An electronic copy of the COOP can be accessed via the Agency Intranet under the Resources tab.



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CHAPTER 1 – MISSION, GOALS, AND STANDARDS

1-001 INTRODUCTION

The Charles County Sheriff is established by the Maryland Constitution and the laws of the state in order to provide law enforcement functions within Charles County. The CCSO is responsible for the maintenance of order and the delivery of police services to the citizens of Charles County. The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is responsible for the care and custody of prisoners held in confinement within Charles County. The CCSO is also responsible for the security of the courts and such enforcement actions and official document service as may be required by a court. Also, the CCSO is responsible for the transportation, within Maryland, and return of prisoners who are extradited from other states.

1-001.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The men and women of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to service through superior performance. We believe mutual respect, trust and pride in our organization, combined with traditional values and innovative techniques, will ensure the community's right to a safe environment.

1-001.1.1 VALUE STATEMENTS

The men and women of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are bound by the highest standards of conduct, as exemplified in the following values:

PRIDE:

Professionalism – We believe in delivering a level of service which will reflect the pride we have in our community and organization.

Respect – We believe in individual human dignity and the preservation of human rights under the rule and spirit of law, always treating others as we would like to be treated.

Integrity – We believe in maintaining the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest moral and ethical standards.

Duty – We believe the protection of life is our highest priority.

Excellence – We are dedicated to service through superior performance.

1-001.2 GOALS OF THE AGENCY

The general goals of the men and women of the Agency are to:

- provide professional, effective, and efficient services to the citizens of Charles County;
- develop a partnership with the citizens and other government agencies to ensure the safety and security of the Charles County community;
- deliver all services and conduct all activities of the Charles County Sheriff's Office in a fair and impartial manner which assures all citizens the benefits of these services and activities; and to
- continually strive to achieve a living environment within Charles County which allows the County's residents to go about their daily activities in safety and free from fear of criminal activities.



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Hereafter stated are the general goals of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Each component of the Agency has specific short-term and long-term goals. These components' goals are the responsibility of the individual commanders of each of the respective components. Commanders are charged with the responsibility of developing and utilizing goals in the management of their respective components. Goals will be:

- written;
- reviewed at least annually;
- developed with the input of employees and others; and
- pursued with the vigor necessary to assure their timely accomplishment.

1-002 COMBINED STAFFING ASSESSMENT, STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SMP), AND FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PROCESS

The Strategic Management Program is intended to provide for the formulation, review, and annual updating of written goals and objectives for each division and its organizational components. This program is used in combination with Agency Staffing Assessments and the Budget Preparation Process to focus the efforts and resources available to the Charles County Sheriff's Office toward the accomplishment of the mission of the Agency. The program is developed by the Sheriff and his Executive Command Staff, along with participation from Agency employees. The Program has the following major functions:

- Workload and staffing assessment every four years, to include review of the allocation and distribution of personnel;
- Creation of a current multiyear plan, which includes:
 - short- and long-range Agency goals and objectives;
 - anticipated staffing and population trends;
 - anticipated personnel levels; and
 - anticipated capital improvement and equipment needs.
- Creation of the annual Fiscal Budget for the Agency.

Fiscal year goals are to be submitted on the SMP Goal Suggestion Form #357. Goals are statements of what each division component wants to achieve. Fiscal year goals should be focused and achievable during the targeted fiscal year. Care should be taken not to set too many goals, as there is a risk of losing focus. Also, goals should be designed so they do not contradict and interfere with each other.

Objectives are specific, quantifiable, time-sensitive statements of what is to be achieved and when it will be achieved. Objectives should:

- Be measurable - What will happen and when?
- Be suitable - Does it fit as a measurement for achieving the goal?
- Be feasible - Is it possible to achieve?
- Have ownership - Are the people responsible for achieving the objective included in the objective-setting process?

Example:

Goal: To recruit and hire qualified police officers.

Objective(s): Research and analyze job market opportunities and identify three potential market



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opportunities by June 1.

Conduct at least 1 recruitment meeting at specified locations quarterly.

Long-term goals should be listed at the end of the suggestion form. These are goals that enable long-term thinking, may be less tangible, and usually are achieved over a longer period of time.

The SMP contributes to the production of three Agency documents and updates the AOM to reflect any changes to the Agency's Mission Statement and general goals. The documents produced as a result of this process are:

- A Staffing Assessment Report from each division,
- The Agency's approved Fiscal Budget Book,
- The Agency Strategic Management Program Document.

The Executive Command Staff of the Agency will, each year, ensure the completion of the tasks necessary to support the Staffing Assessment, Strategic Management Program, and Budget process. A Chronological Overview Chart of the process is provided at the end of this Manual section. Work on this process will be for the fiscal year one year in advance.

1-002.1 STAFFING ASSESSMENT, ALLOCATION, AND DISTRIBUTION

The intent of this policy is to provide for a means to calculate sufficient Agency staffing needs and provide for allocation and distribution of personnel among and within organizational components based on the nature or number of tasks, their complexity, and time required for completion. The process of allocating personnel to each organizational component also permits the Agency to determine the overall number of personnel required to meet its needs and fulfill its objectives.

The Commander / Director, Administrative Services maintains position descriptions and an up-to-date Agency personnel staffing summary of all authorized positions, filled and vacant. This summary is available upon request for use in completing staffing assessments. The Deputy Director, Human Resources Section, is responsible for coordinating the Agency's staffing assessment process and will provide guidance to members of the Executive Command Staff and other Agency personnel, as needed.

Division commanders shall strive to ensure, within the confines of the annual budget, that each component under their command is appropriately staffed, and that personnel under their command are properly allocated and distributed according to a documented assessment of measurable activities within each component. These staffing assessments will be conducted beginning in March every four years and used in conjunction with the SMP and budget preparation process.

The method used to determine sworn staffing in patrol operations will differ from other components within the Agency. Non-patrol division commanders will have their personnel use the CCSO Staffing Analysis Worksheet as part of the process. The Patrol Division Commanders will use the Allocation Model for Police Patrol (AMPP) for overall staffing assessment of sworn patrol operations. Both spreadsheet programs will be available on the Agency Intranet.

1-002.2 NON-PATROL COMPONENT STAFFING ASSESSMENT PROCESS

During this process, division commanders / directors shall ensure a staffing assessment is made for each component under their command. A separate Staffing Analysis Worksheet is to be completed by each component employee, both civilian and sworn. As a result of these assessments, recommendations regarding additional manpower or redistribution of existing personnel will be documented using the Component Staffing Assessment Form #957. This form is to be completed by each unit supervisor or commander / deputy director / manager, as delegated by the division commander. The person completing the Component Staffing Assessment Form shall generally use the following component level assessment criteria:

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- **Current staffing level:** Identifies the current staffing level in the component (sworn and civilian).
- **Staffing assessment:** Provides an explanation of sufficiency or non-sufficiency of current staffing levels and identifies any relevant staffing considerations within the next four years (i.e., long-term absences, positions held vacant due to budget, rotational assignments, etc.).
- **Quantitative staffing summary:** Identifies and summarizes any quantitative methods used by the component to assess staffing. If other methods in addition to the Component Staffing Assessment Form were incorporated into the assessment, that information should be included here.
- **Equalization of staffing analysis:** Describes how the staffing is distributed within the component and its impact on efficiency. Also describes any changes made since the last assessment and any impact on the operation.

The completed Component Staffing Assessment Form #957 will be submitted through the chain of command to the division commander / director. Section commanders / supervisors / managers will review, endorse, and/or comment on their components' reports. Division commanders / directors will review all the component reports, compile and summarize the reports, and provide an endorsement as to the staffing issues and priorities for the division. The division commander / director shall forward this information through the chain of command to the Sheriff in the form of a written report by May 1 every four years. A copy of the report will be provided to the Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation.

1-002.3 SWORN PATROL OPERATIONS STAFFING ASSESSMENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

With the use of the Allocation Model for Police Patrol (AMPP), the Patrol Division Commanders can estimate patrol operations staffing level needs that are based on Agency established performance objectives and other relevant factors. The model is intended to establish the number of officers needed to answer calls for service and then build upon that to ensure enough officers are assigned to patrol operations to meet performance objectives. There are four primary performance objectives for patrol operations used in this model. They include:

- **Visibility of officers** – The public, as they carry out their daily activities, like to see police officers. They particularly like to see police officers in their neighborhoods. It is important for the police to be visible to citizens in order to make citizens feel safe and to deter potential criminal activity. Therefore, this model sets visibility objectives for patrol and determines how many officers need to be assigned to patrol to meet these objectives.
- **Ability to meet response time goals for Priority 2 calls** – It is crucial for officers to be able to respond quickly to a Priority 2 call. These calls involve potentially life-threatening situations. Therefore, the model takes into account the number of officers who need to be assigned to patrol operations in order to meet the Agency's response time goal for Priority 2 calls.
- **Ability to meet response time goals for Priority 1 calls** – It is also important for officers to be able to respond to Priority 1 calls in a timely manner in order to prevent the situation from escalating and to maintain citizen satisfaction with the response. Therefore, the model also takes into account the number of officers needed in order to meet the Agency's response time goal for Priority 1 calls.
- **Having an officer immediately available to respond to a Priority 2 call** – The department must have officers immediately available who can respond to a Priority 2 call for service. If all on-duty officers are busy on other calls for service and activities, then the responses to Priority 2 calls will be delayed. Therefore, a performance objective is set in this model for the percentage of Priority 2 calls for which there should be at least one officer available to respond. This model then takes that percentage into account in determining



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the number of officers that need to be assigned to patrol operations.

This model also takes into account additional performance objectives that are set by the Agency. First, officers are expected to spend a certain percentage of their on-duty time performing self-initiated or directed patrol activities such as enforcing traffic laws, stopping suspicious persons, routine patrol of neighborhoods and business locations, and patrolling locations known for criminal activity. Second, officers spend a certain percentage of their time on administrative activities such as training, court time, meal breaks, and tending to their patrol vehicles. The model takes these additional activities performed by officers into account when determining the number of officers who need to be assigned to patrol operations.

As part of the assessment, the staffing numbers obtained through the use of AMPP can be compared with the FBI national averages and the Maryland averages for officers per thousand citizens. These averages are available online from the Crimes in the United States and Crimes in Maryland publications.

In considering the equalization of patrol operations assignments, officers transferred to patrol districts from other assignments, including graduates from the Police Academy, should first be assigned to fill vacancies in the divisions' patrol squads that exist at the time of transfer. All patrol operations assignment requests, including those of officers currently assigned to patrol, will be reviewed by the division commanders. The commanders may take into consideration the following:

- Manpower allocation and distribution needs (including special certifications such as Taser, FTO, Intoximeter, DRE, Secondary Language, or rank, etc.);
- Performance evaluations;
- Seniority;
- Length of time on current shift;
- Recommendations by the officer's supervisor, taking into account where the officer can best serve the Agency and the division; and
- Consideration of requests by the officer.

1-002.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SMP) AND BUDGET PROCESS

The Strategic Management Program (SMP) requires the formulation and annual updating of written goals and objectives for the Agency and for each major organizational component within the Agency. For purposes of this policy, a "major component" is a division or other component depicted on the organizational chart as the first or second level below the Agency's Office of the Sheriff.

The SMP process' intent is to formulate effective strategies that take into account external influences (budgets, citizen concerns, legislative / governing officials' concerns, etc.) on the Agency and looks at short- and long-term goals and objectives. The process helps to determine the Agency's mission, to set priorities, to build on strengths, and to correct weaknesses. Participants in the process should attempt to anticipate potential opportunities and problems. The SMP process will be closely linked with the staffing assessment and budget process of the Agency. Since many goals require the expenditure of Agency resources, the SMP process is designed to allow projected goal resources to be requested during the budget process and approval received before the SMP document for a particular fiscal year is finalized. It is important for time lines outlined in this program to be followed to allow this to occur as designed.

Each division commander / director is responsible for the formulation of fiscal year written goals and objectives for his particular organizational components and to have written multiyear goals and objectives that combine to form the Agency's Strategic Plan. The established goals and objectives will be continuously reviewed for completion,



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needed updates, or changes.

The Strategic Planning Process shall allow for input from all Agency personnel. The Agency Goal Suggestion Form #357a is designed to solicit and collect this input. Commanders / directors, deputy directors, managers, and supervisors should encourage their subordinates to contribute their ideas to the planning process. These goal suggestion forms are to be gathered and evaluated by each division and used, as applicable, to assist in preparing thoughts about goals and objectives for the Agency and each division and its components.

An SMP overview will be provided to the Executive Command Staff and selected members of their staff in early July of each year. The Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation will provide instructions for preparing draft goals, objectives, and time lines. The Deputy Director, Budgeting will provide guidance regarding the budget process.

Division commanders / directors will prepare the first draft of their goals and objectives on the SMP Goal Suggestion Form #357 and provide an electronic copy to the Chief of Staff or their respective Assistant Sheriff and the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation by mid-August of each year. This first draft need not include budget information. The Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation will compile the first draft of the SMP document by no later than August 31 of each year and provide the Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, division commanders / directors and the Deputy Director, Budgeting with an electronic copy.

Each division commander / director will review the first draft to ensure accuracy and will complete required fact finding and gather financial information needed for the budget process, to include, but not limited to: staffing costs from Budgeting, item costs from the Quartermaster, and computer-related costs from IT. This information will be provided to the Deputy Directors of Planning and Budgeting by September 1 of each year. The Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation will incorporate this information into the second draft of the SMP document and provide an electronic copy of the new draft to all Executive Command Staff members and other Agency personnel who will be attending the SMP conference.

An SMP conference will take place in early- to mid-September of each year as scheduled by the Chief of Staff. Members of the Executive Command Staff and other staff, as needed, should attend the conference. The first item on the agenda will be a review of the Agency's Mission, Goals, and Values as written in the AOM and any suggestions for changes or updates made. The Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation will be responsible for making any updates needed to the AOM.

As part of the conference, division commanders should be prepared to discuss their reports pertaining to the status of goals and objectives from the most recent fiscal year. The second draft of the SMP document will then be reviewed and current division / component suggested goals and objectives may be openly discussed. Priorities, goals and objectives may be refined, changed, or deleted as needed. The Deputy Director, Planning will note any suggestions or changes needed. After goals have been reviewed, the Deputy Director, Budgeting will discuss the up-coming budget process and answer any questions about the overall process and completion of forms used during the process.

The Deputy Director, Planning will make whatever changes may be needed to compile the third draft of the SMP document and submit an electronic copy to members of the Executive Command Staff. With the concurrence of the Executive Command Staff, the Deputy Director will then publish the third draft of the SMP document on the Agency intranet no later than October 15 of each year. The published document will contain additional supporting data to include current and anticipated staffing levels and workload levels in relation to County population trends. This additional data may be obtained through the Crime Analysis Function, the Administrative Services Division and/or the Charles County Department of Economic Development.

Between October 15-31 each year, the Deputy Director, Budgeting will provide other required budget request forms to division commanders / directors (contracts, supplies, etc.).

By the end of October of each year division commanders / directors, with input from other staff, will complete grant requests and submit them through the chain of command to Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation.

The SMP and budget requests will be combined into draft one of the SMP and Budget document. This document



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will be presented to the Sheriff, Chief of Staff and Assistant Sheriffs for their review. Work sessions, with the Deputy Director of Budgeting, will be conducted as needed to make any necessary adjustments. Draft number two of the combined document will then be created by the Deputy Director, Budgeting. The Deputy Director, Budgeting will access the County's online budget software in mid-November to enter operating requests.

By December 1 of each year the Sheriff's Office preliminary budget requests will be compiled and finalized online with the County's Fiscal Services for initial review by the County Commissioners. In mid-December, the Deputy Director, Budgeting will supply to the Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation an updated SMP document that reflects the items being requested. The Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation will update the SMP document on the intranet.

From December to May of each year, County budget work sessions are held with the County Commissioners and their staff. During April and May of each year, public hearings are held concerning the overall County budget, including the Sheriff's Office budget.

During May through June of each year, budgets are adopted, goals and objectives are reviewed, and performance measures for each goal are recorded and forwarded to the County's Budget Office.

In June each year, the Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation will publish the final SMP document as a working document for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1. The final document will reflect input from the Deputy Director, Budgeting regarding items adopted in the budget.

During June through July of each year the final approved Budget Book is prepared upon acceptance and approval of the Strategic Management Plan and budget documents by the Sheriff.

Each division commander / director shall ensure review and follow-up on the goals and objectives in the final Strategic Management Program document. At the end of each quarter during the fiscal year, each division commander / director shall submit to the Chief of Staff or their respective Assistant Sheriff and to the Deputy Director, Planning, a brief written summary of the progress made, problems with, revisions needed, or accomplishment of, their goals and objectives.



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1-002.5 CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF THE SMP AND BUDGET PROCESS

March 1 of every 4 years	Division Commanders will begin the staffing assessment process within their divisions.
May 1 of every 4 years	Division Commanders will present a written staffing assessment report. This report will be submitted through the chain of command to the Sheriff. Copy to Deputy Director, Planning.
July 1 to June 1 of each year	Goal suggestion forms are gathered and evaluated by the various commands, and the staff of each command works on development of goals, objectives, and time lines.
Early July of each year	Overview of SMP provided to Executive Staff and selected members of their staff by the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation and Deputy Director, Budgeting.
By mid-August of each year	Division Commanders will prepare the first draft of their goals and objectives on the Agency Goal Suggestion Form and provide an electronic copy to the Chief of Staff or their Assistant Sheriff and the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation.
By August 31 of each year	Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation will compile the first draft of the SMP Document for the following fiscal year and send a copy electronically to each member of the Executive Staff and the Deputy Director, Budgeting.
Prior to SMP Conference each year	Planning & Accreditation compiles the second draft of the SMP Document with changes, additions or deletions.
Early- to Mid-September of each year	SMP Conference meeting takes place at a time and place as set by the Commander, Executive Services Division.
Mid-September to October 1 of each year	Members of the Executive Staff will complete required financial information and fact findings. Staffing costs, items cost from Quartermaster and related computer information from Information Technology.
By October 1 of each year	Cost gathering is provided to Budgeting and Planning.
October 15 of each year	Planning & Accreditation publishes the third draft of the SMP Document on the intranet. Information supplied by the various members of the Executive Staff as a result of the cost gathering.
Between October 15 to October 31 of each year	Other budget request forms to Commander (contracts, supplies, etc.) - Section 5, 6, 7, and 8.
By end of October of each year	Completed budget request forms due to Budgeting, including current grants.
End of October - Early November of each year	SMP and budget requests consolidated - Draft #1.
Early November of each year	Budget Draft #1 given to Sheriff and Assistant Sheriffs for their review. Work sessions to make any changes or cuts. Planning & Accreditation in attendance. Draft #2 is generated with changes.
Mid-November of each year	Budgeting online access to County's budget software for entry of operating requests.
December 1 of each year	Sheriff's Office requested preliminary budget finalized online to the County's Fiscal Services for their initial compilation for County Commissioners' review.
Mid-December each year	Deputy Director, Planning and Accreditation re-publishes SMP document on Agency intranet reflecting updates from Deputy Director, Budgeting regarding budget requests.
December - May of each year	County budget work sessions with Commissioners and County Budget staff.
April - May of each year	Public hearing for County budgets, including Sheriff's Office.
May - June of each year	Budgets adopted. Goals and objectives reviewed; and performance measures for each goal are recorded and forwarded to the County's Budget office.
June of each year	SMP Document reflecting items adopted in the budget, is re-published as a working document for the up-coming fiscal year beginning July 1.
October, January, April and July of each year	Division Commanders will present a brief written summary of the progress made, problems with, revisions needed, or the accomplishment of goals and objectives, directed through the chain of command to the Sheriff.
June - July of each year	Final Approved Budget Book prepared.
NOTE: Budget dates are subject to change, based on the County Commissioners' calendar and approval.	
NOTE: All dates contained within this section are expected to be adhered to as published; however, it is to be understood that changing circumstances of law enforcement operations may impact all or any component's ability to comply in every case. It is also possible that dates for all components may need to be adjusted to compensate for special events, natural disasters, or other causes. In any of these cases, the Chief of Staff may make such adjustments as necessary. Such adjustments will be in writing from the Chief of Staff to the Executive Staff.	
From the SMP process	From the Budget process

1-003 AGENCY SUCCESSION PLAN

Succession planning is the process of preparing employees of the Agency for leadership roles. This process should provide individuals with the training, mentoring and support necessary to assume an essential role within



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the Agency when a vacancy occurs.

The Agency Succession Plan will allow the Agency to cultivate a crop of employees who, when ready, can assume a leadership position within the Agency. The Agency Succession Plan will also help preserve the continuity of operations within the Agency, by providing a group of employees ready to assume leadership positions at a moment's notice.

1-003.1 OVERSIGHT OF THE AGENCY SUCCESSION PLAN

The Agency Succession Plan shall fall under the sole purview of the Sheriff. The Agency Succession Plan will be tailored by the Sheriff in order to best meet the needs of the Agency as a whole. These needs can include accounting for attrition within the Agency, ensuring the Agency is able to maintain continuity of operations when an essential position is not filled and any other needs as determined by the Sheriff. At the discretion of the Sheriff, the Executive Command Staff may also provide insight during the planning, implementation and adjustment of the Agency Succession Plan.

1-003.2 ESSENTIAL POSITIONS

Essential positions include, but are not limited to:

- Sheriff
- Chief of Staff
- Assistant Sheriff of Operations
- Assistant Sheriff of Administration
- Assistant Sheriff of Field & Support
- Division Commanders
- Section Supervisors
- Administrative Sergeants
- Director, Charles County Detention Center
- Deputy Director, Charles County Detention Center
- Accreditation Manager
- Grant Coordinator
- Property Management personnel
- Office of Professional Responsibility personnel
- Information Technology personnel

1-003.3 PLANNING FOR AGENCY ATTRITION

The Agency has a number of ways to prevent the negative effects of attrition.

- The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) allows the Agency to plan ahead for anticipated openings in sworn positions. Awareness of retirement, sometimes years in advance, allows the Agency to strategize and keep essential positions filled at all times.
- When an employee in an essential position alerts the Sheriff that they intend to separate from the Agency, the succession plan will be utilized to ensure that the essential position remains filled.

The Sheriff, or his designee, will work with the Agency Human Resources Section and the Agency Budgeting Section to determine the most effective way to address attrition within the Agency. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Early or acting promotions of personnel;
- Early hiring of personnel; and
- Hiring additional sworn officer candidates, potentially over authorized strength.



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1-003.4 DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP OF EMPLOYEES

Some key characteristics in succession plan candidates are:

- Interest in assuming an essential position within the Agency;
- Documented ability to successfully manage challenging tasks; and
- Evidence of taking initiative to improve performance throughout their careers.

Employees should be encouraged to attend courses that expand their skillsets and give them experience and insight into leadership positions. These courses and trainings include, but are not limited to:

- Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO);
- The Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS);
- The FBI National Academy;
- The FBI Trilogy Training;
- FBI Executive Leadership School;
- Maryland Sheriffs and Chiefs – Aspiring Leaders Training;
- Charles County Sheriff's Office – Leadership Program;
- Northwestern University SPSC;
- Johns Hopkins University Training; and
- ICS training.

1-100 STANDARDS

Standards are yardsticks by which an agency or individual may be measured in order to determine if an expected level of achievement or excellence is met. Hereafter are listed the standards by which the Charles County Sheriff's Office and its personnel will be measured. Although it could be argued that no person or agency will completely achieve the standards, it is nonetheless expected that all personnel will continually work and strive to do so.

These standards are not to be considered in the abstract. Instead, each employee should personally work to achieve the degree of excellence of performance necessary to meet them. Purposeful shortfalls will be grounds for disciplinary action; however, this is not the primary reason for their existence. These standards are primarily intended to set the tone of service expected from all Charles County Sheriff's Office employees.

1-100.1 OATH OF OFFICE

All personnel, prior to assuming sworn status as active law enforcement officers, shall take an oath of office to enforce the laws of Charles County and State of Maryland and to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the State of Maryland and the United States. The "Oath of Office of a Deputy Sheriff" as executed by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Charles County is to be used for this purpose. The oath of office is administered to police recruits prior to graduation from the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy. However, by order of the Sheriff, police recruits shall not legally exercise the authority of a police officer or deputy sheriff until being issued a provisional or standard certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission under the authority of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

1-100.2 AGENCY IDENTIFICATION

All employees are issued an Agency photo identification card which is to be carried at all times while on duty. With the exception of police recruits, sworn employees of the Agency are considered to be always available to perform the duties of their office. Sworn employees will carry their badge and identification card on their person whenever they are armed. When on duty or acting in an official capacity, employees will display their ID and give their name and identification number to anyone who requests them. This does not include officers in covert assignments or those in assignments which would be jeopardized by divulging such information.

**Administrative and Operational Manual****April 1, 2026****1-101 ETHICS**

Maryland Public Ethics Law sets standards of conduct for State and local government officials and employees to guard against improper influence on public officials or the appearance of conflict of interest through programs of financial disclosure, lobbying disclosure and regulation, approval of local government ethics requirements, ethics law advice and training, and ethics law complaint investigation.

A basic role of government is to provide an environment conducive to human growth and endeavor, free from artificial or arbitrary intrusion. To that end, laws are made and enforced for the common good of society. It is the role of the police to stand as the defender of that social contract between citizens and their government. To accomplish this goal, certain professional and personal traits are essential; therefore, members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall:

- protect and safeguard lives and property; and
- protect the community from deception, oppression, intimidation, violence, and disorder; and
- support and protect the constitutional rights of all citizens to liberty, equality, and justice; and
- maintain exemplary personal traits of honesty, morality, self-restraint, courage, obedience to the law, and respect for the rights and liberty of all persons; and
- recognize the badge and oath of office as a personally binding commitment to public office, public trust, and professional ethics, surmounting personal feelings or prejudices that may denigrate one's oath; and
- professionally execute official duties, regardless of the race, sex, religion, ancestry or national origin, color, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, disability, or financial status of persons requiring assistance; and
- display a commitment to law enforcement with courtesy, without fear or favor, malice or ill will, without using unnecessary force, and without accepting gratuities.

An official or employee may not retaliate against an individual for reporting or participating in an investigation of a potential violation of the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

All employees are subject to the Maryland Public Ethics Law, which is in Title 5 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code. The Training Division will be responsible for providing ethics training to all Agency personnel at least biennially.

1-102 USE OF DISCRETION BY SWORN OFFICERS

Discretion is defined as the freedom or authority to make decisions and choices within legal confines. Sworn officers are expected to use reasoned and impartial discretion in the performance of their duties. Recognizing that some decisions will be especially difficult and made in emergency situations, officers are legally, professionally, and personally bound to exercise those judgments within the confines of their oath of office and their obligations to the law, the Office of the Sheriff, and the citizens of Charles County.

When an officer in the performance of his duty elects to exercise discretion, he must consider:

- all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular event;
- the seriousness of any criminal offense(s) committed;
- mitigating circumstances; and
- the interests of the public and the Agency.



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The use of discretion shall be considerably limited in domestic violence and felony cases. Officers will be held accountable and must be prepared to justify their actions in these incidents. Greater leeway in the use of discretion is permissible in the investigation of misdemeanors, civil offenses, and juvenile cases, especially when dealing with status offenders.

1-103 UNBECOMING CONDUCT

Employees are held bound to avoid excessive, unwarranted, or unjustified behavior that would reflect poorly on themselves, the Office of the Sheriff, or the Charles County Government, regardless of duty or work status.

1-103.1 UNPROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE

Employees will refrain from using harsh, violent, profane, or derogatory language, which would demean the dignity of any person.

1-104 USE OF FORCE

Sworn officers may find they need to use physical force in situations which cannot be otherwise controlled. Reasonable force may be used when other alternatives have been exhausted or would clearly be ineffective under the particular circumstances. In no instance may the use of force be more than is necessary to achieve a lawful purpose.

Non-sworn personnel of the Agency may only use force in circumstances where an ordinary citizen would be justified in using force to protect themselves from attack or in situations that would be justified by law. Employment with the Agency does not convey authority to carry or use weapons of any kind to non-sworn employees (except that, corrections officers shall carry and use weapons as required by a particular job assignment).

1-105 DE-ESCALATION

If time, circumstances and safety permit, employees should attempt to gain compliance through de-escalation as opposed to the use of physical force. De-escalation could slow down or stabilize encounters to allow for more resources or options to better resolve the conflict. Examples of de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to the use of advisements, warning, or persuasion.

1-106 INTEGRITY

The personal and collective integrity of the Charles County Sheriff's Office is one of the foremost responsibilities of all employees. The dishonesty of a single employee may impair public confidence in the entire Agency.

1-107 RELATIONS WITH VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

All employees representing the Agency in business transactions with outside business organizations or private vendors shall conduct themselves in a fashion that reflects favorably on them and the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The acceptance of gratuities or benefits of any kind is prohibited.

Agency resources will not be committed to furthering the work of a prospective contractor or vendor prior to the formation of a contract. Employees will be aware of, and conform to, the conflict of interest provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

1-108 ENDORSEMENTS



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Employees are prohibited from using their official capacity, title, or position to endorse any products, organization, program or service without the expressed permission of the Sheriff.

Officers are prohibited from representing themselves in an official capacity, either in or out of uniform, before any hearing or licensing board when their appearance before such a board is not an official act, required of them as a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and authorized by the Sheriff or his designee.

1-109 PRIVATE COMPENSATION OR REWARD

No compensation, reward, or other consideration from private sources shall be solicited or accepted by members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, without specific permission from the Sheriff. When presented with an individual reward or compensation, the employee shall explain that individual compensation is not allowed. If the citizen or business insists, accept it and forward it through the chain of command to the Sheriff with a memorandum detailing why and how the reward/gratuity was received.

1-109.1 DONATIONS TO THE AGENCY

Donations to the Agency, without reference to specific employees, do not have the same rules as donations to individuals, but may still generate ethical concerns. As a general rule, the more broad the donation, the less of an issue is presented. For example, there is no issue if an organization or individual brings donuts to District I on Tuesday, brought donuts to a high school on Monday, and is taking donuts to a fire station on Wednesday. Donations to the Agency should be handled by a supervisor and forwarded through the chain of Command to the Commander of Executive Services. Donations intended as a thank you for a particular event should be politely discouraged. When possible, employees receiving donations to the agency should obtain contact information for the donor. In the case of a cash donation, the Executive Services Commander will submit to finance to deposit accordingly. The Executive Services Commander will forward non-cash donations to the Sheriff to determine disposition.

No policy can cover every scenario an employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office might encounter. You may be required to exercise your best judgment to determine if what the citizen or business is offering is a donation to the agency as a whole, which is allowable, or is an individual compensation to an employee, which is not. Request guidance from a supervisor or superior officer if necessary, to make a determination.

1-109.2 DONATIONS OF PERISHABLE ITEMS

When possible, the employee presented with a donation of perishable items should ask if the donor is providing similar services to other entities. If the donor is providing similar services to other entities, the perishable items may be accepted and shared.

1-109.3 DISCOUNTS ON GOODS AND SERVICES

Businesses sometimes offer discounted goods and services to members of police agencies, first responders or military. Many do this as a broad gesture of appreciation for the jobs these employees perform.

Because the businesses afford this gesture to job types as a whole and it is not intended as an individual gratuity, this is allowable. However, under no circumstances will an employee expect such discounts and will always be prepared to pay full price for any item or service. An employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall not use his employment to solicit favors or discounted goods or services from any business or vendor at any time whether on- or off-duty. To do so is unprofessional, unethical, and may subject the employee to disciplinary action.

Nothing in this policy is meant to prohibit an employee from negotiating in good faith the purchase of goods or services which are normally negotiable; i.e., homes, vehicles, etc. Further, it does not prohibit an employee from



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soliciting funds, goods, or services on behalf of a fraternal or civic organization while acting as a member of, or on behalf of, that organization.

1-109.4 JURY DUTY

Jury duty is the civic responsibility of every eligible citizen. It is usually expected that when called, members of this Agency will serve. Employees with a personal need to be excused will present their request directly to the courts.

Any employee summonsed for jury duty will notify his supervisor without delay and provide that supervisor with a copy of the jury duty notice. The supervisor will forward a memorandum, with a copy of the notice attached, up the chain of command to the Division Commander.

Employees who report for jury duty will be permitted to be absent from their duties, as needed, without loss of pay or a charge against any leave. Employees selected to serve on jury duty will be allowed to retain the jury duty fee for associated expenses.

If an employee is selected to serve as a juror for a trial, they will not be required to report for any shift that begins on the same date. The employee shall report for duty if the employee's service as a juror is not required or upon completion and if more than half of their shift remains, including travel time. If the employee is scheduled to work evening shift, they will report to work as scheduled once released from jury duty. Employees who are scheduled to work midnight shift and are required to report for jury duty the following morning, will not be required to work that midnight shift.

Employees selected to serve in a grand jury will be permitted to be absent from their duties, as needed, without loss of pay or a charge against any leave for each day of service during a scheduled workday.

1-109.5 WITNESS FEES

When an employee is to receive witness fees and/or travel and related expenses for testimony in a court case or other proceeding arising out of the exercise of his official duties, the employee may choose to:

- Attend the hearing on his own time (leave or day off) using his own transportation and accept any witness fees and expenses offered; or
- Attend the hearing during duty hours or as overtime, using a Sheriff's Office vehicle for transportation, and in this case the employee will turn over any witness fees and associated travel and expense allowance to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services for deposit to the Sheriff's operating fund.

When an employee is to receive witness fees and/or travel and related expenses for testimony in a court case or other proceeding not arising out of the exercise of his official duties, the employee, will be on his own time (leave or day off), and may retain the witness fee and expenses.

1-109.6 USE OF LABOR FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE

The following persons who are supervised by Agency personnel will be used only for public purposes:

- employees;
- contractors;
- volunteers;
- Volunteers in Community Service;
- Charles County Detention Center trustees;
- any other trustee or prisoner;



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- persons who otherwise serve under the supervision of an employee; or
- a person who could reasonably be expected to believe he/she was subject to obey the request or direction of the Agency employee because of the employee's position with the Agency.

They will only be required and/or allowed to accomplish work which is primarily the responsibility of the Agency or falls within the discretionary responsibilities of the Agency as dictated by Agency policy or order of the Sheriff or designee.

Such persons shall not be used for work which is a personal benefit to the supervising employee or any other person who is not designed to be a recipient of such benefit because of Agency responsibilities or policy. No employee of the Agency may personally receive, directly or indirectly (through a family member or business interest), any compensation or other benefit as a result of the work or activities of persons supervised in the context of Agency employment.

1-110 COURTESY

Courtesy in public contacts encourages understanding and appreciation; discourtesy breeds contempt and resistance. A courteous demeanor is entirely consistent with the firmness and impartiality that characterizes professional law enforcement employees. Employees shall display a fair, impartial, and professional attitude toward the public and perform work tasks in a business-like manner. Employees shall, in the normal course of their duties, address and deal with people in a courteous and respectful manner. This section should not be interpreted to prevent employees, in an emergency situation, from issuing commands or orders in an authoritative manner.

1-111 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWFUL ORDERS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is organized within a clearly defined hierarchy of authority. This is consistent with the Agency goal of maintaining efficient law enforcement operations. It is expected compliance with lawful orders will be positive and reflect a willingness to serve. Compliance with lawful orders is a condition of employment. A lawful order is any direction given to an employee, by another employee of the CCSO who is superior in rank or position within the Agency, providing the order is:

- within the general realm of the duties defined by the employee's job description or because of exigent circumstances could reasonably be expected to be performed by the employee because of a responsibility thrust upon the CCSO by the circumstances; and
- not in direct violation of any Agency policy, providing the person giving the order does not have the discretionary authority to disregard in the instant circumstances; and
- not in violation of any law, regulation, or ordinance, providing such law would impact the instant circumstances.

An employee who is found to be wrong in refusing or failing to comply with a lawful order is insubordinate, and will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from employment. The employee could also face civil action, from sources other than the Agency, for failing to perform required duties.

If the receiving employee is found to be correct, and the order is unlawful, the employee will suffer no adverse action. In these cases, an investigation will be conducted to determine why the unlawful order was given. This investigation will be the responsibility of OPR. Results of this investigation may cause the creation of, or modification of, a training program; the remedial training of an employee or employees; or some form of disciplinary action, as may be warranted for the employee issuing the unlawful order.

In cases where an employee receives an order which conflicts with a previous order, the employee shall notify the person giving the conflicting order of the conflict. If the person giving the conflicting order indicates the second order is to be complied with, the employee shall comply with the second order and notify the person giving the first



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order of the circumstances of the conflict. This notification shall be completed as soon as practical and may initially be given verbally, but shall be followed up in writing within 72 hours. The person giving the second order shall be responsible for any circumstances or consequences arising from the conflict and shall bear full responsibility for the employee's lack of compliance with the first order.

For the purposes of determining who is in a position to give a lawful order, sworn and corrections officers are organized into a rank structure which defines this authority. Civilian personnel derive their authority to supervise by their position and responsibilities in the organization, as published in the AOM. Regardless of position, no civilian shall exercise direct operational supervision of sworn personnel in matters which impact the officer's sworn authority or powers of arrest. Civilians may exercise administrative supervision of sworn employees when it is appropriate to their position within the organization.

Failure to comply with a lawful order or directive is a serious breach of organizational discipline. Such violations will subject the employee to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

1-113 ATTENTION TO DUTY

All employees are expected to maintain a strong personal commitment to the proper performance of their duties. Sworn employees are considered subject to duty at all times and in all places within the geographical area of their authority. Sworn employees may be considered "off-duty" at times when they are not assigned specific work hours, but are responsible to assume a duty which presents itself and is within the scope of the essential functions of their positions.

1-114 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Employees are expected to avoid incurring financial obligations which are beyond their ability to reasonably satisfy from their anticipated earnings. Employees shall pay their just debts and shall not sell or assign their salary. Neither shall employees refuse to promptly pay all legitimate indebtedness, claims, and judgments and they shall satisfy all executions which may be held against them.

1-115 IMMORAL CONDUCT

Employees shall maintain a level of moral conduct in their personal and business affairs which is in keeping with the highest standards of the law enforcement community and the community at large. Employees shall not participate in any incident involving moral turpitude which impairs their ability to perform their duties or causes the Charles County Sheriff's Office to be brought into disrepute.

1-116 ASSOCIATIONS

Employees shall avoid regular or continuous associations or dealings with persons whom they know, or should know, are persons under criminal investigation or indictment, or who have a reputation in the community or the Agency for present or past involvement in felonious or criminal behavior, except as necessary for the performance of official duties, or where unavoidable because of other personal relationships of the employees.

1-117 FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION / COOPERATION

With the understanding that many times official Agency business is confidential in nature and that all employees must adhere to confidentiality policies elsewhere in this Manual, the Charles County Sheriff's Office encourages and supports the exchange of information among all Agency functions and personnel for the purpose of coordinating Agency activities. There are a number of ways to communicate information, such as:

- attendance of investigative personnel at patrol shift briefings;
- holding staff meetings;
- use of email messages;



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- use of voice mail and other electronic systems; and
- use of bulletins and newsletters.

Employees shall coordinate their efforts with all other employees of this Agency and the Charles County Government with the objective of ensuring maximum achievement and continuity of purpose through teamwork. All employees are charged with the responsibility of fostering and maintaining a high degree of cooperation, both within the Agency and in association with other law enforcement agencies and government departments.

1-118 AID TO FELLOW EMPLOYEES

In the performance of their duties, no employee shall fail to aid, assist or protect a fellow employee to the full extent of the employee's capability, being mindful of established rules and procedures which may bear upon the existing circumstances.

1-119 REPORTING FOR WORK

Employees shall report for work at the time and place required by assignment or instruction. They shall be properly attired and equipped and prepared to fulfill their duties. They shall give their undivided attention to orders, instructions, directions, and any other information directed to them or generally to employees.

1-120 INSPECTIONS

In order to fulfill the responsibilities of office, the Sheriff must at all times be familiar with the condition of facilities, equipment, and personnel within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. To maintain this familiarity and awareness, there is established a system of inspections. The system includes the inspection of personnel, equipment, vehicles, supplies, office space, and other physical locations used or occupied by the Office of the Sheriff. All command and supervisory personnel are charged, on both a random and scheduled basis, to continually inspect all that falls within their respective areas of responsibility.

Each commander shall, when assuming a command, inventory the entire command and accept responsibility for all he finds at his disposal as a result of assumption of command. In like manner, each commander, in preparation for turning over a command to another, shall inventory his command and formally give an accounting of that which is to be turned over. Each such inventory shall include personnel inspections, as well as equipment, supplies, vehicles, and physical spaces occupied by the command.

Commanders shall conduct a bi-annual physical inventory of all supplies, equipment and vehicles. All physical spaces, personnel, equipment and vehicles shall be inspected at least quarterly by commanders. Supervisors shall monitor physical spaces, personnel, equipment and vehicles continually and shall conduct formal inspections at least monthly. All inspections shall be documented and the documentation maintained by the commander or his designee. Inventories will be conducted as prescribed in Section 3-306 of the AOM.

Discrepancies found as a result of the inspection process shall be corrected as they are found if the corrections are within the realm of the inspector's authority and resources. If not, they are to be brought to the immediate attention of the inspector's commander.

All equipment, uniforms, supplies, vehicles, physical spaces and all other things owned or under the control of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, which are assigned to the keeping of an individual employee, are subject to inspection and audit by both Sheriff's Office personnel and outside agencies who have been given the authority to conduct audits. If an individual employee under these circumstances places any personal security device in place, the employee's immediate supervisor will be supplied with the means to access the security device for purposes of inspection. Any personal property of any kind which is placed within the vehicles or physical spaces owned or controlled by the Sheriff is the responsibility of the individual employee placing it there. The CCSO assumes no responsibility or liability for such items. All such items are subject to the inspection procedure of this Agency. No



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item which would violate any rule, policy or law by its possession or use will be allowed in vehicles, physical spaces, or in the possession of employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

1-121 TRAINING

Training is an on-going process critical to the continued effectiveness of any organization. All employees are encouraged to utilize available training programs to improve their knowledge and skills in the areas of their respective career responsibilities. Some training is mandatory for certain employees. For example, mandatory annual training, including firearms and weapons training, is required for each sworn officer in order to meet the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commissions' (MPTSC) certification. Personnel who have such a requirement must fulfill it.

The Agency will provide for all required training programs on at least an annual basis through the Training Division, Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy (SMCJA), roll-call training, outside training opportunities and other means. Required annual training will include a review of the Agency's use-of-deadly force policies, significant changes in other policies and a review of local, state and relevant federal law changes. A legal update document shall be provided to all sworn officers by no later than September 1 of each year by the Office of General Counsel. All supervisors / commanders of sworn personnel shall review the legal updates with their subordinates and instruct personnel concerning significant changes in the law. Supervisors / commanders shall ensure that this instruction be documented on either a training roster or on a Report of Training Form #182.

All training, other than in-service training, will be documented on the Form #182 and submitted to the Training Division. All Agency training records shall be maintained by the Commander, Training Division.

1-123 TRUTHFULNESS

The nature of employment with a law enforcement agency requires that all employees be honest and trustworthy in all their personal and official business. The employees of this Agency are required, as an essential function of their positions, to give truthful answers to questions asked regarding official matters. No employee shall knowingly exclude information, which by its omission would be misleading or fraudulent. False and/or misleading statements are grounds for termination of employment.

1-124 LOITERING, SLEEPING, MALINGERING ON DUTY

No employee shall loiter, sleep or mangle on duty, or in any other manner shirk his responsibilities in the performance of duty.

1-125 FEIGNING SICKNESS OR DISABILITY

An employee shall be absent from duty because of sickness, only, when suffering from an illness or injury which would prevent the proper performance of duty. The employee shall not feign sickness or disability, nor attempt to deceive a supervisor concerning that employee's physical or medical condition. Notification of the use of sick and safe leave will be made to the employee's supervisor prior to the scheduled reporting time for work.

1-126 MEMBERSHIPS IN ORGANIZATIONS

No employee shall become affiliated with any organization which in any way would prevent an employee from rendering proper service to the Agency. Membership in an armed forces reserve component of the United States is specifically excepted.

1-127 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Employees may participate or refrain from participating, during off-duty hours, in partisan political activities, except



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where expressly prohibited by federal or state statute. There shall be no campaigning, fund-raising or electioneering on County property during business hours.

Employees shall not engage in partisan political activity during their hours of employment. Charles County Sheriff's Office equipment (e.g., uniforms, vehicles, badges, insignia, or business cards) shall not be used for political campaigning, fund-raising or electioneering activities.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the Sheriff from any political activity. The Sheriff, as an elected political official, is by the nature of the office continually engaged in political activities.

1-128 PERSONAL PREFERMENT

Employees shall not seek the influence or intervention of any person outside the Agency for purposes of personal preferment, advantage, transfer, advancement or to gain favor or preferential treatment of any kind.

1-129 ADDRESSING RANKING OFFICERS

Officers of a superior rank will be addressed with respect, using their rank or title in the address.

1-130 RECOMMENDING LAWYERS AND/OR BONDSMEN TO PRISONERS OR OTHERS

Officers are prohibited from recommending or suggesting to anyone the employment or name of any person, firm or corporation, attorney, counsel or bondsmen, except that nothing herein shall be construed as restricting the rights of members of the Agency in connection with administration of their private affairs.

1-131 FALSE INFORMATION IN RECORDS

No member of the Agency shall make false official reports, or knowingly or willingly enter or cause to be entered in any Agency books, records or reports any inaccurate, false or improper police information or material matter.

1-132 DUTY TO REPORT INFORMATION

It shall be the duty of every employee to properly report any information received in good faith from any citizen regarding matters which indicate the need for action by the Agency.

1-133 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Employees of the Charles County Sheriff shall treat as confidential the official business of the Agency. They shall not discuss or impart the same to anyone except those for whom it is intended, or as directed by their superior officers or under due process of law. Nothing in this section shall prevent the discussion of policy by those employees charged with policy creation, with their counterparts in other organizations or professionals in a particular field. A member of this Agency shall not disclose to any inquiry the employment status, performance, salary or any personal information concerning any employee, or former employee, of the organization. All such inquiries shall be directed to the Sheriff's Human Resources Office.

1-134 HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

No employee shall sexually harass another person. No employee shall unfairly treat or discriminate against another because of that person's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military status, or disability.



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1-134.1 BIAS BASED PROFILING

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. POLICING IMPARTIALITY
- D. PREVENTING PERCEPTIONS OF BIASED POLICING
- E. MONITORING BIASED POLICING
- F. TRAINING
- G. ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office prohibits bias based profiling by any employee during all contacts with the public. This includes, but is not limited to traffic contacts, field contacts, and asset seizure and forfeiture actions.

Maryland law and the Charles County Sheriff's Office prohibit motorcycle profiling. Specifically, officers are prohibited from the arbitrary use of the fact that an individual rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle-related clothing or paraphernalia as a factor in deciding to stop, question, take enforcement action, arrest, or search the individual or vehicle.

While profiling, in itself, can be a useful tool to assist law enforcement officers in carrying out their duties, bias based profiling undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts and can lead to claims of civil rights violations. Additionally, bias based profiling alienates citizens and fosters distrust of law enforcement by the community.

This policy is intended to reaffirm the Agency's commitment to unbiased policing; to clarify the circumstances in which officers can consider race / ethnicity when making law enforcement decisions; and to reinforce procedures that are in accordance with Supreme Court findings and the Fourth Amendment rights of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

B. DEFINITIONS

Bias Based Profiling- the improper or unlawful selection, for law enforcement action, of individuals based solely on a common trait of a particular group. Bias based profiling includes, but is not limited to, taking law enforcement action based solely on a person's race, ethnic background, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, military status, disability, culture, or some other identifiable characteristic.

Profiling- investigative technique used to infer the characteristics of a person based on the details of the crime committed, often used to develop a suspect description.

C. POLICING IMPARTIALITY

All law enforcement actions will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Officers, in taking enforcement action, should rely on their training, experience, knowledge, specific facts and circumstances. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for all enforcement actions, including but not limited to traffic stops, arrests, non-consensual searches, and property seizures. Except as provided below, officers shall not consider race / ethnicity in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Officers may take into account the reported race or ethnicity of a specific suspect or suspects based on trustworthy, locally relevant information that links a person or persons of a specific race / ethnicity to a particular unlawful incident(s). Race / ethnicity can never be used as the sole basis for probable cause or reasonable suspicion. Except as provided above, race / ethnicity shall not be a motivating factor in making law enforcement



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decisions.

D. PREVENTING PERCEPTIONS OF BIASED PROFILING

In an effort to prevent inappropriate perceptions of biased law enforcement, each officer shall make every effort to do the following when conducting pedestrian and vehicle stops:

1. Be courteous and professional.
2. Introduce himself / herself to the citizen (providing name and Agency affiliation) and state the reason for the stop as soon as practical, unless providing this information will compromise officer or public safety.
3. Ensure the detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action for the known or suspected offense, and the citizen understands the purpose of any reasonable delays.
4. Answer any questions the citizen may have, including explaining options for traffic citation disposition, if relevant.
5. Provide name and identification number when requested, in writing or on a business card.
6. Offer an explanation and/or an apology if the reasonable suspicion was unfounded (e.g., after an investigatory stop).

E. MONITORING BIAS BASED POLICING

The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) will monitor data concerning employee contacts with citizens and filed complaints to ensure that policies concerning bias based profiling are being followed.

If information indicates an employee is engaging in bias based profiling, that employee will be closely monitored. If not the originator of the information, the employee's supervisor and division commander will be notified of the perceived problem.

If a pattern of bias based profiling is clearly identified, necessary corrective measures will be taken in the form of counseling, remedial training and/or disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

F. TRAINING

All new hires will receive documented initial training regarding bias based profiling, including legal aspects, prior to assignment or at least within 60 days of assignment. In addition, all employees will conduct a documented review of this policy annually. Supervisors shall ensure all personnel in their command are familiar with the content of this policy and are operating in compliance with it.

The Training Division will ensure in-service training pertaining to bias based profiling and its related legal issues is provided on an annual basis for all sworn personnel and remedial training is conducted for employees, as needed.

G. ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The Office of Professional Responsibility will conduct an annual, documented administrative review of activities with potential for bias based profiling. See the Administrative Reporting policy for specific requirements.

1-135 DUTY TO GIVE A STATEMENT

During the course of any official investigation by the Agency, all members shall be required to give a full, complete and truthful statement when requested.

1-136 PERFORMANCE OF DUTY

When an employee of this Agency becomes aware of facts or circumstances that indicate some type of action is



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required by the Agency, that employee will not disregard or dismiss the event, but will take action as would be required by the nature of their assignment.

Employees have a responsibility to take appropriate action in circumstances that involve fellow employees or other public safety / criminal justice associates (such as members of a task force or officers from other agencies) whose actions are criminal, unconstitutional or will harm the reputation of the Agency or law enforcement profession as a whole.

When encountering unreasonable actions of employees or public safety / criminal justice associates that could result in injury, death, or violations of constitutional or civil rights, intervention must be immediate when practical and safe.

All such incidents shall be reported to a supervisor as soon as possible.

At all times employees will be attentive and responsive to citizens who seek information, assistance or desire to file a complaint. Problems and experiences arising from confronting persons entrusted with providing public safety can be uncomfortable and diverse. Policies and procedures cannot always dictate every possible action on how Agency personnel should proceed. Consequently, all personnel are expected to possess and maintain a practical understanding of their obligations as public servants and perform accordingly.

1-137 DUTY TO RENDER MEDICAL AID

Following any law enforcement action where injuries are sustained due to that action and medical aid is required, employees shall render appropriate medical aid as soon as practical. If obvious severe injuries have occurred, medical distress is apparent or an individual is unconscious, an employee shall activate EMS by contacting Communications or calling 9-1-1. When transporting individuals involved in contentious police actions or following use of force incidents, consideration should be given to utilizing police personnel not directly involved in the action, if feasible.

1-138 NOTIFICATION TO THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The Charles County State's Attorney's Office has primary responsibility for all criminal proceedings that occur in Charles County.

Any time a police action brings about the potential for criminal charges against an officer, the Charles County State's Attorney's Office will be notified and be given the opportunity to review the facts of the case. The Agency will confer with the Charles County State's Attorney's Office and ensure they receive all necessary information allowed by law in situations where police action could result in criminal proceedings.

1-139 VIOLATION OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS / ORDINANCES

The violation of any federal, state or local law and/or ordinance shall be considered conduct not consistent with employment by the Charles County Sheriff's Office and will subject the employee to disciplinary action which may result in termination of employment.

1-141 PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION PROCESS SECURITY

The written and oral examinations are major parts of the promotional process. It is essential to ensure the security of the process and fairness to every candidate. Therefore, applicants shall not disclose any aspect of the written or oral examinations to any other person(s). Prior to administration of any written or oral examination, applicants must affix their signatures to the Examination Security Order.



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1-142 TAMPERING WITH POSTED MATERIAL

No member of this Agency shall alter, deface, destroy, or remove any official memorandum, notice, or written material that has been duly posted within any Agency facility. Nothing in this policy will prevent the orderly removal, by commanders, of out-of-date or obsolete materials.

1-143 SMOKING

In accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations 09.12.23, the following restrictions shall apply:

- Burning of tobacco products (smoking) is prohibited in all Agency facilities, including Agency-owned vehicles and vessels. This prohibition is to include all employees and visitors.
- Approved outdoor smoking areas will be designated for each Agency facility.
- Employees and visitors in violation may be subject to formal criminal or civil sanctions dependent upon the laws concerning smoking in public places.

Additionally, the Agency also prohibits the use of electronic smoking / vapor devices (e-cigs) in any and all areas where the use of tobacco products is also prohibited.

1-200 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A citizen's encounter with the police can be a frightening or emotionally painful experience, and under these circumstances the risk of misunderstanding is very great. Contacts between employees and citizens may occur in emotionally-charged situations which can seriously impact the situation.

Employees should strive to develop a climate within the community supportive of collective police-community efforts toward common goals of peace, safety, and security.

1-200.1 INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY

As all citizens are subject to the law, they have a right to dignified treatment. All employees are responsible for protecting this right.

1-200.2 THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEES

Employees are the link between the Agency and the community; as such, they may strengthen or destroy police-community relationships which may have taken considerable effort to develop. Because the conduct of each employee reflects on the Agency as a whole, the burden of achieving the Agency's community relations objectives are shared by all personnel. Employees shall attempt to make each contact between themselves and the public one which inspires confidence and demonstrates professionalism.

Employees should be open to comments and suggestions from the community. If during any contact with a citizen, an employee receives relevant information about community attitudes, concerns, or opinions that the Sheriff or other command staff should be made aware of, that employee will forward the information to the Commander, Community Relations Section, and the District Commander for the affected district through the chain of command.

1-201 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

All employees should be aware of the stress generated by most contacts between those outside a police organization and those who are employed by the organization. Police personnel have to contend with the



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communications barrier developed because of the perception that police personnel are somehow different from other members of the society. It is incumbent upon all employees of this Agency to minimize and break down those barriers to effective communications between the Sheriff's Office and the community in general.

One of the ways to more effective communications is that of treatment of individuals. All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. This is not to say that in emergency situations lawful orders and commands cannot be issued. On the contrary, it is the responsibility of all employees to take a firm lead in times of crisis. Employees of the Sheriff are trained and equipped for just this purpose. However, the manner in which an order or request is issued can initially determine the probability of a successful outcome.

1-202 EQUITY OF TREATMENT

All members of the society are entitled to equitable treatment. This is to say, that all segments of the community will receive the same level of service and the same level of respectful treatment. The partnership of police and their community is dependent upon the trust and sense of fair treatment experienced by all members of the society. Without this trust, the likelihood of successful police work is in jeopardy.

1-203 OPENNESS OF OPERATIONS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office conducts its affairs in a professional manner, holding its personnel to high standards of ethical performance. Therefore, all matters which are not confidential because of investigative necessity and are not held confidential because of law or regulation, will be made available for public disclosure. This Agency's personnel will cooperate with news media representatives and other persons representing the public interest in the Agency's operations. These persons will be assisted in gathering facts and information to the extent that it does not adversely affect the operation of the Agency.

1-204 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYEES

Employees are encouraged to participate in civic activities and programs within the County. Active participation in divergent civic, youth, and social activities reduces police-related stress and provides a vehicle for employees to be seen as involved community members in other than a professional or controversial environment.

1-300 MEDIA RELATIONS

It is to the advantage of the Agency and to the benefit of the citizens of Charles County to encourage complete and thorough media coverage of the activities and operations of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The reporting of these activities and operations provides an important means of establishing the channels of communications with the public. In some cases it may be necessary to withhold certain information from public disclosure. This will be permitted only to the degree that it is required by law, necessary to further an investigative purpose or to protect a witness or victim.

1-300.1 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

If in the normal operation of police activities an unusual and newsworthy event should occur which causes great public concern or media interest, the shift commander, or in his absence, the on-scene supervisor, will contact the Media Relations Office as soon as practical. In addition, a Commanders' Information Report / Crime Information Report will be completed in accordance with policy located elsewhere in the AOM.

Examples of incidents which shall require an immediate notification to the MRO include, but are not limited to:

- Any shooting involving a police officer;
- Any incident which requires a lockdown or "shelter in place" of any private or public school, public building, or any area / neighborhood affected by a police activity;



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- Homicides, suspicious deaths, accidental deaths;
- Serious injury or death of a police officer or Agency employee;
- Serious injury or death of a citizen resulting from a police action;
- Incidents involving prominent or famous persons;
- Critical or fatal motor vehicle collisions;
- Any incident requiring the issuance of an Amber, Silver, or Yellow alert, or the activation of a Project Lifesaver response;
- Large scale arrests or incidents which are likely to attract media attention.

1-300.1.1 INCIDENTS INVOLVING FATALITIES OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

In cases where an officer is seriously injured or killed as a result of an accident or assault, or is involved in a law enforcement action where another person is seriously injured or killed and the CCSO has primary responsibility for the investigation:

- The Media Relations Specialist or designee will act as the main point of contact for all communication with the media.
- Information surrounding the incident will only be released by the Media Relations Specialist or designee.
- The Media Relations Office will coordinate the release of information with all other involved agencies as appropriate, such as when multiple agencies are involved.
- As a matter of mutual courtesy, the Agency will confer with the State's Attorney's Office prior to the release of any public information.

The Agency shall release only the officer's last name, rank, tenure, and duty assignment to the public within the first 48 hours of the critical incident. In determining the timing of the release of the officer's information, the Agency will take into account the circumstances involved in the critical incident and the safety of the officer. Where practical, the Agency will also notify the officer and the designated FOP representative about the release of information. Notwithstanding the above, where the officer is injured or killed in the line of duty, the Agency would have full discretion in regards to releasing additional information about the officer.

In cases when the Attorney General's Office of Independent Investigations Division assumes primary investigative responsibility, procedures in the Police Involved Fatality Investigations policy will be followed.

1-300.2 MEDIA ACCESS TO SCENES

A command officer, Lieutenant or above, in charge of a scene may permit news media access inside police lines for news gathering purposes. The officer should evaluate the danger to the media, the possible contamination of the scene, the need to protect sensitive evidence and information and any interference which might occur with an ongoing investigation or incident. If these considerations can be resolved, the officer may permit controlled access to the degree possible under the instant circumstances. The scope of the allowed media access should be clearly defined for all news media representatives allowed across police lines. Those persons shall then be continually escorted or limited to a particular area which can be controlled by Agency personnel. The identity of each media representative should be known or should be proven by media credentials before entry is allowed. Freelance journalists, without media credentials, will be treated as private citizens. News media representatives will be denied access, or removed from a previously granted access, any time their presence jeopardizes a legitimate police purpose. In making decisions concerning the access of media representatives at scenes, officers in charge should be aware that these persons have the same statutory responsibilities and are subject to the same laws and rules as are any other citizens. Media have the right to access any property open to the public in general.

Journalists and other non-essential persons will not be allowed access to private property or privileged information under law enforcement control. Scenes which would be normally closed except for law enforcement purposes will be protected from access by all persons not needed to officially contend with the incident.



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1-300.3 POLICE REQUEST TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION

Media representatives may photograph or report anything they observe when they are legally present at an incident scene. Where publication of such coverage would interfere with an official investigation or place a victim, suspect, or others in jeopardy, officers should advise the media representatives or their superior of the possible consequences of publication. However, officers may not interfere with news gathering activities as long as the performance of that action remains lawful.

Officers may not seize the lawful work product (film, photos, notes, recordings, etc.) or equipment from a reporter or photographer in an effort to prevent the release of the information or to further a criminal investigation.

1-300.4 INDIVIDUAL PRESS STATEMENTS

Generally, only the Media Relations Office is authorized to make a statement on behalf of the Agency to the media. No employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office may make a statement on behalf of the Agency to the media concerning investigations, operations or administration of the Agency; and no statement may be made concerning the employee's personal role in any investigation, operation or administrative activity of the Agency without the permission of the officer in charge of a scene or the employee's division commander. Unauthorized conversations, either on or off the record that impact an investigation or the Agency's mission may result in discipline. The intent of this policy is to prevent individual employees from mistakenly misrepresenting the Agency without first having the benefit of all facts and information which may affect such a representation. In this way, statements made by Agency personnel will more likely accurately represent Agency policies and provide the media's representatives with more complete information. Nothing in this policy is intended to deny any employee of his or her First Amendment right to speak on matters of public concern.

If there is a known possibility of civil action against an employee or the Agency concerning an event, statements will not be made without the authorization of the Sheriff or an Assistant Sheriff. Individual employees will refrain from making statements concerning their personal opinion of the truthfulness of any statements made by any victim or witness associated with an investigation.

1-300.5 PRESS RELEASES

Only the Media Relations Office is authorized to prepare and issue press releases. Press releases will generally be made concerning the following:

- felony criminal investigations;
- serious or unusual misdemeanor criminal investigations;
- felony arrests and serious misdemeanor arrests;
- fatal motor vehicle crashes;
- serious hit and run crashes;
- motor vehicle crash of unusual interest; and
- incidents occurring within public schools (names of juveniles to be withheld)

In motor vehicle cases, arrest and citation information (except for the names of juveniles) should be included.

Information to be excluded from press releases and held confidential shall include:

- the names of witnesses or victims of crimes;
- the names of accused child abusers when identifying the accused would likely identify the victim(s);
- the names of deceased persons prior to notification of next of kin;
- the names of juveniles (except those charged as adults);
- criminal history information;
- information concerning admissions or confessions of accused persons;



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- specific dollar amounts of cash or property involved; and
- any information, which in the opinion of the investigating officer, could impede the ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution.

If a Crime Information Report has been completed the completing officer will check the box at the bottom of the report indicating whether the MRO may complete a press release. In cases where the release of information contained on a Crime Information Report may hinder an investigation, the box indicating "No press release" should be marked. Any further inquiries will be made to the investigating officer through the MRO.

1-300.6 MEDIA REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

When media representatives request further information regarding a press release or incident, they will be referred to the Commander, Executive Services Division or the Media Relations Specialist. Members of the media should not be referred to the investigating officer for further information. Employees are reminded only information which is contained in the press release may be communicated to the public.

1-300.7 REQUESTS BY CITIZENS FOR RESTRICTED RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Whenever a citizen requests that information concerning a particular incident not be released to the media, employees shall explain that police reports are generally considered public information, and therefore, accessible to the media. Employees may indicate on a Crime / Commander's report that a press release is not to be completed for the incident; however, employees should understand the media may obtain information from other publicly available sources and will make the decision whether or not to publish publicly available information.

1-305 PRIVATE CITIZENS PHOTOGRAPHING OR VIDEOTAPING POLICE OFFICERS IN PUBLIC

It is increasingly common for uninvolved bystanders at the scene of police activity to photograph and/or video record the actions of police officers and their conduct. Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office should simply assume that, at any time, a member of the public is likely to be observing, and perhaps even photographing or video recording, their activities.

As a result, members must understand that any bystander has an absolute right to photograph and/or video record the enforcement actions of any police officer so long as the bystander's actions do not:

- Place the safety of the bystander, or of any police officer(s), witness(es), victim(s), or suspect(s), in jeopardy;
- Hinder the execution or performance of an officer's official duties;
- Interfere with the enforcement of violations of any section of law, ordinance, code, or criminal or traffic article;
- Involve an incursion into any crime scene, private property, or other location under lawful police control and/or not normally accessible to the general public;
- Threaten, by words or actions, other persons; or
- Attempt to incite an immediate breach of the peace or incite others to commit a violation of the law.

The acts of observing, photographing, and/or making a video recording of any police activity that occurs in a public setting are not criminal offenses. It does not provide any justification whatsoever for any member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, without consent of the owner or a search and seizure warrant or other appropriate court order, to seize or otherwise inspect the contents of a person's camera or video recording device.

In addition to already existing legal precedent, §2-109 of the Criminal Procedure Article, effective July 1, 2022, states police officers "may not prohibit or prevent a citizen from recording the police officer's actions if the citizen



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is otherwise acting lawfully and safely.”

Absent any of the above six criteria, upon discovery that a bystander is observing, photographing, or video recording the conduct of police activity:

- Do not impede or prevent the bystander's ability to continue to do so, based solely on your discovery of his/her presence.
- Do not seize or otherwise demand to take possession of any camera or video recording device the bystander may possess, based solely on your discovery of his/her presence.
- Do not demand to review, manipulate, or erase any images or video recording captured by the bystander, based solely on your discovery of his/her presence.

For investigative purposes, be mindful of the potential that the bystander may witness, or capture images/video of events considered later to be material evidence. Nothing in this policy should be construed by members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office as an elimination of their ability to seek out, collect, or otherwise gather evidence in the course of a criminal investigation.

If an officer has probable cause to believe that a bystander is in possession of any still photographs, video recordings, and/or audio/sound recordings that could reasonably be considered evidence related to a crime and/or the identification of a person involved in a crime, a supervisor must be contacted. Unless exigent circumstances exist, only a supervisor may attempt to obtain control of a camera or video recording device without a warrant or consent.

1-305.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

Supervisors should respond to any scene where members under their supervision believe there is a bystander who is observing, photographing, and/or video recording their conduct and:

- the bystander's actions are approaching the level of a criminal offense;
- the bystander's actions are approaching a risk to the safety of officers or others;
- the bystander may have captured video or photographs that would be material evidence of a crime or reportable use of force; or
- the supervisor's presence is requested.

The supervisor shall ensure adequate police attention remains focused on whatever situation originally required a police response.

The supervisor shall not allow subordinates under their supervision to become distracted from their professional duties if it is suspected that deliberate provocation is occurring.

If the bystander's actions are approaching the level of a criminal offense, the supervisor shall inform the bystander that his/her actions may, if continued, rise to the level of a criminal offense, and could subject him/her to arrest. If the bystander's presence is approaching a risk to the safety of officers or others, the supervisor shall direct the bystander to a safer location which still allows the bystander to record the police activity.

The supervisor shall recover, or cause to be recovered, any camera or video recording device that contains material evidence of a crime or reportable use of force:

- Through the voluntary consent of the individual in possession of the item.
- Through execution of a Search and Seizure Warrant.
- Through some valid exception to the warrant requirement.

Supervisors should provide guidance and assistance to members on those occasions when an application for a



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Search and Seizure Warrant is made for a camera, video recording device, etc., believed to contain evidence related to a criminal investigation.

1-305.2 SEIZING A BYSTANDER'S VIDEO RECORDING DEVICE FOR EVIDENTIARY PURPOSES

If a bystander is believed to possess any material that is, or could reasonably be considered to be, evidence related to a crime and/or the identification of a person involved in a crime, an officer may make a request of the bystander that he/she voluntarily surrender his camera, video recording device, etc., into police custody. The officer should also seek consent from the bystander to access the device to retrieve and copy the images/video relevant to the incident. In the absence of consent, a search warrant is required to search the contents of the device.

When an officer obtains possession of the device, the officer shall refer to Section 4-540 of this Manual for instructions on how to safely take custody of the device.

If there is probable cause to believe that evidence exists on an individual's device, and there is a reasonable likelihood that evidence will be tampered with or destroyed before a warrant can be obtained, a supervisor may temporarily seize the device for safekeeping / preservation of the evidence while the appropriate application(s) for Search and Seizure Warrant(s) are made. In such cases, the officer shall apply for and execute the Search and Seizure Warrant(s) by submitting the device to the DFU.

1-400 PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is the policy of this Agency to comply with all legitimate requests for information concerning its actions and operations. Because of the technical nature of some requests, all of those requests, which are not specifically covered elsewhere in this Manual, will be referred to the Sheriff or his designee.

1-400.1 FEATURE ARTICLES OR PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Requests for Agency participation in feature articles and programs and the photographing of police facilities will be limited to the scope of approval obtained by the media company from the Sheriff. Employees participating in the preparation of such articles or programs should ascertain the scope of the approval and should be careful not to exceed those limits. In any event, employees should exercise care and discretion to avoid making statements or conveying information which, if later quoted, would create a misunderstanding or compromise the effectiveness of the Agency.

1-400.2 EMPLOYEES' RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS

It is not uncommon for individual employees to be contacted by the public or by news-gathering organizations seeking specific information. Employees should appropriately answer questions put to them or refer the requestor to the appropriate commander for the answer. When a request is made for information about a police matter, employees should decide whether the requestor is a proper person to receive the information. Generally, employees should be open in their dealings with the public and, unless there is reason to the contrary, should supply the requested information. Employees should be careful to avoid representing their opinions as fact, compromising an investigation, or divulging protected criminal history or victim information.

1-500 LABOR RELATIONS

It shall be the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to be an impartial observer in labor disputes. The Agency's only role is that of ensuring order and the obedience of rule of law. When members of this Agency are called to or otherwise have the occasion to be at the scene of a labor dispute, they will conduct their activities to prevent violations of law and to protect all parties from lawless acts.



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Officers will take action to see that free access is allowed to all persons using public roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. Those who seek to block or disrupt such access will be required to obey the law or face arrest.

Officers are not normally deployed at scenes of labor disputes. However, if conditions exist which require the deployment of Agency personnel in such cases, a command officer will assume control of such deployment. The on-duty district / shift commander is normally the responsible command officer.

CHAPTER 2 – AGENCY STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2-100 AGENCY ORGANIZATION

(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. AGENCY DEFINITIONS
- C. ACRONYMS
- D. PERSONNEL DEFINITIONS
- E. ORGANIZATIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE
- F. RANK PRECEDENCE OF SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL PERSONNEL
- G. GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT
- H. 24- HOUR STAFFING

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is established by the Constitution of the State of Maryland (Article IV, § 44). The Office is further defined by Article 87, the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, and other areas of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the Public Local Laws of Charles County. Sheriffs are constitutional officers whose powers and duties are not expressly enumerated in the Constitution. Rather, those powers and duties are prescribed by the common law as modified by the acts of the legislature (Soper v. Montgomery County, 294 Md. 331, 449 A.2d 1158 [1982]).

The CCSO has three major responsibilities, which can be loosely defined as providing police services, court services, and correctional services. This policy and each component policy describes how the Agency is organized to deal with those responsibilities. It also provides Agency personnel with the knowledge of how their particular unit or assignment within the organization is to fulfill its role in meeting those responsibilities.

AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is divided into various components for the purpose of organizing duties and responsibilities in a logical manner to provide the most efficient and effective means of achieving the goals of the Agency. Although each individual within the CCSO has the responsibility to help in the realization of all Agency goals, efforts in this regard would be fragmented and unlikely to succeed without some organizational plan in place. These component responsibilities are in addition to the individual responsibilities assigned in job descriptions and elsewhere in policy.

Commanders and directors of components have the component responsibilities assigned specifically to them by this section. Personnel assigned to a component have the component responsibilities assigned generally to them. Some personnel may have specific component responsibilities assigned by their job description, a component SOP, or by an assignment of the commander or director.

Whenever a position is charged with a responsibility for the accomplishment of a particular task, the commensurate authority is conveyed to accomplish the responsibility. All employees are accountable for the use of delegated



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authority. Each supervisory employee, at all levels of the Agency, is accountable for the activities of employees under his immediate control.

When duties and / or responsibilities are fixed by this section, by job descriptions or by directives and / or orders from superiors, employees shall fulfill those duties and responsibilities to the best of their abilities within the framework of their position and the resources provided.

Reference should be made to the Agency Organizational Chart, and its various sub-charts. These charts, in conjunction with the narrative descriptions of Agency components and their duties and responsibilities, provide an explanation of the Agency's organizational functions.

All of the Agency's organizational charts are maintained within Agency policy which is available at all times to Agency employees via the Agency intranet and to the general public via the Agency web site.

B. AGENCY DEFINITIONS

Agency - the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Agency Owned - includes property and vehicles that are owned, leased, rented, or acquired in any manner by the Agency or Charles County Government, State of Maryland, U.S. Government, or any other entity for the use of the Charles County Sheriff's Office or the Charles County Government.

Agency Segment - one of three specific classification groups into which all employees are divided: Sworn Officer, Correctional Officer, or Civilian Employee.

Area of Responsibility - a specific geographic territory, group of physical assets, group of tasks, or combination of all of these. For example, the area of responsibility for a patrol officer might be a sector, combination of sectors, or a portion of one or more sectors. The area of responsibility for the Deputy Director, Records Management Section might be all the tasks assigned to Records Management Section, the physical office space and the equipment assigned to the section. It is incumbent upon each employee to manage his area of responsibility in the most efficient and effective manner possible in order to achieve Agency goals.

Beat --a geographical subdivision of a sector.

Bureau- the highest component of the Agency responsible for overseeing divisions, specialized units, and all assigned personnel.

Component --any organization element. Each organizational component is under the direct command of only one supervisor.

County - Charles County, Maryland.

Cruiser - a four-wheeled Agency vehicle that is not a truck or a van. When occupied by an on-duty officer(s) it may also be called a unit, mobile unit, or car to conform to common speech. Cruiser does not imply the status or rank of the operator or occupants.

Detail - a subunit of a division, section, or unit, whose personnel are assigned to a specialized task.

District - a geographical division composed of one or more sectors.

District Station --a facility housing district employees and equipment.

Division - one of the major components of the Agency, commanded / managed by a Captain or civilian director.



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Fitness for Duty Examination - an examination of a current employee to determine whether the employee is physically or psychologically able to perform the essential functions of the job. The type of examination is dependent upon the circumstances leading to the fitness-for-duty examination request.

Function - a group of duties assigned to and performed by an employee or body of employees. Function may also be used to indicate the employee or employees.

Manual - the Administrative and Operational Manual (AOM) of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Patrol Operations - those Patrol Division personnel responsible to one of the two division commanders, and including shift commanders.

Section - a subunit of a division.

Sector - a geographical subdivision of a district.

Seniority - established first by rank or position within the organizational structure, and second by the consecutive time served in the current rank or position. Where conflicts occur because of identical service or dates of appointment, the employee with the lower I.D. number is deemed to be senior.

In situations requiring decision or control when employees are of equal rank or position, the senior will make the decision or exercise control unless otherwise directed by a higher ranking employee. However, operational law enforcement or correctional activities, of a sworn or correctional officer respectively, shall only be directed by senior employees as permitted by law. For example, a civilian would not direct an arrest situation, but may direct the marshaling of supplies and equipment for the situation, if that were the senior civilian employee's area of responsibility.

Joint operations of sworn and corrections employees shall be directed by a senior employee having area of responsibility. For example, if sworn officers are helping to quell a disturbance within a corrections facility, the operation shall be the responsibility of the senior corrections employee. Likewise, if corrections employees are used to assist patrol officers during a crisis situation, the senior sworn employee having responsibility shall be in charge. Nothing in this section is intended to abridge any power of the Sheriff to direct and control the entire Agency's activities.

Span of Control - the number of subordinates under the immediate and functional control of a single supervisor. An employee in charge, holding the rank of Sergeant or the equivalent first-line supervisory position, is limited to normal full-time supervision of a maximum of 15 employees.

Shift - the personnel grouped together for scheduling purposes.

Squad - a designated group of sworn officers performing related tasks.

Team - a designated group of correctional officers who are assigned to work a specific shift.

Unit - a subdivision of a section.

Watch - a tour of duty covering an established schedule of hours. In units which utilize three daily watches, Watch I is the midnight watch, Watch II is the day work watch, and Watch III is the evening watch, with actual work hours designated appropriately.

C. ACRONYMS

Acronyms allow for less wordy and more efficient communications within the Agency. The following listed acronyms are used throughout policy and should also be employed in other in-house documents and correspondence.



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Acronyms should not be used in documents and correspondence designed for use outside the Agency because their meanings may not be clear in that context.

ACRONYMS LIST

AHB	- Administrative Hearing Board
AOM	- Administrative and Operational Manual
AWOL	- Absent from duty position Without Leave Approval
CAD	- Computer Assisted Dispatch
CALEA	- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies
CCDC	- Charles County Detention Center
CCSO	- Charles County Sheriff's Office
CDS	- Controlled Dangerous Substances
CHRI	- Criminal History Record Information
CID	- Criminal Investigations Division
CIM	- Criminal Investigations Manual
CIR	- Commanders' Information Report / Crime Information Report
CO	- Commanding Officer
COG	- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
COPS	- Community Oriented Police Services
CRMCMC	- University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center (La Plata)
CTAU	- Maryland State Police, Chemical Test for Alcohol Unit
DARE	- Drug Abuse Resistance Education
DER	- Department of Environmental Resources
DO	- Duty Officer
DUI	- Driving Under the Influence
DWI	- Driving While Intoxicated
EST	- Emergency Services Team
EEO	- Equal Employment Opportunity
FBI	- Federal Bureau of Investigation
FOP	- Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #24
FT	- Full Time (when used with reference to an employee)
FTRH	- Full Time Reduced Hours (when used with reference to an employee)
FTO	- Field Training Officer
HNT	- Hostage Negotiations Team
IA	- Internal Affairs Section
IID	- The Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division
ITD	- Information Technology Division
JOR	- Juvenile Offense Report
K-9	- Canine
LWOP	- Leave Without Pay
ACRS	- Automated Crash Reporting System
MAB	- Medical Advisory Board
MAFIS	- Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System
METERS	- Maryland Electronic Telecommunications Enforcement Resource System
MO	- Modus Operandi
MNCPCC	- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
MPDC	- Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, DC
MPTSC	- Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission
MRO	- Media Relations Officer
MSDS	- Material Safety Data Sheet
MSP	- Maryland State Police
NCIC	- National Crime Information Center
NCO	- Non-Commissioned Officer
OIC	- Officer-In-Charge



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PCO	- Police Communications Officer
RAFIS	- Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System
SAO	- Office of the State's Attorney for Charles County
SMP	- Agency Strategic Management Program
SOP	- Standard Operating Procedures
T/A	- "Trading As," common reference for a business
TDY	- Temporary Duty Assignment
UMPD	- University of Maryland Police Department
US	- United States of America
USPP	- United States Park Police
UUV	- Unauthorized Use of a (Motor) Vehicle
VIN	- Vehicle Identification Number

D. PERSONNEL DEFINITIONS

Chief of Staff - a civilian or sworn officer who is the highest responsible senior administrative and supervisory authority of all employees of the Agency. When filled by a sworn officer, he is assigned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Commanding Officer - any commissioned officer in charge of an Agency component.

Command Staff - includes the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, all sworn police and Corrections officers the rank of Lieutenant and above, and civilian Directors and Deputy Directors.

Commissioned Officer - an officer holding the rank of Lieutenant or higher.

Commissioner - refers to a commissioner of the District Court of Maryland. Commissioners have statutory authorization to conduct initial appearance hearings for persons charged as adults with crimes in order to evaluate the propriety of their pretrial release.

Correctional Officer - a correctional officer, as defined by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, who is an employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Director (Civilian) - a civilian employee who leads a division, is directly responsible to an Assistant Sheriff, and is assigned to the Executive Staff of the Agency.

Director (Corrections) - A correctional officer or civilian who is responsible for overseeing the Corrections Division and all operations and components of the Charles County Detention Center. He reports to an Assistant Sheriff and is a member of the Executive Staff.

Deputy Director (Civilian) - a civilian employee who is responsible for a component of the Agency, reports directly to a Division Commander or Director, and is a member of the Command Staff. A deputy director has supervisory responsibilities for all personnel assigned to his command. Deputy directors may supervise all functions of sworn personnel assigned to their command except those related to arrest.

Deputy Director (Corrections) - a correctional officer who is second in command at the Charles County Detention Center. He reports to the Corrections Director, is responsible for overseeing all components of the Corrections Division, and is a member of the Executive Staff.

Division Commander - a sworn officer the rank of Captain, or a corrections officer or civilian the rank of Director, who commands a division and is directly responsible to an Assistant Sheriff.

Employee - a sworn police officer, correctional officer, sworn court security officer, police communications officer or civilian, appointed or assigned to the Agency in a permanent or temporary paid position.



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Executive Staff - comprised of the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, all sworn and corrections Captains, corrections Director, civilian Directors, corrections Deputy Director, and the Agency General Counsel.

Manager - a civilian employee in charge of a certain group of tasks or a group of employees within a section / unit. A manager is directly responsible to a section commander or Deputy Director.

Master Corporal - an officer holding the rank of Corporal with the appointed title of Master Corporal. This title may be bestowed by the Sheriff if a Corporal meets the minimum years of service requirements and passes a nomination and review process.

Master Sergeant - an officer holding the rank of Sergeant with the appointed title of Master Sergeant. This title may be bestowed by the Sheriff if a Sergeant meets the minimum years of service requirements and passes a nomination and review process.

Non-Commissioned Officer - an officer holding the rank of Sergeant or below.

Personnel - Agency employees.

Police Communications Officer - an employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office who is assigned the task of radio communications and the associated responsibilities. These employees do not have arrest or police powers and are not sworn law enforcement officers.

Section Commander (Police) - a sworn officer, the rank of lieutenant, who is responsible for overseeing a section within a division. He reports directly to a captain or civilian director.

Section Commander (Corrections) - a corrections officer, the rank of captain, who is responsible for a major component of the Corrections Division and who reports to the corrections Deputy Director.

Sector / District Supervisor - a supervisor of patrol officers assigned to a sector.

Shift Commander - a sworn Lieutenant who is responsible for managing the patrol operations of a particular shift in the Northern or Southern Patrol Division, or the midnight shift.

Superior Officer - an employee holding a higher rank or position according to the established rank precedence.

Supervisor - an employee assigned to positions authorizing the exercise of immediate supervision over other employees, including:

1. employees assigned in an acting or TDY capacity; and/or
2. specific employees granted a supervisory role for purposes not otherwise contrary to specific policy; e.g., a Corporal granted supervisory authorization by his Sergeant; and/or
3. specified employees exercising direct supervision over a component during the absence of the supervisor or commander.

Supervisors are responsible for:

1. the conduct and activities of all subordinates; and
2. the actions of subordinates upon whom they have been granted supervisory authorization.

Sworn Officer - any sworn police officer or sworn court security officer, as defined by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Team Commander - a corrections officer, the rank of lieutenant, who oversees a corrections team. He reports directly to a corrections captain.



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E. ORGANIZATIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Accountability - the responsibility of any employee to discharge his assigned duties or execute rights and privileges in a lawful, professional manner. Each employee is accountable to only one supervisor at any given time.

Authority - the right to act or exact action by others; the power to decide and to require that decisions are acted upon.

Chain of Command - the hierarchy of authority that extends from the top to the bottom of the organization. All communications, unless otherwise specifically directed, will follow the chain of command.

Command - the authority and responsibility to direct and control subordinates in order to accomplish missions. It includes the authority to assign tasks, designate objectives and supervise their execution.

Conflicting Orders - an order given contrary to prior instructions or directives.

Designation of Authority (Designee) - the authority conferred upon supervisory employees and commanding officers to delegate responsibilities to officers and employees under their supervision or command. Unless otherwise prohibited, supervisory employees and commanding officers may utilize this authority at their discretion. Once such authority is delegated, the designee shall be accountable for its use.

He - In those cases where the writer uses the masculine pronoun in referring to Agency personnel in general, the feminine pronoun is hereby specifically included.

Lawful Order - any order issued by a superior employee or relayed from a superior employee by an employee of the same or lesser rank, to any subordinate which is not in violation of any law, ordinance or any written directive. Employees will obey all lawful orders.

Line Components - the elements of the Agency which directly perform the mission of the Agency.

May - indicative of an action which is permissible.

Shall / Will - indicative of an action which is mandatory.

Staff Components - the components of the organization which do not directly perform the mission of the Agency. Staff components assist or provide support to operational components performing the mission of the Agency.

Standard Operating Procedures - directives typically written at the division or section level, which contain procedures unique to the particular component. SOPs may restrict, but not enlarge, the authority contained in Agency policy. They are issued on the authority of the division commander / director.

Temporary Duty Assignment (TDY) - an assignment where an employee is transferred, on an interim basis, to an assignment different from his permanent assignment.

Written Directives - written Agency documents which guide the performance or conduct of employees; e.g., Agency policy, SOPs.

F. RANK PRECEDENCE OF SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL PERSONNEL

The order of rank precedence of sworn personnel of the CCSO, in descending order, from that of most, to that of least authority is:

Sheriff



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Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) / Chief of Staff
Major (MAJ)
Captain (CPT)
Lieutenant (LT)
Master Sergeant (MSgt)
Sergeant (SGT)
Master Corporal (MCpl)
Corporal (CPL)
Police Officer First Class (PFC)
Police Officer II (PO2)
Police Officer I (PO1)

Correctional Personnel:

Sheriff
Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) / Chief of Staff
Major (MAJ)
Director (DIR)
Deputy Director (DD)
Corrections Captain (CPT)
Lieutenant (LT)
Master Sergeant (MSgt)
Sergeant (SGT)
Master Corporal (MCPLI)
Corporal (CPL)
Correctional Officer First Class (CFC)
Correctional Officer II (COII)
Correctional Officer I (COI)

The abbreviation of rank listed above for each position is appropriate for all official documents and correspondence. Personnel of this Agency shall ensure that these abbreviations are used when it is appropriate to use an abbreviation of rank.

G. GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT

In addition to specific duties and responsibilities particular to their Agency component responsibilities, commanding officers, civilian directors and deputy directors shall:

1. ensure maintenance of a current SOP Manual (Upon development, a copy of the SOP Manual, and / or any new procedures inserted, will be transmitted to Planning & Accreditation);
2. ensure a uniform standard of discipline;
3. as directed by the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, assign and monitor disciplinary investigations; and
4. periodically conduct staff meetings with employees under their supervision:
 - a) for the purpose of exchanging information and ideas at all levels of the component;
 - b) for the purpose, also, to identify problems and seek solutions;
5. provide for frequent inspection of the facilities, equipment and personnel within the component, and provide for prompt corrections of deficiencies discovered as a result of these inspections;



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6. ensure that all files and records are accurately maintained;
 7. ensure that all Agency property is properly maintained;
 8. assign personnel to most effectively meet the workload requirements;
 9. forward suggestions for revision of position descriptions to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services;
 10. account for the use of pool vehicles assigned to their component;
 11. control and direct subordinates through direct supervision and leadership;
 12. maintain such working hours as may be necessary in order to accomplish the duties and responsibilities associated with the supervision of their component;
 13. ensure the proper security, disbursement, and accountability of funds entrusted to their component;
 14. provide for a quarterly accounting of all component cash funds;
 15. maintain property storage locations within their component; provide liaison with the Commander, Property Management Section, to maintain an efficient property management system;
 16. ensure all employees under their command have access to Agency policy on the CCSO Intranet and that they review and sign for documents, tests, and other materials posted in the document imaging system in a timely manner.
 17. provide individual copies of work schedules for personnel who work rotating shifts;
 18. perform, at minimum, a bi-annual inspection of all property and equipment not personally assigned to employees;
 19. notify the Assistant Sheriffs, in writing, of transfers and long-term TDY assignments;
 20. conduct an annual review of all sworn positions in their component to determine whether they may be more effectively filled by civilian employees;
 21. review the monthly activity / statistical reports for components under their supervision; and
 22. conduct an assessment every four years of the workload and any staffing issues in each of the components under their supervision, and forward a written report to the Sheriff.

H. 24-HOUR STAFFING

The following components will provide 24-hour staffing. If necessary, supervisors will ensure staffing via changes in work schedules or assignments.

1. Patrol Operations;
2. Communications Section;
3. Corrections Division.



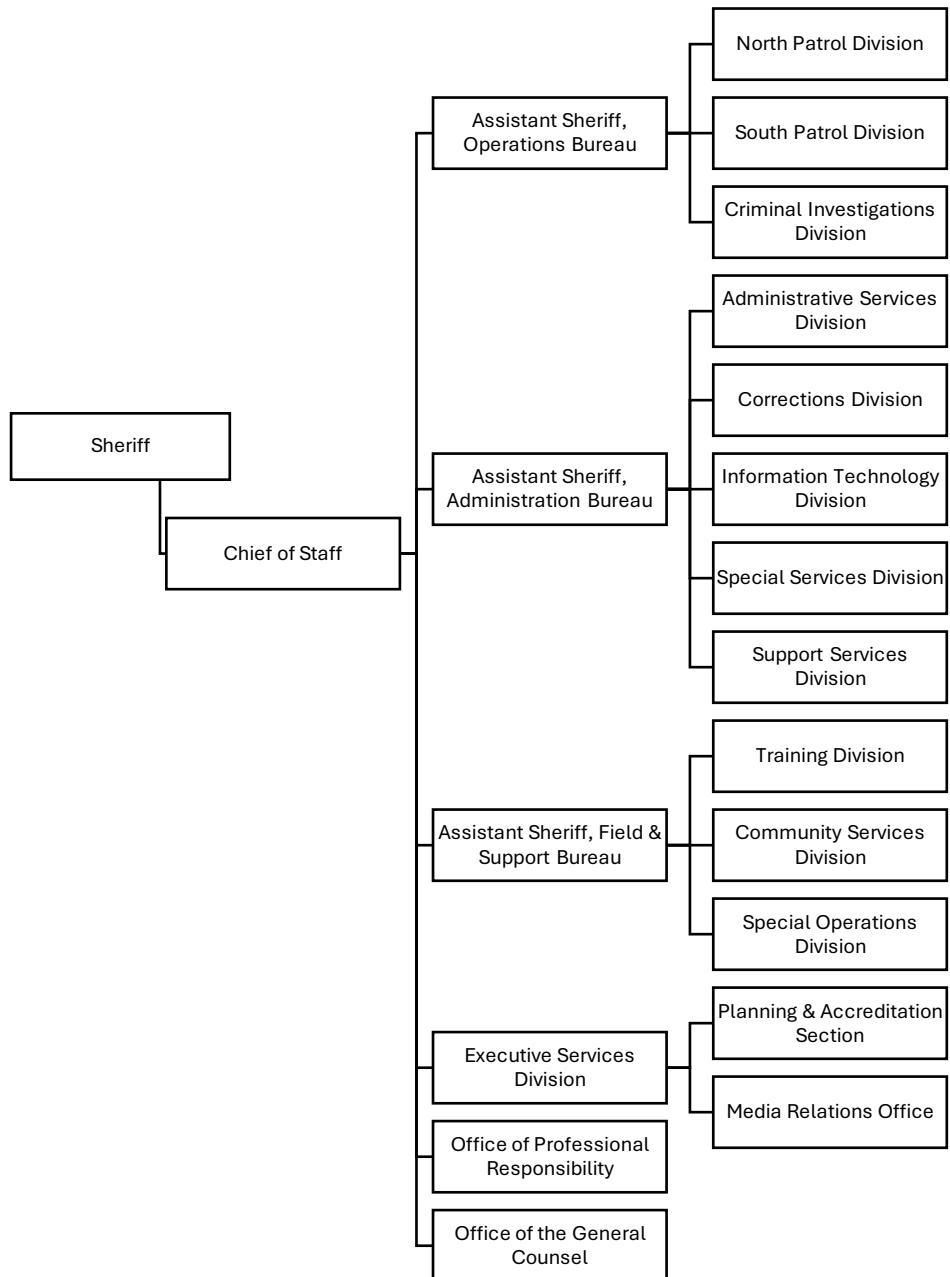


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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - ENTIRE AGENCY



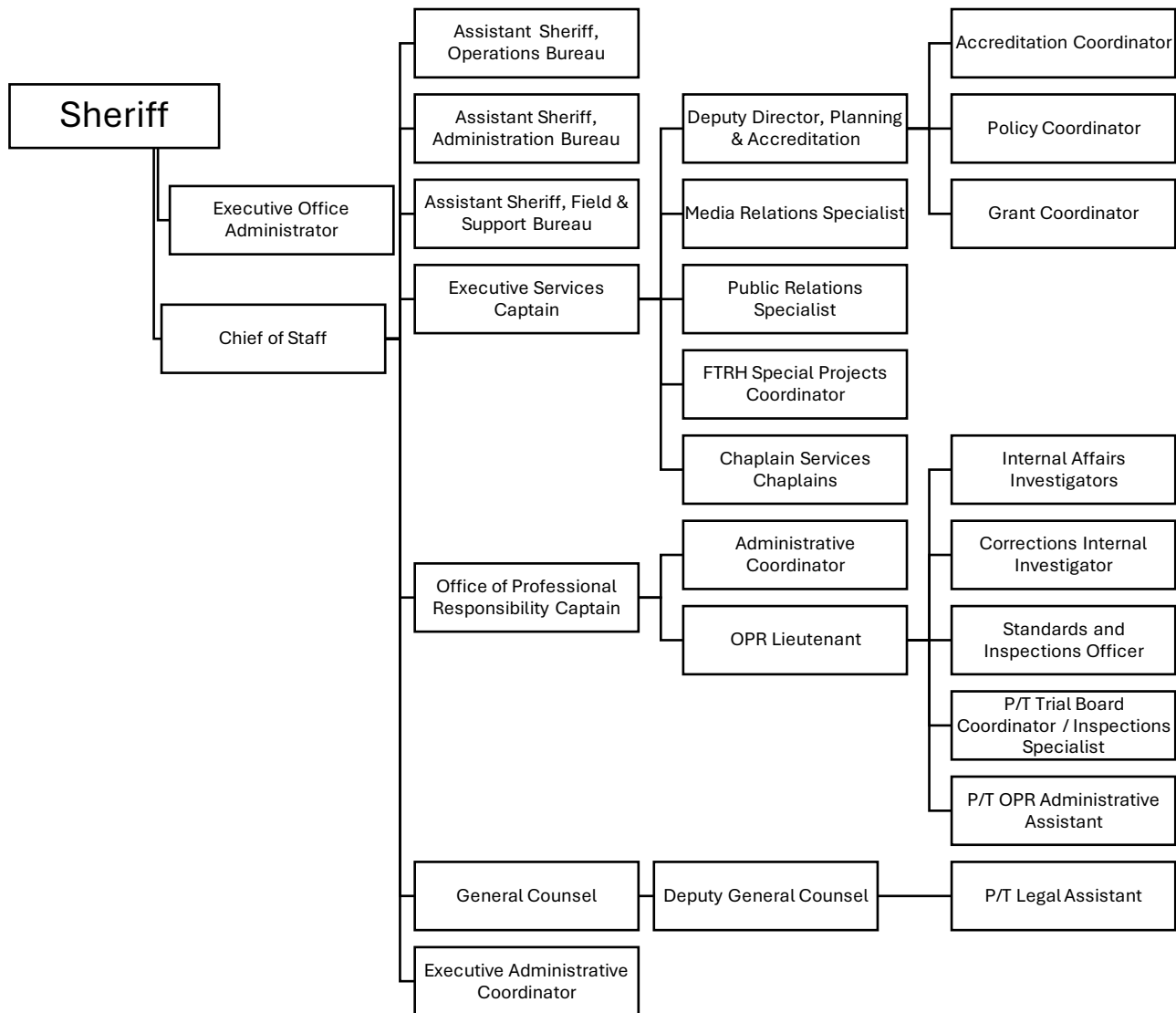


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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF





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2-250.1 OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Last reviewed: 8/1/2025

- A. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION
- B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SHERIFF
- C. CHIEF OF STAFF
- D. ASSISTANT SHERIFFS
- E. OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
- F. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
- G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

A. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The Office of the Sheriff is comprised of the Sheriff, the Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, the Office of Professional Responsibility, the Office of the General Counsel, the Executive Services Division, the Executive Office Administrator and the Executive Administrative Coordinator. The Sheriff is an elected State Official who has duties and responsibilities assigned by the Maryland State Constitution, the Common Law and Statutory Law of the State of Maryland.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SHERIFF

Some of the duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff are found in the following list. This list is for informational purposes and places no additional duty or responsibility upon the Sheriff, not already found in law.

1. is the final authority for all matters of policy, operations, and discipline;
2. establishes orders, rules, and regulations for the administration of the Agency;
3. is the final approval authority for all additions, deletions, or changes to the AOM;
4. is the authority for all planning, direction, coordinating, controlling, and staffing activities of the Agency;
5. is architect and approval authority for the Agency's organizational structure;
6. provides for the oversight of the efficiency and effectiveness of all Agency operations and functions;
7. provides direction to maintain all Agency functions and operations within the framework provided by law;
8. provides for the maintenance of cordial and effective relationships between the Agency, other government agencies, political entities, the business community, civic organizations, and the citizens;
9. provides for Agency staffing by presenting requests for funding to the Charles County Commissioners and through such other avenues of revenues as may be appropriately available for this purpose;
10. administers funds to accomplish the Agency's goals and objectives;
11. provides for the establishment and maintenance of goals and objectives for the Agency;
12. establishes standards of performance and moral character for the Agency's employees;
13. establishes the various duties and responsibilities for components of the Agency and its employees;
14. provides training and leadership to employees in order to accomplish the goals and objectives of the



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Agency.

Per the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article (CJ §2-309) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Sheriff will designate in writing his Second in Command, who will, on the death, disqualification, or resignation of the Sheriff or in the event the Sheriff is convicted of a felony, shall succeed to the powers, duties, responsibilities, and obligations of the Sheriff until a successor is appointed by the Governor.

The Sheriff is assisted by the Executive Office Administrator who is responsible for providing administrative support.

C. CHIEF OF STAFF

The Chief of Staff position within Charles County Sheriff's Office can be filled by a sworn officer the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or a civilian. It is the highest responsible senior administrative and supervisory authority of all employees of the Agency. The Chief of Staff will have duties, assignments, and authority as prescribed by the Sheriff. Each division of the Agency shall report to their assigned Assistant Sheriff, who in turn will report directly to the Chief of Staff, who reports directly to the Sheriff. The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, the Commander, Executive Services Division and General Counsel report directly to the Chief of Staff.

The Chief of Staff is assisted by the Executive Administrative Coordinator who is responsible for providing administrative support.

D. ASSISTANT SHERIFFS

Three Assistant Sheriffs are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Agency. The Assistant Sheriff, Operations Bureau is a sworn officer, appointed to the rank of Major, and is responsible for Patrol Operations and the Criminal Investigations Division. The Assistant Sheriff, Administration Bureau is a sworn officer appointed to the rank of Major or a civilian employee appointed to the Assistant Sheriff position. He is responsible for the Corrections Division, Special Services Division, Support Services Division, Information Technology Division, and Administrative Services Division. The Assistant Sheriff, Field and Support Bureau is a sworn officer, appointed to the rank of Major, and is responsible for the Special Operations Division, Community Services Division, and the Training Division.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. provide direct supervision of the division commanders / directors and other personnel who report immediately to them;
2. provide the Sheriff with timely and complete information concerning all the activities under their direct control and any information received having a significant impact upon the Agency, its areas of responsibility, or its operations;
3. continually monitor the functions and personnel under the command and control of their positions in order to determine proper functioning;
4. make recommendations to the Sheriff for improvements in policies and procedures in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency;
5. coordinate efforts in response to unusual occurrences, marshaling the resources of the Agency and acting as advisor to the Sheriff (specifically the Assistant Sheriff, Operations Bureau will be responsible for the All Hazards Plan and planning for unusual occurrences);
6. authorize policy documents for inclusion in the Agency Manual on behalf of the Sheriff;
7. assure the Agency's compliance with CALEA Standards by working with the Deputy Director, Planning &



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Accreditation in order to integrate these Standards into the Agency culture; and

8. make recommendations to the Sheriff for development of both long- and short-term goals establishment.

E. OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

The Office of the General Counsel is assigned to represent the Office of the Sheriff. In accordance with Maryland law, the Attorney General's Office is primarily responsible for representing and advising the Sheriff for Charles County, Maryland, in matters of traditional constitutional duties of the office of the Sheriff. However, to ensure prompt, thorough, and consistent legal advice, the Sheriff, the County, and the Attorney General have mutually agreed that an Attorney shall act as a General Counsel to the Sheriff's Office.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. providing legal advice regarding the daily operations of the Agency; and
2. serving as a liaison between the County Attorney's Office and the Agency; and
3. serving as a liaison between the Attorney General's Office and the Agency; and
4. coordinating responses in civil suits against the Sheriff, the Agency, and its personnel with the County Attorney and the Attorney General; and
5. providing legal representation in various courts for the Sheriff, the Agency, and its personnel either at the direction of the Sheriff or at the request of the County Attorney; and
6. examining rules, policies, and procedures of the Agency for legal sufficiency and form; and
7. representing the Agency, when requested, during Administrative Hearing Boards, both internally and externally; and
8. providing on-going information and training regarding current legal issues which may impact the Agency; and
9. serving as the Agency's legislative liaison with the various legislative bodies at the local, state, and national level.

The General Counsel is assisted by a Deputy General Counsel and part-time Legal Assistant.

F. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMANDER, OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is a sworn officer the rank of Captain. The Commander reports directly to the Chief of Staff. In addition to, and/or as enumerated by, the position description for this position, the Commander will assume all responsibilities for tasks assigned to the Office of Professional Responsibility and its various components. Many of those tasks are outlined in policy; however, others may be assigned by the Chief of Staff.

ASSISTANT COMMANDER, OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Assistant Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, is a sworn officer the rank of Lieutenant. The Assistant Commander reports directly to the Commander, OPR. In addition to, and/or as enumerated by, the position description for this position, the Assistant Commander provides direct supervision to the Internal Affairs



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and Standards and Inspections sections of the OPR.

The OPR is supported by a civilian Administrative Coordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant who are responsible for providing administrative/clerical assistance. The Administrative Coordinator reports directly to the Commander; the Administrative Assistant reports directly to the Assistant Commander.

OPR RESPONSIBILITIES:

In addition to responsibilities outlined elsewhere in policy, the Office of Professional Responsibility will:

1. Inspect and ensure adequate control of the storage and destruction of seized drugs, weapons, and contraband;
2. Inspect and ensure adequate control of Agency cash funds;
3. Establish procedures for, and when necessary, conduct, integrity checks;
4. Maintain all Agency records of complaints against the Agency or its employees, internal investigations, and Use of Force reports, keeping these records in secure and confidential files;
5. Maintain statistical data regarding disciplinary actions and assist division commanders and the Assistant Sheriffs to ensure the even and fair administration of the disciplinary process;
6. Conduct organizational component and safety inspections; and
7. Coordinate and provide support for all administrative hearing boards.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION

The Internal Affairs Section is staffed by sworn and correctional officers who report directly to the Assistant Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility. The Section shall be responsible for the following:

1. Administer the investigation and resolution of all complaints of alleged misconduct by the Agency or Agency personnel;
2. Coordinate and provide support for all emergency suspension hearings; and
3. Conduct or review an investigation into each use of force incident where a person is seriously injured or death occurs.

Internal Affairs Section personnel will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The Commander, OPR or his designee shall be contacted when OPR assistance is required.

STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS SECTION

The Standards and Inspections Section enforces Agency compliance with safety standards and conducts reviews of high-liability incidents. The Section is comprised of a sworn sergeant designated as the Agency Safety Officer and a civilian Trial Board Coordinator / Inspections Specialist. The Agency Safety Officer and Trial Board Coordinator / Inspections Specialist report to the Assistant Commander, OPR.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Responsible for the duties outlined in the Agency's risk management and safety policies and those rules and regulations of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MOSHA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).



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2. Responsible for completing comprehensive reviews of all Use of Force Incidents, Vehicle Pursuits and audits.
3. A comprehensive list of the duties and responsibilities of this section is located in the Office of Professional Responsibility Standard Operating Procedure Manual.

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The Executive Services Division is responsible for and supports administrative and strategic functions related to policy development, maintenance of Agency forms, accreditation, and grant coordination. The division also oversees the Media Relations Office and Chaplain Services. These units contribute to the Agency's operational efficiency, professional standards, and public engagement.

The Division is composed of:

1. Planning and Accreditation Section
2. Media Relations Office
3. Chaplain Services

EXECUTIVE SERVICES COMMANDER

The Executive Services Division Commander is a sworn captain who reports directly to the Chief of Staff. The Commander is responsible for:

1. Supervising all personnel assigned to the division
2. Overseeing daily operations and administrative functions
3. Conducting regular inspections of personnel, equipment, and facilities
4. Ensuring compliance with Agency policy and official directives
5. Verifying that personnel assigned as Accreditation Managers receive specialized training approved by the accrediting agency within one year of assignment

PLANNING AND ACCREDITATION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & ACCREDITATION

The Deputy Director is a civilian who reports to the Executive Services Division Commander and oversees the Planning and Accreditation Section. Responsibilities include:

1. Managing Agency policies and SOPs
2. Assisting commanders with SOP development
3. Maintaining accreditation files and guiding the accreditation process
4. Overseeing Agency form creation and maintenance
5. Administering strategic management planning and coordinating the annual SMP conference
6. Evaluating new technologies, training, and operational strategies
7. Applying for and securing grants to support Agency programs

The section may include both sworn and civilian staff.

POLICY COORDINATOR

Reports to the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation. Responsibilities include:



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1. Analyzing internal and external information to recommend policy revisions
2. Drafting and publishing Agency policies and SOPs
3. Researching technological developments and assessing relevance to Agency operations

ACCREDITATION COORDINATOR

Reports to the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation. Responsibilities include:

1. Collecting and managing documentation for accreditation
2. Ensuring policy compliance with accreditation standards
3. Maintaining and updating Agency forms, including the forms section on the Agency Intranet
4. Performing other duties as assigned

GRANT COORDINATOR

Reports to the Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation. Responsibilities include:

1. Identifying and pursuing external funding opportunities
2. Managing relationships with federal, state, and private grant providers
3. Ensuring all grant activity aligns with the Agency's mission and avoids conflicts of interest

CHAPLAIN SERVICES

Chaplain Services is composed of community clergy representing various faiths, reporting to the Executive Services Division Commander. They serve to provide emotional, spiritual, and logistical support to Agency personnel and their families.

Responsibilities include:

1. Assisting in death or serious injury notifications
2. Providing comfort to ill or grieving personnel and families
3. Supporting personnel during challenging duties such as death notifications to the public
4. Offering spiritual and moral guidance
5. Acting as a liaison between the Agency and religious communities

All activities will follow the Chaplain Services SOP Manual.

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

The Media Relations Office manages all public communications, press relations, and media inquiries, aligning messages with the Agency's mission, objectives, and policies.

MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Reports to the Executive Services Division Commander. Responsibilities include:

1. Acting as the official Agency spokesperson
2. Creating and distributing press releases
3. Advising on and executing public communications strategies
4. Securing command-level approval before releasing information to the media

PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST



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Reports to the Executive Services Division Commander. Responsibilities include:

1. Producing internal and external communications
2. Serving as Agency photographer
3. Acting as spokesperson in the absence of the Media Relations Specialist

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Reports to the Executive Services Division Commander. Responsibilities include:

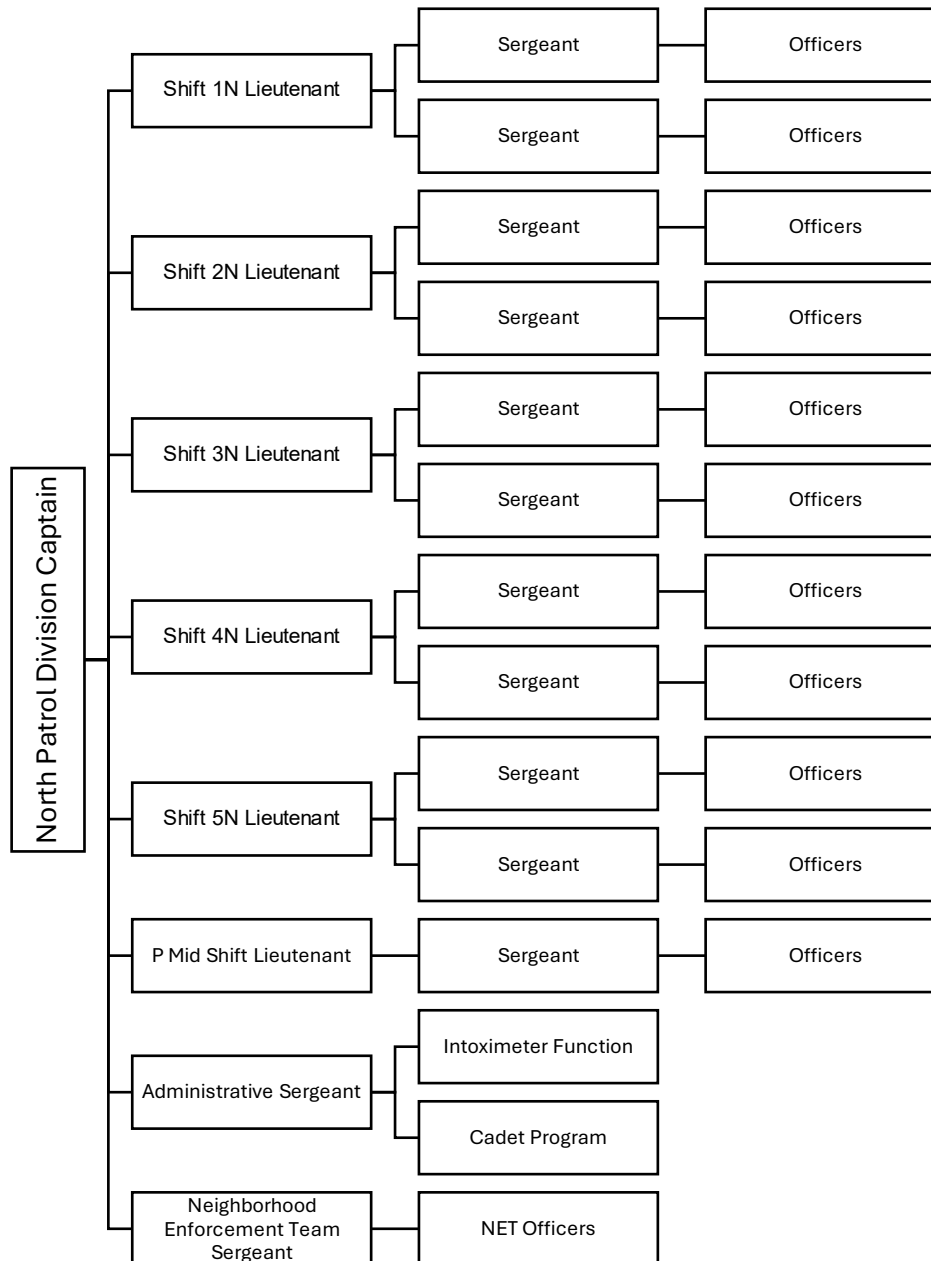
1. Assisting with design and media content for Agency events and initiatives
2. Coordinating special events and community outreach projects
3. Providing administrative and technical support for the division

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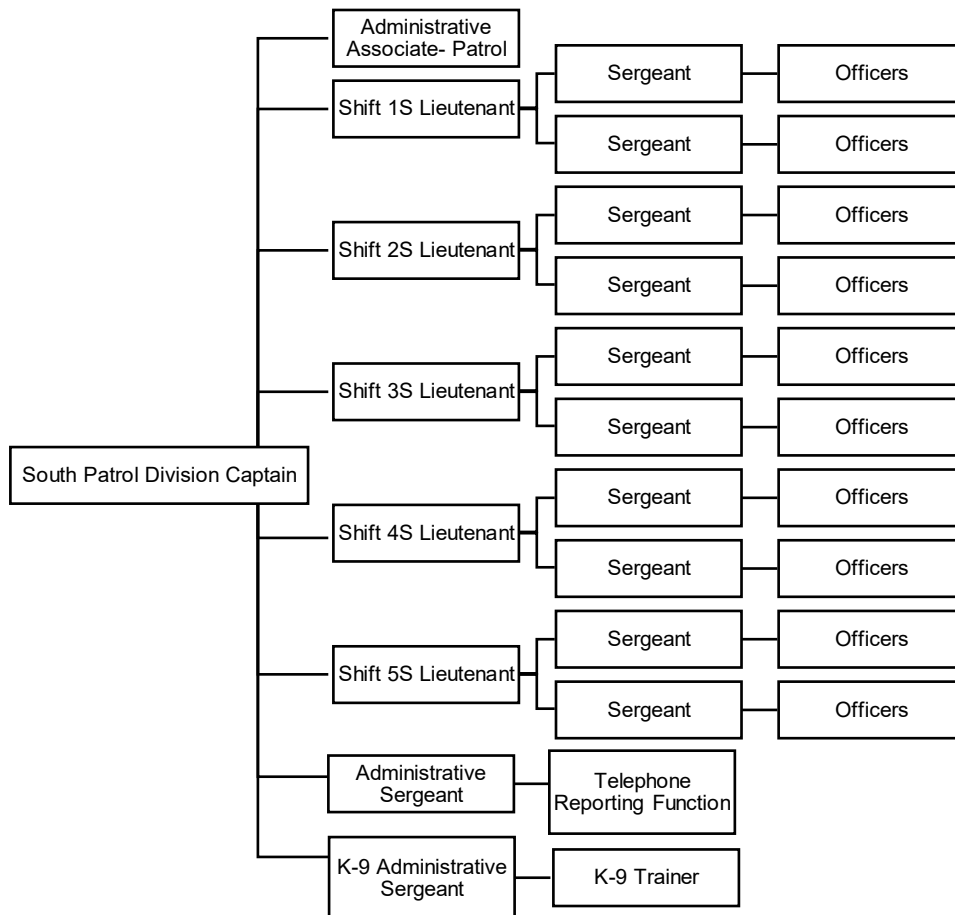
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION





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2-300.1 PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Last Reviewed: 8/1/2025

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. COMMAND STAFF
- C. SECTOR SUPERVISORS
- D. PATROL DIVISION OFFICERS
- E. NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT TEAM
- F. K-9 FUNCTION
- G. INTOXIMETER FUNCTION
- H. CADET PROGRAM
- I. TELEPHONE REPORTING FUNCTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ORGANIZATION

Patrol Operations is divided into two geographical divisions:

- 1. North Patrol Division:
 - a) Covers Districts 3 and 4
- 2. South Patrol Division:
 - b) Covers Districts 1 and 2

Each division:

- 1. Commanded by a Captain.
- 2. Supported by Lieutenants assigned to manage shifts and squads.
- 3. Provides 24/7 coverage through rotating shifts to maintain a continuous, uniformed police presence.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Patrol Operations is essential to the CCSO's mission, providing immediate police services and proactive community protection. Responsibilities include:

- 1. Conducting preventive patrols to deter and detect criminal activity.
- 2. Regulating vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- 3. Identifying and addressing hazardous conditions (e.g., fallen trees, power outages, traffic signal failures, high water, hazardous materials).
- 4. Maintaining public safety through hazard removal or citizen advisories.
- 5. Ensuring a safe and orderly environment across the County.

B. COMMAND STAFF

PATROL DIVISION COMMANDERS

Division commanders will work the hours necessary to fulfill their responsibilities and ensure that Patrol has command coverage on a 24/7 basis. Specifically, they must be available from 0600-1600, Mon-Fri, or designate a qualified representative to act on their behalf.

Division Commanders (Captains) report to the Assistant Sheriff, Operations Bureau. They are responsible for:



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1. Supervising all division personnel.
2. Overseeing day-to-day division operations and administration.
3. Ensuring initial response to calls for service.
4. Patrolling assigned areas to prevent, detect, and respond to crime.
5. Identifying and mitigating public safety hazards.
6. Conducting regular inspections of personnel, facilities, and equipment for policy compliance.
7. Maintaining high levels of community satisfaction and trust.
8. Attending community meetings/events outside of normal duty hours.
9. Conducting periodic night and weekend patrols to monitor officer performance.
10. Collaborating with other Agency units (CID, Traffic, Community Policing, etc.).
11. Holding quarterly coordination meetings (documented and retained for one year).
12. Receiving advance notice of operations that may impact Patrol activities.
13. Monitoring trends in the community.
14. Adjusting resource requests (staffing, equipment, facilities) during annual budget preparation.

Administrative Sergeants are assigned to assist division commanders. Some of their responsibilities are to:

1. Present Patrol-initiated criminal cases to the Grand Jury.
2. Support the State's Attorney's Office with follow-up investigations.
3. Manage the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program within Patrol.
4. Perform additional administrative duties as required.

An Administrative Associate who is assigned to Patrol provides essential clerical and administrative support to Patrol Operations. The Administrative Associate assists the division and shift commanders with paperwork, scheduling, and communications and reports directly to the South Patrol Division Commander.

SHIFT COMMANDERS

Lieutenants assigned as Shift Commanders have the following responsibilities:

1. Direct Patrol Operations during assigned shifts.
2. Make immediate operational decisions during incidents or emergencies.
3. Report directly to their Division Commander.
4. Represent the Division Commander when necessary.
5. Personally inspect each Patrol facility per shift.
6. Report security or operational deficiencies in writing.
7. Maintain regular communication with shift supervisors.
8. Attend roll calls on a rotating basis to reinforce accountability.
9. Report significant or unusual events to Division Commanders.
10. Maintain personal responsibility for the accuracy and timeliness of operational reports and notifications.

Shift Commanders: Work 10-hour shifts; permanent midnight commanders work established 10-hour schedules.

C. SECTOR SUPERVISORS

Sergeants assigned as Sector Supervisors perform the following duties:

1. Supervise squads of patrol officers within designated sectors.
2. Ensure delivery of police services in assigned geographic areas.
3. Collaborate with other sector supervisors to maximize sector-wide service.
4. Assume Shift Commander responsibilities when designated.
5. Learn Shift Commander duties to act as effective backups when needed.



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D. PATROL DIVISION OFFICERS

Patrol Officers perform the following core law enforcement functions:

1. Patrol County areas to prevent crime and respond to emergencies.
2. Enforce motor vehicle and criminal laws.
3. Investigate traffic crashes.
4. Serve civil and criminal processes.
5. Conduct preliminary criminal investigations:
 - a) Interview complainants, victims, and witnesses.
 - b) Secure and process crime scenes.
 - c) Collect and preserve evidence.
 - d) Complete all required reports accurately and promptly.

E. NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) is a proactive enforcement team conducting specialized patrols using both overt and covert tactics.

1. Focuses on crime suppression and special initiatives.
2. Supervised by a Sergeant who reports to the North Patrol Commander.

F. K-9 FUNCTION

K-9 operations are coordinated by the South Patrol Commander. K-9 Officers are patrol-certified and tasked with:

1. Suspect apprehension.
2. Narcotics, firearms, and explosives detection.
3. Search and rescue operations.

Officers must maintain certifications and prioritize K-9 deployment over routine patrol calls.

G. INTOXIMETER FUNCTION

The Intoximeter Function is comprised of sworn officers who have been trained and certified to operate specific breath alcohol testing instruments for the purpose of DUI / DWI enforcement. Intoximeter Operators are responsible for administering tests, ensuring accuracy, and maintaining equipment. The function is managed by an Intoximeter Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring all state and Agency requirements are met. The Coordinator reports to the North Patrol Administrative Sergeant. Routine duties and certification information can be found in the Patrol SOP.

H. CADET PROGRAM

The Cadet Program is designed to provide qualified high school seniors and college students with the opportunity to serve in a uniformed auxiliary capacity. This program is under the direct supervision of the North Patrol Administrative Sergeant.

Cadets may serve in any component of the Agency in order to gain knowledge and experience of as much of the Agency's operations as possible. During such assignments, they may report daily to a commander who is responsible for the component to which they are assigned. The overall responsibility for their performance, development, and evaluation remains with the North Patrol Administrative Sergeant.

I. TELEPHONE REPORTING FUNCTION

The Telephone Reporting Function may be activated by the Sheriff or designee during special circumstances and



is supervised by the South Patrol Administrative Sergeant.

1. Staffed by sworn personnel (modified duty or temporary assignment).
2. Responsible for handling qualifying reports via telephone.
3. Specific operational procedures are outlined elsewhere in policy.

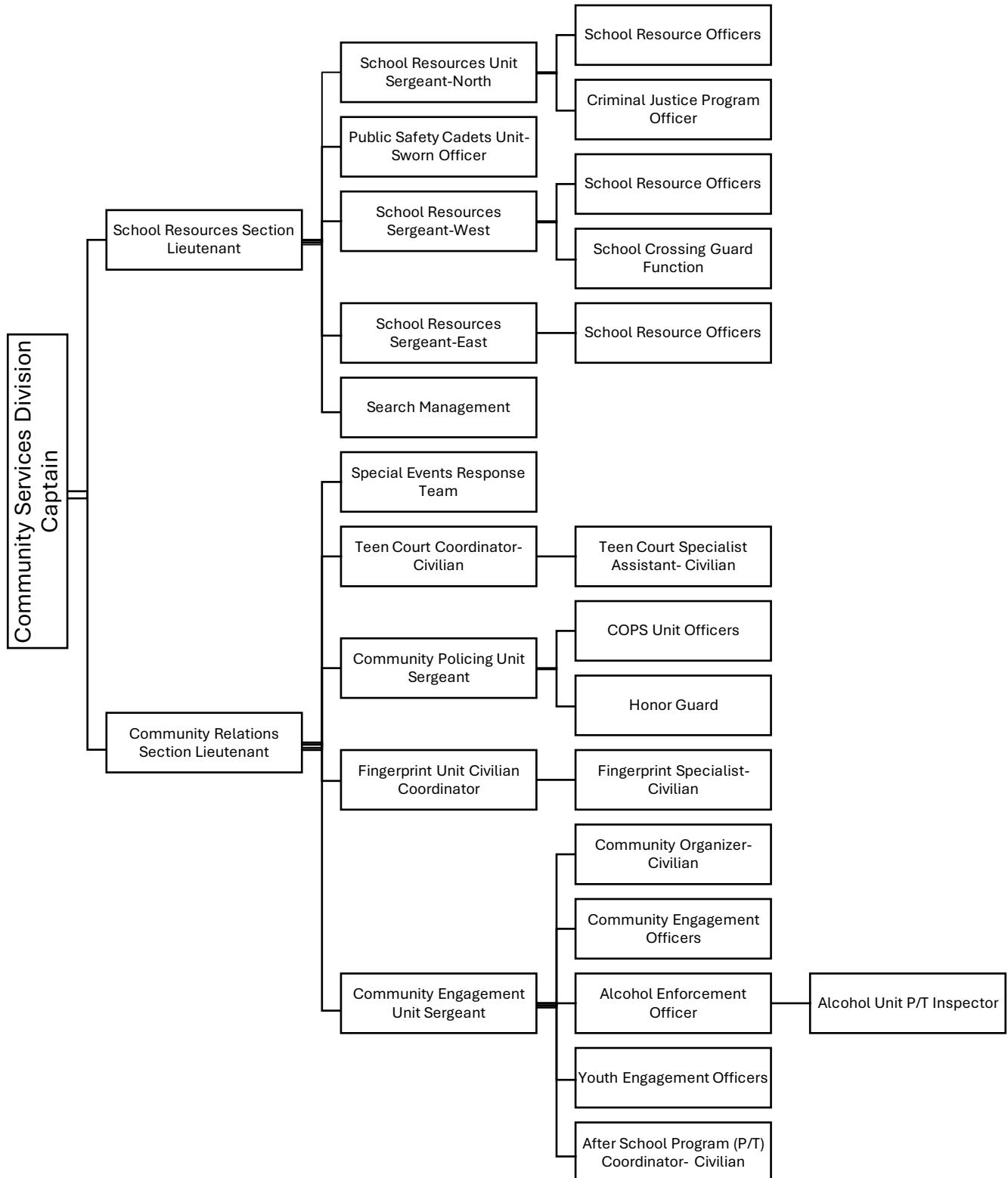


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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART- COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION





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2-357.1 COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION (CSD)

(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. SCHOOL RESOURCES SECTION
- C. COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Services Division provides specialized uniform police services. Community Services Division personnel make specific law enforcement tasks their primary duty, implementing advanced training, skills, and equipment to accomplish specific Agency missions and goals.

The Division is made up of two components: Community Relations Section and the School Resources Section.

COMMANDER, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Community Services Division is a sworn Captain who shall be responsible directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Field and Support. He is responsible for the direct supervision of subordinate commanders and the performance of administrative duties pertaining to the daily operation of the division. He is responsible for the performance of all personnel assigned to his command.

The Commander, Community Services Division shall ensure the inspection of the personnel, equipment, facilities and other resources assigned to his command on a regular basis. He shall be responsible to maintain these elements of his command in compliance with Agency policy.

B. SCHOOL RESOURCES SECTION

COMMANDER, SCHOOL RESOURCES SECTION

The Commander, School Resources Section is a sworn Lieutenant who shall be responsible to the Commander, Community Services Division. The Commander shall be responsible for the supervision and performance of the various specialized functions under his command. This component is comprised of the School Resources Units, the Criminal Justice Program Function, the School Crossing Guard Function, the Public Safety Cadets Unit and the Search Management Function.

SCHOOL RESOURCES UNITS

The School Resources Units, each supervised by a sergeant, will develop comprehensive strategies and associated programs designed to reduce and prevent school-related violence and crimes committed by juveniles and young adults. In conjunction with this primary goal, the Units will foster activities, which are aimed at supporting target youth populations who have been determined to have a propensity for becoming involved in criminal or antisocial behavior and may eventually make them subjects of Agency enforcement activities. Although this policy provides specific guidelines for the School Resources Units, the responsibility for participating in or supporting the Agency's juvenile operations will continue to be shared by all components and employees of the Agency.

1. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM FUNCTION

The Criminal Justice Program is a cooperative effort of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Charles County Public School System. This program is designed to allow high school students the opportunity to become familiar with the Criminal Justice System and the Charles County Sheriff's Office operation specifically. As a result of this program, the student may be in a better position to decide to



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enter a career as a Charles County Sheriff's Office employee or enter some other component of the Criminal Justice System. The Criminal Justice Program is coordinated by the Criminal Justice Program Instructor.

2. SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD FUNCTION

School Crossing Guards are part-time, non-sworn positions. The School Crossing Guards shall assist school children across the highway at designated school crossings and assist school buses entering or leaving the highway at designated locations. School Crossing Guards are directly responsible to the Supervisors, School Resources Units.

PUBLIC SAFETY CADETS UNIT

The Charles County Sheriff's Office sponsors the Public Safety Cadets Unit, a subsidiary of the Public Safety Cadets organization. The unit comprises young men and women ages 14 to 21 who are interested in the Law Enforcement profession. The unit, which is the responsibility of the Commander, School Resources Section, are volunteers and are in no way considered employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

SEARCH MANAGEMENT

The Search Management Function provides highly trained supervisors and administrators to manage the planning and operations of critical missing person and manhunt searches. These individuals, using Lost Person Theory as the basis for their decision-making process, will provide incident commanders with the information necessary to guide field operations in cases where the search for an individual is critically needed to save life or protect the public from a fleeing suspect.

C. COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

COMMANDER, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

The Commander, Community Relations Section is a sworn Lieutenant who shall be responsible to the Commander, Community Services Division. The Commander, Community Relations Section shall be responsible for the supervision and performance of the various specialized functions under his command. This component is comprised of the Community Policing (COPS) Unit, Community Engagement Unit, Alcohol Enforcement Function, Electronic Fingerprinting Unit, Teen Court Unit, Community Organizer Function, Citizen Advisory Committee, Special Events Response Team (SERT) Function and the Honor Guard Function.

1. SPECIAL EVENTS RESPONSE TEAM (SERT) FUNCTION

The Commander, Community Relations Section is designated as the Special Events Response Team Commander and shall command and direct all SERT related activities. The Special Events Response Team provides the Charles County Sheriff's Office with the capability to appropriately respond to large public gatherings, demonstrations, disturbances, or other public safety activities, such as search and rescue missions and executive protection details. The trained personnel can ensure a highly organized, disciplined response to any spontaneous incident or unusual occurrence that places undue demand on patrol officers within their respective districts. The SERT will be composed of officers with various regular assignments within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The officers will be broken down into operational squads, a logistical squad, and relief officers. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant.

TEEN COURT UNIT

Teen Court is designed to reduce the number of youthful offenders and educate community youth in a realistic court environment. Teen Court is a juvenile justice diversion program offering first-time offenders, ages 13-17 with minor crimes and ages 17 and under with civil citations, the opportunity to accept accountability for their minor



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crimes without having to incur a criminal record. Teen Court is a voluntary program that allows juvenile respondents to be judged by a jury of their peers. Teen Court is conducted in an actual courtroom with teens acting as prosecutors and defense attorneys under the tutelage of actual attorneys for petit cases as well as jury members who hear the cases. The sanctions consist of community service projects, essays, research projects and mandatory jury duty in other Teen Court cases. This mission is carried out by sworn officers and civilian staff, by conducting Teen Court in a community setting and through cooperative efforts of the juvenile justice administration, school administrators, community leaders, volunteers and the Agency.

COMMUNITY POLICING (COPS) UNIT

The Supervisor of the Community Policing (COPS) Unit is a Sergeant who oversees the operation of the unit and supervises the officers in performing the functions outlined in the following section. The Supervisor will report directly to the Commander, Community Relations Section.

The officers assigned to the Community Policing Unit will perform specialized uniform patrol duties with an emphasis on a specific segment of the community. They will attempt to become an integral part of their assigned communities, gaining the respect and confidence of the citizens to a greater degree than may be possible in the traditional patrol officer framework.

Officers assigned to the unit will sometimes perform non-traditional roles in solving community problems by acting as a government facilitator. Specifically, they may call upon various other components of government and the community to provide the services necessary to solve a problem which, although not strictly a law enforcement problem, may contribute to circumstances which generate criminal activities.

In general, the officers in this function will fight crime in a more comprehensive fashion because they are assigned a specific area of responsibility; provided with additional training, equipment, and resources; and are less confined in terms of their day-to-day need to respond to calls for service.

1. HONOR GUARD FUNCTION

The Honor Guard Function is a function of the Community Services Division; however, both sworn and correctional officers within the Agency may be assigned to the function. The Honor Guard Commander is a duty assigned to the Commander, Community Relations Section, who will select a Sergeant as Honor Guard Coordinator to assist in Honor Guard operations. The Honor Guard function is to assist families of fallen officers at funerals when requested and serve as a community relations link by performing at various events in and out of Charles County in accordance with Agency policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

The Supervisor of the Community Engagement Unit is a Sergeant who oversees the operation of the unit and supervises the officers and civilians in performing the Alcohol Enforcement Function, Community Organizer Function, Youth Engagement Function, After School Program, the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Child Safety Seat Program. The supervisor reports directly to the Commander, Community Relations Section. The Community Engagement Unit is comprised of sworn officers who perform the duties surrounding crime prevention and community outreach.

The officers assigned to the Community Engagement Unit perform specialized uniform duties with an emphasis on preventing crime through proactive engagement and education within the community.

1. ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION

The Alcohol Enforcement Function shall conduct routine alcohol inspections of all licensed liquor establishments to ensure their compliance with all federal, state, and local laws. The Alcohol Enforcement Function is a component of the Community Engagement Unit and reports to the Supervisor, Community

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Engagement Unit. The function is comprised of a Sworn Alcohol Enforcement Officer and a civilian, part-time Alcohol Enforcement Specialist. The function conducts investigations for alcohol and tobacco violations and submits written reports to various Agency components based on their needs.

The Alcohol Enforcement Function shall maintain liaison between the Agency and the Charles County Board of Licensed Commissioners (BOLC) and attend their meetings, in addition to attending alcohol and tobacco related citizen group meetings on behalf of the Sheriff as directed. The function is responsible for any alcohol-related educational programs in which the CCSO may participate.

2. COMMUNITY ORGANIZER FUNCTION

The Community Organizer is a civilian employee who is responsible to the Supervisor, Community Engagement Unit. This employee shall seek to enhance the Agency's crime fighting efforts by encouraging and enabling Charles County residents in their efforts to discourage, prevent, and suppress criminal activities through their own efforts and cooperation with the Agency. The Community Organizer shall work to liaison with local community organizations, businesses, places of worship, and other components of the Agency to educate, encourage, and support anti-crime efforts. This position provides a communications link between the Agency and the community.

3. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUNCTION

The Youth Engagement Function within the Charles County Sheriff's Office is comprised of sworn law enforcement officers assigned to the Community Engagement Unit and are responsible to the Supervisor, Community Engagement Unit. These officers are responsible for building positive relationships with youth across the county to foster trust, respect, and open communication between law enforcement and young people. By serving as mentors and role models, they aim to encourage responsible decision-making, promote public safety, and strengthen community ties.

Officers in this role work collaboratively with schools, families, and community organizations to engage youth through meaningful interactions and consistent outreach. They are encouraged to use creative, appropriate approaches to connect with young people and identify opportunities for early intervention and support. This function plays a vital role in crime prevention and in ensuring the Sheriff's Office remains a trusted and visible presence in the lives of the county's youth.

4. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (P/T) COORDINATOR- CIVILIAN

The After School Program Coordinator is a part-time civilian employee who reports to the Supervisor, of the Community Engagement Unit. This position is responsible for overseeing and coordinating after school mentorship programs for elementary and middle school students at designated school sites. The coordinator works directly with youth in a structured, supportive environment, helping to guide their academic, personal, and social development during critical after-school hours.

The coordinator plans and supervises daily activities and classes that focus on academic support, decision-making, health, and character development, with the goal of helping students become better learners, responsible citizens, and well-rounded individuals. Working closely with school staff, sworn officers, volunteers, and community partners, the coordinator ensures the program runs smoothly, safely, and effectively, while serving as a positive role model and consistent presence in the lives of participating youth.

ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINTING UNIT

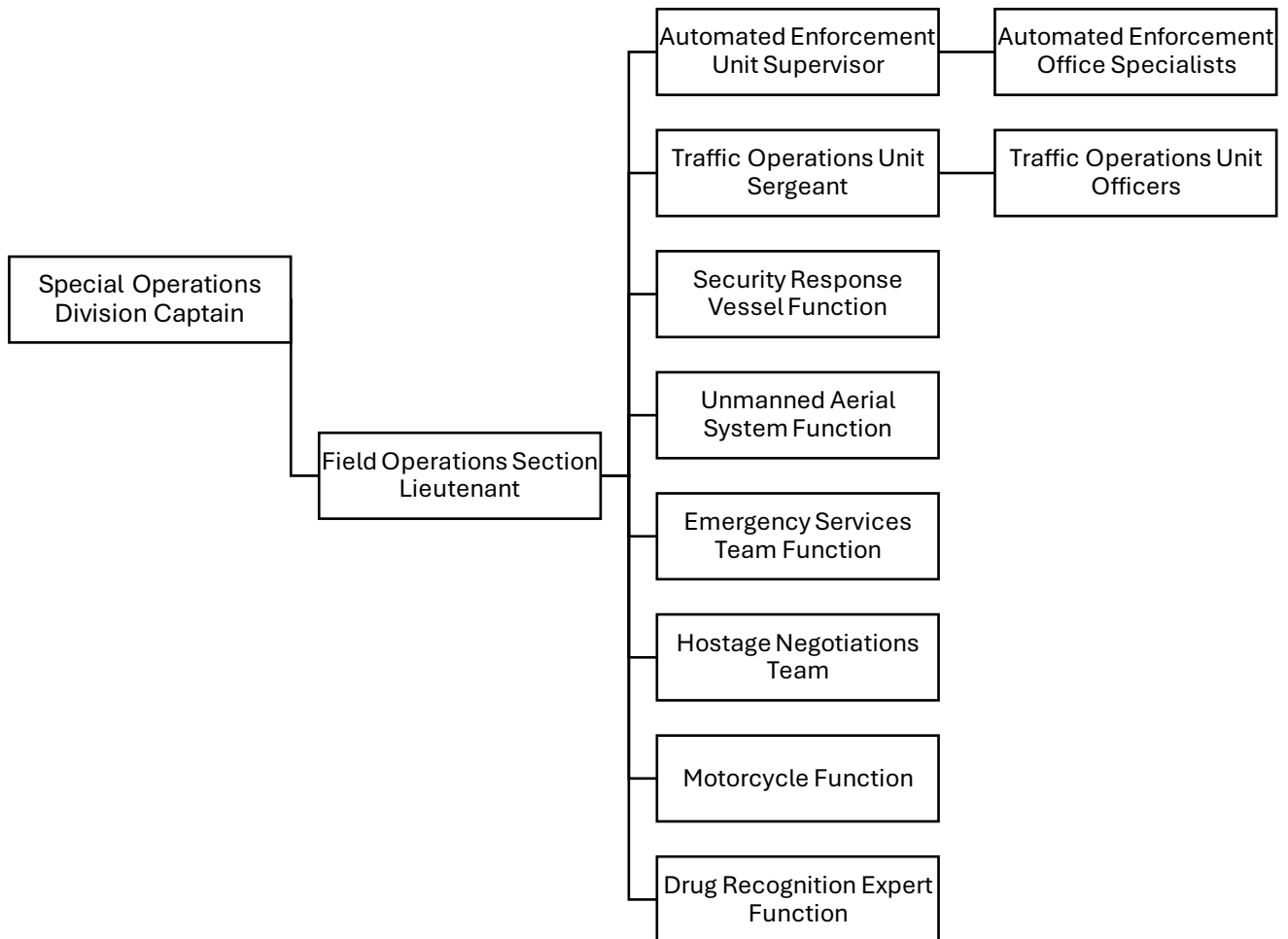
The Electronic Fingerprinting Unit shall be comprised of specially trained civilian personnel, who shall provide both electronic and ink-type (rolled) fingerprinting services to the general public and on occasion for Agency employees whose fingerprints are required for an official Agency purpose. The fingerprinting services are for the purpose of obtaining civilian based "applicant type" background checks. The function is comprised of Electronic



Fingerprint Technicians who report directly to the Fingerprint Unit Coordinator.



2-377 SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION (SOD)





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2-377.1 SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION (SOD)

Last Reviewed: September 5, 2025

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT
- C. AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT UNIT
- D. EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM (EST) FUNCTION
- E. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (HNT) FUNCTION
- F. MOTORCYCLE FUNCTION
- G. DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT FUNCTION
- H. SECURITY RESPONSE VESSEL (SRV) FUNCTION
- I. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) FUNCTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Special Operations Division provides specialized uniform police services. Special Operations Division personnel make specific law enforcement tasks their primary duty, implementing advanced training, skills, and equipment to accomplish specific Agency missions and goals.

The Special Operations Division is commanded by a sworn Captain.

1. This Captain is responsible for all the personnel, equipment, and facilities dedicated to his command.
2. The Division is made up of the Field Operations Section.

COMMANDER, SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Commander, Special Operations Division is a sworn position which shall be responsible directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Field and Support.

1. He is responsible for the direct supervision of subordinate commanders and the performance of administrative duties pertaining to the daily operation of the Division.
2. He is responsible for the performance of all personnel assigned to his command.
3. The Commander, Special Operations Division shall ensure the inspection of the personnel, equipment, facilities and other resources assigned to his command on a regular basis.
4. He shall be responsible for maintaining these elements of his command in compliance with the policies set forth in this Manual and in other directives of the Agency.

COMMANDER, FIELD OPERATIONS SECTION

The Commander, Field Operations Section is a sworn Lieutenant who shall be responsible to the Commander, Special Operations Division.

1. The Commander, Field Operations Section shall be responsible for the supervision and performance of the various specialized functions under his command.
2. This component is comprised of the Traffic Operations Unit, Automated Enforcement Unit, Emergency Services Team Function, Hostage Negotiations Team Function, Security Response Vessel Function, Unmanned Aerial System Function, Drug Recognition Expert Function, and the Motorcycle Function.

B. TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT

SUPERVISOR OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

The Supervisor of Traffic Operations is a Sergeant who shall report directly to the Commander, Field Operations Section. He shall be responsible primarily for specialized patrol which is aimed at the improvement of highway safety and crash prevention. The Traffic Operations Supervisor shall have responsibility for the everyday



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operation of the Unit, which consists of other Traffic Operations officers as well as:

1. supervising the investigation of fatal and serious injury crashes;
2. supervising the investigation of school bus crashes;
3. the administration and supervision of the Agency Commercial Vehicle Enforcement component;
4. Charles County Tow Permit Program;
5. Charles County Sheriff's Office Authorized Tow Services Program (ATSP);
6. the coordination of all grants provided to the Charles County Sheriff's Office for traffic enforcement or related programs;
7. the coordination of all funeral escort services;
8. supervising the response to traffic complaints and speed analysis requests; and
9. the Supervisor shall prepare reports, maintain records, conduct investigations, and perform other related work as may be required.

C. AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Automated Enforcement Unit (AEU) is comprised of a civilian Automated Enforcement Supervisor, and civilian Automated Enforcement Unit Office Specialists. Employees of the unit report to the Field Operations Commander.

1. The AEU is responsible for the processing of automated citations generated by speed cameras, school bus cameras, and red light cameras placed throughout Charles County by contracted vendors.
2. Additionally, employees of the AEU field customer service telephone calls, process court paperwork, research vehicle information and testify in court proceedings relative to the citations issued by automated camera systems within Charles County.

D. EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM (EST) FUNCTION

The various duties and functions of the Emergency Services Team (EST) shall be coordinated by the Commander, Field Operations Section who is designated as the Commander, Emergency Services Team. The duties and functions of the Emergency Services Team include:

1. handling high-risk situations, including hostage incidents, barricaded persons incidents, sniper situations, or other similar situations;
2. assisting in the execution of search and seizure warrants and certain arrest warrants in which the presence of the Emergency Services Team is considered to be appropriate;
3. performing selected assignments and stakeout operations in situations in which there may be an inherent danger of armed confrontations calling for the use of specialized weapons or tactics;
4. maintaining the required level of readiness through the implementation of extensive training programs of physical fitness, marksmanship, rappelling, and other skills related to the EST mission; and
5. maintaining a dialogue with Patrol, Criminal Investigations and other operational components concerning the interaction of EST and these components, both during an incident and by their involvement in training exercises.

E. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (HNT) FUNCTION

The various duties and functions of the Hostage Negotiations Team (HNT) shall be coordinated by the Commander, Field Operations Section who is designated as the Commander, Hostage Negotiations Team. The mission of this team shall be to provide a safe resolution to barricaded persons or individuals threatening harm to themselves or others, by means of negotiating through verbal and / or non-verbal communications.

Hostage negotiators will have regular assignments throughout the Agency but will respond to situations requiring



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their talents and training when the need is present. They will also participate in scheduled training as necessary. When training with EST, or working a real event, they will be under the command of the Commander, Field Operations Section or the on-scene commander for the situation or event requiring a response.

F. MOTORCYCLE FUNCTION

The Motorcycle Function Coordinator, appointed by the Commander, Field Operations, is responsible for coordinating the use of the Agency motorcycles.

1. Only those officers who have completed the Basic Motor Officer Certification course, or who are training under the supervision of an instructor, will operate Agency motorcycles.
2. Agency motorcycles will be used for traffic enforcement, crash investigation and the escort of funeral processions for other motor vehicle(s).
3. Agency motorcycle officers will adhere to the policies and procedures as outlined in the Motorcycle Function SOP.

G. DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) FUNCTION

DRE AGENCY COORDINATOR

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Agency Coordinator reports to the Commander, Field Operations and the MSP DRE State Coordinator.

1. The DRE Agency Coordinator must be certified as a DRE Instructor and sanctioned by the Maryland State Police (MSP) DRE State Coordinator and Commander, Field Operations as such.
2. The DRE Agency Coordinator is responsible for the integrity of the DRE Program for the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the La Plata Police Department (LPPD).
3. The DRE Agency Coordinator supervises DRE's for CCSO and LPPD, and maintains records of DRE evaluations, certifications, trainings, and policy within the DRE SOP.

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Function falls under the Commander, Field Operations Section.

1. A DRE is a sworn police officer, who is certified to administer a Drug Influence Evaluation on a subject suspected to be under the influence and/or impaired by drug(s).
 - a) This is typically done, but not limited to, when a subject has been arrested for DUI, and alcohol impairment has been ruled out.

A DRE must be Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) certified. A DRE is trained, certified, and endorsed through the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the Maryland State Police (MSP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

H. SECURITY RESPONSE VESSEL (SRV) FUNCTION

The SRV Function shall be coordinated by the Commander, Field Operations Section.

1. The primary function of the SRV Function is to provide waterway security patrols during times of heightened terrorism threat levels as assigned by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provide law enforcement in a marine environment, and other duties as deemed appropriate and authorized by the Commander, Field Operations Section.
2. Officers assigned to the SRV Function may be assigned to other divisions from the Agency; however, they will respond when the deployment of the vessel is necessary.
3. The duties of officers and purpose of this function are found in the SRV Function Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).



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I. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) FUNCTION

UAS COORDINATOR

A UAS Coordinator, appointed by the Commander, Field Operations, is responsible for the training of new pilots, maintenance of Agency UAS equipment, the coordination and documentation of continuing pilot training and the overall operations of the UAS Function. The UAS Coordinator, when acting in such a capacity, will report to the Commander, Field Operations Section.

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Function shall be managed by the Commander, Field Operations Section.

1. The UAS Function is responsible for piloted or autonomous unmanned aircraft flights for the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Unmanned aircraft, commonly called "drones," are used to accomplish an aerial law enforcement purpose for the Agency.
2. The UAS Function consists of sworn police officers, correctional officers, and identified civilian Agency employees who have completed the necessary training and achieved the necessary Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certifications to operate as a commercial drone pilot.
3. The UAS Function utilizes unmanned aircraft for aerial photography, surveillance, suspect identification, search and rescue, or other similar law enforcement purposes.
4. The UAS Function may be deployed as a visible deterrent in high crime areas or in a first-responder function.
5. The use of the unmanned aircraft, and additional requirements of the pilots, is governed by the UAS SOP.

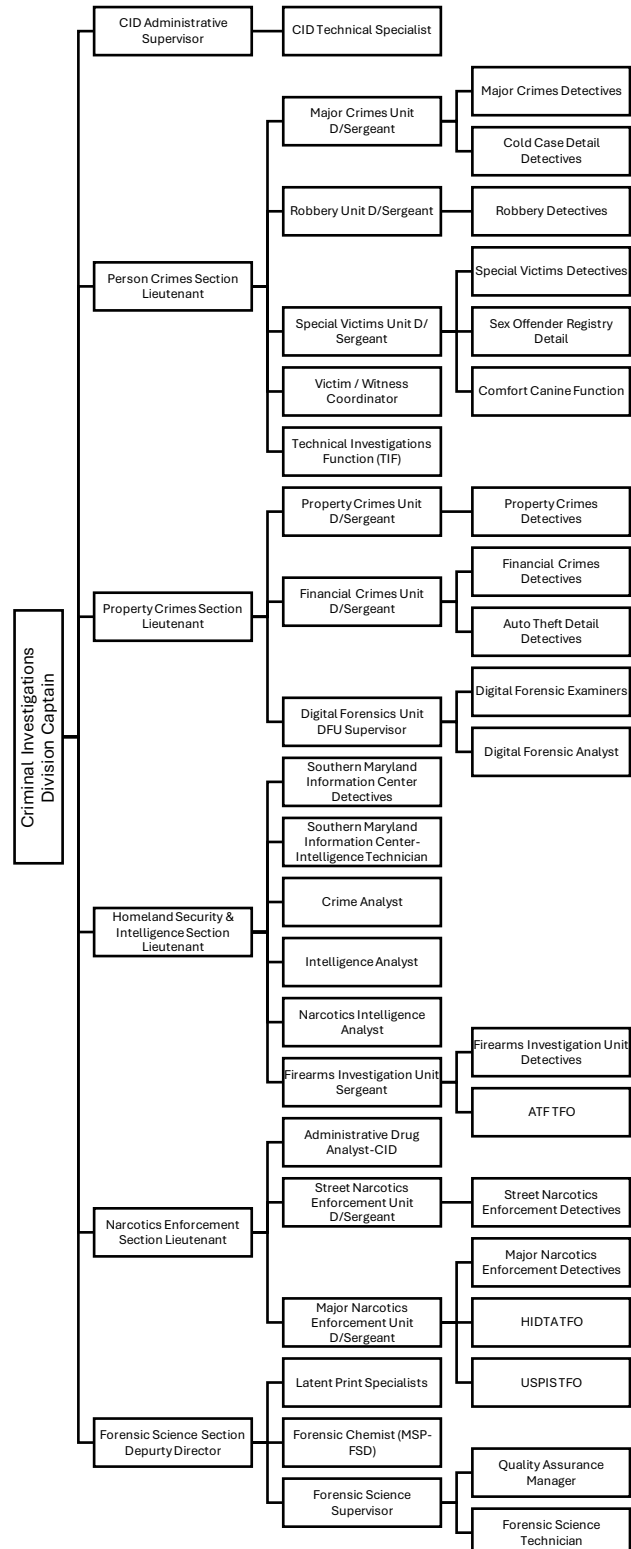


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2-400

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION





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2-400.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID)

Last Reviewed: 8/1/2025

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. PERSONS CRIMES SECTION
- C. PROPERTY CRIMES SECTION
- D. HOMELAND SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SECTION
- E. NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT SECTION
- F. FORENSIC SCIENCE SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) handles complex investigations that require significant time, technical expertise, and investigative resource networks. CID detectives may take over investigations if requested or if deemed appropriate by a CID supervisor reviewing the case. CID detectives may respond to crime scenes or assist with initial reports if needed.

The Division is divided into five sections:

1. Persons Crimes
2. Property Crimes
3. Homeland Security and Intelligence
4. Narcotics Enforcement
5. Forensic Science

COMMANDER, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The CID Commander (rank of captain) shall be responsible directly to the Assistant Sheriff, Operations Bureau for all matters pertaining to the Criminal Investigations Division. The Commander is responsible for the administration of all the personnel assigned to the command. The Commander shall:

1. develop programs and policies which foster close cooperation between CID personnel and other personnel within the CCSO;
2. develop policies to ensure criminal investigations are conducted properly and prepared for presentation before the courts;
3. provide personnel and resources assigned to CID for response to crime scenes and requests for assistance;
4. assist other law enforcement agencies with ongoing criminal investigations;
5. provide methods for the exchange of information between the CCSO and other law enforcement agencies in matters of mutual interest;
6. evaluate the methods of operation of CID and make recommendations for its improvement;
7. train subordinate personnel in the operation and management of CID;
8. inspect or cause to be inspected all personnel and equipment under his command on a periodic basis.

SECTION COMMANDERS

The Section Commanders (lieutenants) are responsible for the administration and operation of their section. The



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Commander shall ensure that all the responsibilities of the various units comprising this section are handled in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Additionally, the Commander will ensure:

1. the various functions are manned in a manner which provides support to the Agency patrol function while providing for the necessary investigation of the cases currently active within their section;
2. an awareness of the current workloads of the various units within his section and adjust assignments to compensate for uneven workloads;
3. any major investigations currently under way within his units and ensure that the Commander, Criminal Investigations Division is kept apprised of the status and progress of such cases;
4. will keep himself informed with regard to all the functions of the Criminal Investigations Division through close cooperation with the commanders of the other sections.

UNIT SUPERVISORS

Unit Supervisors (sergeants) within CID will have the following general responsibilities:

1. fulfillment of all unit responsibilities;
2. supervision of unit personnel;
3. ensuring maintenance of all equipment and office space assigned to the unit;
4. inspection of personnel, equipment, uniforms, office and storage space, and vehicles assigned to the unit or its personnel;
5. maintaining a general knowledge of the other units' responsibilities, investigations, and personnel;
6. assumption of the role of Section Commander in his absence, in accordance with the roster developed by the Commander for this purpose;
7. reviewing all unit search and seizure warrant applications prior to submission to the State's Attorney's Office, if appropriate;
8. review and approval of operational plans for all unit special operations and search warrants;
9. such other duties as may be specifically assigned by the Commander.

DETECTIVES

Detectives assigned to CID shall investigate crimes, examine evidence, apprehend violators of the law, maintain records, prepare reports, and perform other work-related duties as assigned or required. They shall maintain a level of expertise in the field of investigations which is generally above that of the other sworn members of the Agency not assigned to an investigative function. Additionally, detectives shall:

1. maintain a high level of expertise in criminal law and case law;
2. become experts as investigators in order that they may be recognized and testify as such in court;
3. provide such assistance and support as may be needed to the patrol units of the Agency;
4. strive to maintain a working relationship with the patrol function to the benefit of CID, Patrol, and the Agency;
5. attend patrol roll calls, when possible, and share information with patrol officers in support of the patrol



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and investigations functions.

The CID Administrative Supervisor and CID Technical Specialist provide essential clerical and administrative support to CID.

CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY CID

CID investigates the following crimes:

1. Deaths (excluding natural causes)
2. Shootings (except accidental)
3. Officer-involved critical incidents (if the Office of the Attorney General declines to investigate)
4. Felony assaults (life-threatening or severe injuries)
5. Rape
6. Sexual offenses (except fourth degree)
7. Robbery
8. Kidnapping/abduction
9. Child abuse
10. Elderly abuse
11. Critical missing persons
12. Burglary
13. Forgery and related crimes
14. Credit card fraud
15. CDS (Controlled Dangerous Substances)
16. Narcotics and vice violations
17. Terrorism
18. Threats of mass violence
19. Criminal gang activity
20. Follow-up investigations of reports assigned to CID
21. Cold cases
22. Special investigations assigned by the Sheriff or Assistant Sheriff

B. PERSONS CRIMES SECTION

The Persons Crimes Section is comprised of the following units:

1. Major Crimes Unit (MCU);
2. Special Victims Unit (SVU);
3. Robbery Unit (RU);
4. Victim / Witness Services Function;
5. Technical Investigations Function (TIF).

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

The Major Crimes Unit shall have the responsibility for the investigation of cases involving:

1. deaths (unless attended natural);
2. shootings (except accidental);
3. felony assault with life threatening or severe injuries;
4. critical missing person;
5. kidnapping / abduction;
6. cold case incidents;
7. officer involved shootings / critical incidents (when the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division declines to investigate the case);



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8. any case specifically assigned.

The unit will conduct missing persons investigations, providing immediate response, at the request of the Patrol operations commander / shift commander / sector supervisor, to the scene of a critical missing person. The unit will conduct an investigation of non-critical missing persons if the person has been reported missing for more than ten (10) days. All missing persons investigations will comply with the provisions of other applicable policy.

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit shall be responsible for the investigation of the following crimes and incidents:

1. physical / sexual child abuse;
2. child deaths;
3. vulnerable adult abuse;
4. rape;
5. sexual offenses (except fourth degree);
6. maintaining Sex Offender Registry list for Charles County; and
7. other cases as assigned.

Personnel of this unit will be familiar with and conduct investigations consistent with Agency policy regarding Child Neglect and Child Abuse Cases. The unit will act in cooperation with the Department of Social Services and Protective Services in the conduct of the unit's investigative responsibilities.

ROBBERY UNIT

The Robbery Unit shall be responsible for the investigation of serious robbery cases. This shall include but is not limited to:

1. Commercial Armed Robberies;
2. Citizen Armed Robberies;
3. Carjackings; and
4. Other cases as assigned.

VICTIM / WITNESS SERVICES FUNCTION

The Victim / Witness Services Function is managed by the Victim / Witness Coordinator who is tasked with providing support to victims / witnesses of crimes through the use of available support programs. The Victim / Witness Coordinator will:

1. maintain an awareness of all federal, state, and privately funded programs aimed at the support of victims / witnesses of crime;
2. maintain a supply of documents created by these entities for distribution to victims / witnesses;
3. maintain telephone numbers, addresses, and names of contact persons for all of these available resources, as well as awareness of available online resources for victims and witnesses;
4. make contact with victims of Part One crimes to determine their satisfaction with the Agency response to the crime of which they were a victim; bring to the attention of appropriate Agency management personnel any legitimate shortfall in Agency service to victims / witnesses. Agency managers and administrators will be responsible for rectifying these discrepancies in service, if possible;
5. attempt to provide referrals to available services which may mitigate the impact of crime upon the victim / witness. These services may include, but are not limited to:
 - a) housing;
 - b) support groups;
 - c) counseling;



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- d) financial or other restitution;
- e) legal aid;
- f) medical treatment;
- g) explanation and guidance through the criminal justice system process through coordination with the Victim/Witness Unit of the State's Attorney's Office, or other allied agencies; and
- h) explanation of Crime Victim's Rights.

COMFORT CANINE FUNCTION

The Comfort Canine Program was established to assist the Sheriff's Office in providing comfort to victims and witnesses of various crimes. The primary goal of this program is to assist detectives during forensic interviews with child victims and additionally to assist these victims when testifying in criminal court cases. Secondly this program can assist both sworn and civilian employees with stress relief.

The CID Special Victims Unit (SVU) Supervisor will be responsible for the direct supervision of the Comfort Canine Program. The SVU Supervisor will maintain a training and veterinary log for any canine in the program. Individual handlers will be responsible for monthly submissions of any training received or programs/events attended. See the Comfort Canine SOP for the full details of this program.

TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FUNCTION

The Technical Investigations Function (TIF) is comprised of sworn and / or civilian members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office who have received the necessary training and certifications in the field of geolocation analysis. TIF will provide expertise and assistance in investigations involving the analysis of cellular phone records, cell site locations, and other wireless devices and technology.

A sworn member of the agency, holding the rank of Corporal or higher, will supervise the function. The function will be managed through the Criminal Investigations Division. On matters related to the function, the supervisor will report to the Commander, Persons Crimes Section in CID. Members assigned to this function will have regular assignments throughout the agency but will be available to conduct cell site analysis when necessary. When not performing a task related to this function, the member is responsible to their assigned chain of command.

After receiving the required training in geolocation analysis, members of TIF are expected to remain in the function despite primary assignment transfers and promotions. Any request to separate from the function should be made, in writing, to the Commander, Criminal Investigations Division through the TIF chain of command.

C. PROPERTY CRIMES SECTION

The Property Crimes Section is comprised of the following units:

1. Property Crimes Unit
2. Financial Crimes Unit
3. Digital Forensics Unit (DFU)

PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

The Property Crimes Unit shall have the responsibility for the investigation of cases involving:

1. commercial burglaries;
2. residential burglaries;
3. some felony thefts; and
4. any case specifically assigned.



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FINANCIAL CRIMES UNIT

The Financial Crimes Unit shall have the responsibility for the investigation of cases involving:

1. identity theft;
2. forgery and related crimes;
3. credit card fraud;
4. pawn violations;
5. auto theft;
6. continuing criminal fraud/embezzlement schemes; and
7. any case specifically assigned.

DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT

The Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) is a highly technical and specialized group with diverse functions and responsibilities. The unit's primary mission is the identification, recovery and analysis of digital evidence leading to professional processing, documentation and subsequent court presentation of findings. The DFU provides the Sheriff's Office with a resource for the identification and recovery of digital evidence from hardware, media and devices containing digital evidence by conducting objective forensic analysis consistent with the Charles County Sheriff's Office policies and Maryland State and Federal Laws.

D. HOMELAND SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SECTION

The Homeland Security and Intelligence Section is comprised of the following units:

1. Emergency Management and Homeland Security Function
2. [REDACTED]
3. Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU)
4. Crime Analysis Function

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY FUNCTION

The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Function is responsible for conducting threat assessments, vetting and disseminating officer safety alerts, suspect photos and crime bulletins. Procedures for submitting requests and intel to the section are detailed elsewhere in policy.

The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section acts as the Agency's Emergency Manager. He will obtain and maintain the necessary federal security clearances needed to access any information required and maintained in regard to their position.

The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section will be responsible for interaction with allied law enforcement and all other agencies who share this Agency's responsibility for Homeland Security and Emergency Management. These agencies include:

1. Department of Homeland Security (state and federal), i.e., MDEM & FEMA;
2. Charles County Department of Emergency Management;
3. Local Emergency Planning Center;
4. Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center - MCAC;
5. Joint Terrorism Task Force - JTTF;
6. Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI;
7. County Emergency Operations Center (during a declared state of emergency).

The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section will be responsible for securing Agency staffing for any named agencies and / or task forces. This will be accomplished using personnel assigned to the Commander

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for this purpose. Any additional personnel needs will require the approval of the Sheriff or Assistant Sheriff. Notification of use of personnel from other components will be made with as much advanced notice to the affected division commander as possible.

The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section will cause the Agency All Hazards Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan to be reviewed at least annually and updated as may be required by changing circumstances. The Commander will likewise cause changes in these documents as a result of after-action critique results.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-
Category	Should Take Action (%)	Should Not Take Action (%)
All respondents	85	15
Male	83	17
Female	87	13
18-29	88	12
30-49	85	15
50-69	82	18
70+	78	22

Category	Percentage
Very important	75%
Important	70%
Not important	25%
Don't know	30%
Other	10%

FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (FIU)

The Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) will conduct initial and follow-up investigations into firearms-related criminal offenses. This may include cases involving:

1. Illegal manufacture, sale, or distribution of firearms or firearm equipment or paraphernalia;
2. Large-scale firearm thefts, or thefts from Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL);
3. Possession of firearms by prohibited persons;
4. Assaults or reckless endangerment cases involving firearms; and
5. Follow up investigation of NIBIN leads;
6. Other investigations as assigned.

Detectives assigned to this unit will provide assistance to other Agency members in handling cases requiring the



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expertise of the unit's investigators.

CRIME ANALYSIS FUNCTION

The Crime Analysis Function is responsible for the collection and presentation of data regarding criminal activity in a manner which allows operational components of the Agency to more intelligently deploy resources to prevent crime and apprehend criminals. Additionally, this function gathers data regarding operational workload distribution of the various components and organizes that data in a manner which allows its use to make staffing decisions.

This function gathers data from the Agency Computer-Aided Dispatch System and the Agency Records Management System in order to develop crime analysis reports.

1. The data should be analyzed, and any sources verified, so that obviously erroneous information is excluded from the reports.
2. This data is then organized in a manner which presents the occurrence of crimes according to geographical location, time of day, day of week, and any notable annual or seasonal groupings.
3. The information generated as a result of this process is available 24/ 7 digitally through access of the agency's Dashboard, with accompanying maps as needed to explain complex patterns.

E. NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Narcotics Enforcement Section is comprised of the following units / positions:

1. Street Narcotics Enforcement
2. Major Narcotics
3. Administrative Drug Analyst

STREET NARCOTICS UNIT

The Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit will conduct initial and follow-up investigations of cases involving:

1. Narcotics violations;
2. Vice laws;
3. Gambling laws; and
4. Other cases as assigned.

Detectives assigned to this unit will provide assistance to other Agency officers in handling cases requiring the expertise of the unit's investigators.

MAJOR NARCOTICS UNIT

The Major Narcotics Unit will be responsible for the investigation and dismantling of the highest level drug trafficking organizations. This may include drug conspiracy cases and cases involving participation with or high-level interaction with state and federal agencies. In general, these cases, by their nature, are of a longer duration and will require greater expertise and technical investigative methods, including conducting in-depth financial analysis. Asset seizure and tax fraud are often a major part of these investigations. This unit will also be responsible for any cases presented to or brought from other agencies involving conspiracy investigations.

FEDERAL TASK FORCE OFFICERS

The Narcotics Enforcement Section will assign detectives to various federal task forces, as manpower allows, including but not limited to HIDTA, ATF, DEA, and USPIS. All rules and regulations stipulated in each respective MOU will be adhered to. The CCSO Major Narcotics Unit Supervisor shall have the responsibility of evaluating detectives assigned to task forces, with input from the respective task force supervisor.

**Administrative and Operational Manual****April 1, 2026****ADMINISTRATIVE DRUG ANALYST**

The Narcotics Enforcement Section will have a full-time civilian Administrative Drug Analyst who will perform a variety of administrative and clerical duties relative to the operation of the CID Narcotics Enforcement Section, and associated details/functions. This position also performs specialized tasks in developing case specific intelligence and information in the identification of person(s) involved in drug trafficking organizations. The Administrative Drug Analyst also utilizes various in-house databases and external database sources to create, manage, and organize comprehensive analytical reports and/or investigative assistance to the Narcotics Enforcement Section. Additionally, the Administrative Drug Analyst will be trained in the extraction of data from cell phones and other electronic devices to assist sworn officers from all divisions with drug investigations involving those devices. The employee receives general supervision from, and reports directly to, the Commander, Narcotics Enforcement Section.

F. FORENSIC SCIENCE SECTION

The Forensic Science Section is primarily a support section for the investigators of CID. The Section is staffed by the Deputy Director FSS, Quality Assurance Manager, Forensic Science Technicians, Latent Print Specialists, and a Forensic Chemist. The Section is responsible for:

1. processing the scenes of major criminal events to locate, identify, collect, preserve, and examine physical evidence;
2. lifting latent fingerprints;
3. evaluating and comparing latent fingerprints;
4. taking specialized photographs;
5. examining, enhancing, copying, and formatting evidence captured on video;
6. developing and preparing specialized drawings and diagrams necessary for the prosecution of a particular case;
7. coordinating the Test Shot Program and the acquisition of ballistic evidence into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN);
8. analyzing Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) at the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division in Pikesville;
9. providing expert testimony in court;
10. providing support to the other components of the Agency in their area of expertise as directed by the Investigations Section Commander; and
11. such other duties as may be assigned.

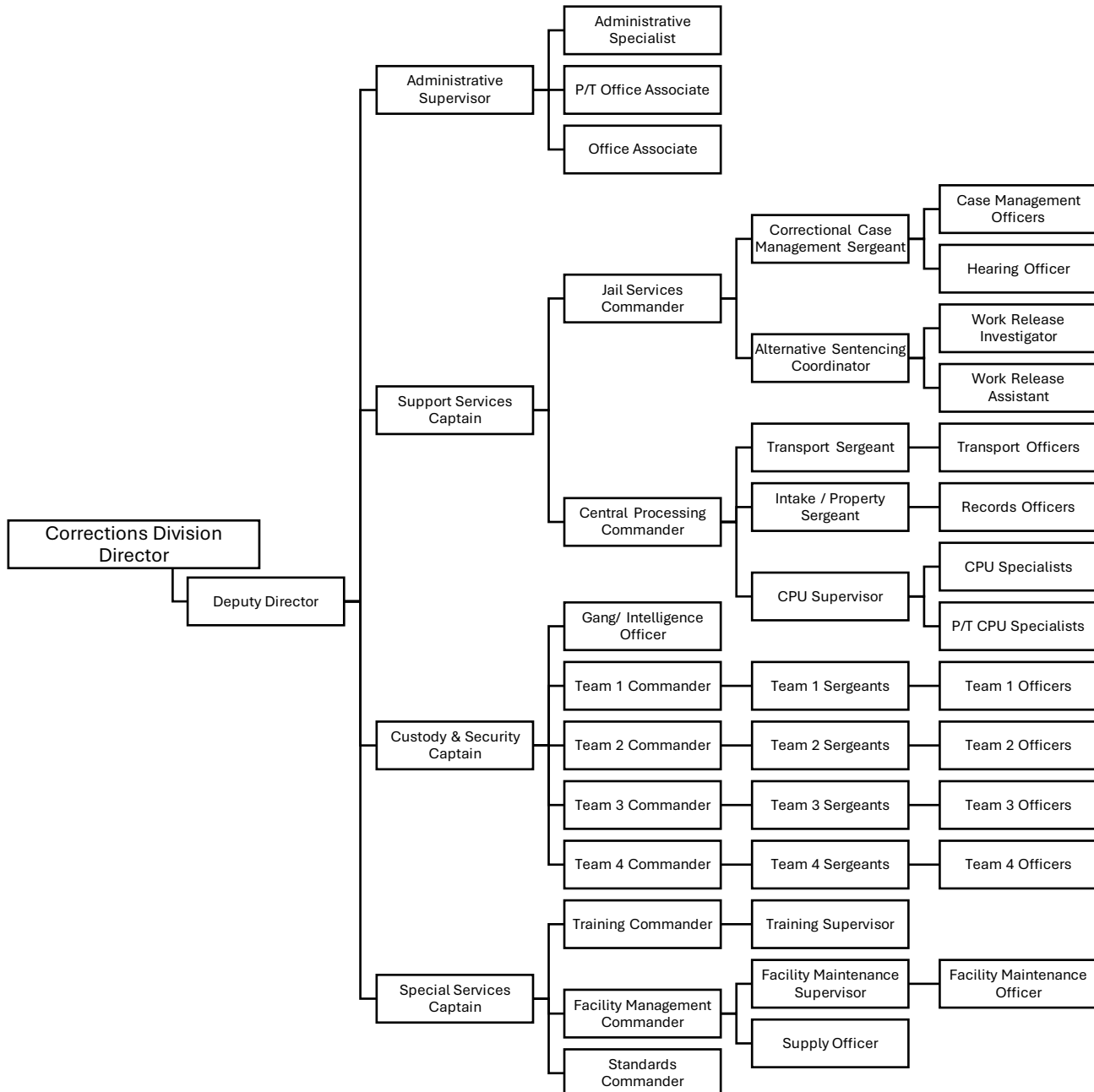


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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART- CORRECTIONS DIVISION





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2-450.1 CORRECTIONS DIVISION

(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
- C. SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION
- D. CUSTODY AND SECURITY SECTION
- E. SPECIAL SERVICES SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Corrections Division is responsible for the incarceration of locally sentenced individuals, for a period of up to 18 months, as well as detention of prisoners who are awaiting trial. The division also holds “safekeepers” from the State and other local jurisdictions.

The Corrections Division is managed by the Commander / Director of the Charles County Detention Center (CCDC).

The Commander / Director is directly supported by:

1. Deputy Director
2. Special Services Commander
3. Support Services Commander
4. Custody and Security Commander
5. Administrative Supervisor

Position specific responsibilities can be found in respective SOPs and job descriptions prepared by Human Resources.

COMMANDER / DIRECTOR, CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Commander / Director, Corrections Division is a correctional officer with analogous credentials and leadership abilities. The Commander / Director shall be responsible directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration for all matters pertaining to the responsibilities and elements of the command.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Deputy Director shall be responsible directly to the Commander / Director, Corrections Division. He will assist the Commander / Director and act on his behalf in his absence.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATOR

The Internal Investigator function is staffed by a Corrections Lieutenant, who reports directly to the CCSO Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Commander.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

The Administrative Supervisor is directly responsible to, and supervised by, the Deputy Director. The Administrative Supervisor supervises the civilian support staff of the division.

Civilian office associates assigned as receptionists and part-time front desk support will be responsible to the Administrative Supervisor. They will receive visitors to the facility, perform routine clerical functions, and other duties as assigned.

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The Administrative Supervisor also supervises the Administrative Specialist who is responsible for tasks related to the Corrections accounting function, including internal incarcerated individual financial accounts; incarcerated individual visiting; and federal, state and juvenile accounts and billing.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

The Support Services Section of the division is commanded by a Corrections Captain who is responsible to the Deputy Director. The Support Services Section is comprised of the Central Processing Unit and the Jail Services Unit. He is also responsible for oversight of contractual medical services.

CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT

The Central Processing Unit (CPU) is commanded by a Corrections Lieutenant who is directly responsible to the Commander, Support Services Section. The Commander, Central Processing will supervise and direct Prisoner Transport, Intake & Discharge, and Central Processing. The Central Processing Commander also serves as the Custodian of Records for the Division.

INTAKE

The Intake Function is supervised by a Corrections Sergeant responsible to the Commander, Central Processing. In addition to intake, this component is responsible for jail property control. This component is comprised of Records Officers. Each records officer, a corporal, shall assist the Intake Sergeant in carrying out their responsibilities in the Intake Sergeant's absence.

TRANSPORT

The Transport Function is supervised by a Corrections Sergeant responsible to the Commander, Central Processing. This component is responsible for transports and court appearance and is staffed by assigned correctional officers.

CENTRAL PROCESSING

The Central Processing function of the Central Processing Unit is overseen by a civilian Central Processing Supervisor responsible to the Commander, Central Processing Unit. This component is comprised of civilian support staff and is tasked with all duties associated with incarcerated individual processing and record keeping.

JAIL SERVICES UNIT

The Jail Services Unit is commanded by a Corrections Lieutenant who is directly responsible to the Commander, Support Services. The Commander, Jail Services Unit is responsible for the programs and services provided to or for incarcerated individuals which are outside the basic functions of housing and security. The Jail Services Commander also serves as the ADA Coordinator for the Division.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The Case Management function is supervised by a Case Management Supervisor, a Corrections Sergeant, who is responsible to the Commander, Jail Services. This component is tasked with all duties related to incarcerated individual classification and administrative hearings. The function is staffed by Case Management Officers and a Hearing Officer.

1. **HEARING OFFICER:** The Hearing Officer is responsible to the Case Management Supervisor. This officer is responsible for all hearings and related duties regarding incarcerated individuals who are accused of committing serious and significant in-house rule violations. This officer also acts as the liaison

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and facilitator of parole hearings between the Corrections Division and the Office of Parole and Probation.

2. **CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS:** Case Management Officers are responsible to the Case Management Supervisor. The officers are responsible for classifying and housing all detainees according to their individual needs and risk levels. Case Management Officers oversee work and volunteer programs related to the detainee population, as well as grievance procedures, law library services, and detainee files. They must coordinate with other departments to ensure that detainees' legal rights are protected, and that anyone sentenced is released on the correct date based on the diminution credits awarded.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

The Alternative Sentencing function is managed by the Alternative Sentencing Coordinator, a civilian who is directly responsible to the Jail Services Commander. The position involves the planning, assigning, supervising, and appraising the work of subordinate officers. The Coordinator works closely with the District and Circuit Courts and is responsible for establishing operational procedures, including rules and regulations, security procedures, and supervision techniques. The Coordinator is also responsible for evaluating methods of alternative sentencing operation and making recommendations for improvement. Other responsibilities include formulating plans and developing and revising policies and procedures in order to assure the safety and security of the facility.

1. **WORK RELEASE ASSISTANT:** The Work Release Assistant is a correctional officer, responsible to the Alternative Sentencing Coordinator. This position is responsible for all collection, testing, and documentation of urinalysis specimens. The Assistant aids with interviewing and processing incarcerated individuals into the work release program.
2. **WORK RELEASE INVESTIGATOR:** The Work Release Investigator is a correctional officer responsible to the Alternative Sentencing Coordinator. The Investigator processes eligible incarcerated individuals into the Work Release Program. Responsibilities include conducting on-site visits to employers, verifying incarcerated individuals' attendance at work sites, and assisting the Work Release Assistant with ensuring compliance with standards established by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards and American Correctional Association.

D. CUSTODY AND SECURITY SECTION

The Custody and Security Section is commanded by a Corrections Captain who is directly responsible to the Deputy Director. The Custody and Security Section is organized into teams. Each team is comprised of a Commander, Supervisor, Assistant Supervisors and Officers.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

The Intelligence Officer is a correctional officer responsible to the Commander, Custody and Security Section. The Intelligence Officer primarily exists to collect, analyze, and disseminate information to support facility and agency operations. Additionally, the JIU works in coordination with the CCSO Homeland Security & Intelligence Section to identify and pro-actively monitor detainees who may be associated with or are members of a criminal organization.

TEAM COMMANDERS

Team Commanders are Corrections Lieutenants who report to the Commander, Custody and Security Section. They are responsible for supervision of the shift supervisors and the performance of their assigned shift in fulfilling the requirements of the Custody and Security Section.

TEAM SUPERVISORS



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Team Supervisors are Corrections Sergeants who report to a Shift Commander. They are responsible for supervision of the officers assigned to their shift. The shift supervisor may also act as the shift commander at the direction of, and in the absence of, the shift commander.

ASSISTANT TEAM SUPERVISORS

Assistant Team Supervisors are Corrections Corporals who shall assist the shift supervisor in carrying out the shift supervisor's responsibilities and act as the shift supervisor in the shift supervisor's absence.

TEAM OFFICERS

Team Officers are correctional officers who assist in carrying out the security of the facility and the security of all incarcerated individuals confined therein.

E. SPECIAL SERVICES SECTION

The Special Services Section is commanded by a Corrections Captain who is directly responsible to the Deputy Director. The Special Services Section is comprised of Standards and Accreditation, Facility Management, and Training units.

TRAINING UNIT

TRAINING COMMANDER

A Corrections Lieutenant who is responsible to the Commander, Special Services Section, commands the Corrections Division training unit. The Training Commander ensures all correctional officers meet their annual in-service requirements, new officers complete the field training program, training requests are processed, and the training budget for the division is managed.

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

A Corrections Sergeant who is responsible to the Training Commander, assists the Corrections Division training unit. The Training Supervisor assists with the selection of all In-Service Training and online training programs, develops and conducts training programs to certify and qualify employees as mandated by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), coordinates the field training program, and maintains all training records.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

FACILITY MANAGEMENT COMMANDER

The Facility Management Commander is a Corrections Lieutenant who shall be directly responsible to the Commander, Special Services who oversees the operation of Supply and Facility Maintenance functions at the detention center.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

The Facility Maintenance function is staffed by a correctional officer who is supervised by a corrections sergeant who reports directly to the Commander, Facility Management. This component is responsible for managing all non-county maintenance operations within the Detention Center, including scheduling and coordinating with vendors and ensuring the proper function of doors, cameras, and locking systems. It also involves close collaboration with County Public Facilities and external vendors to facilitate the repair of all equipment within the facility.

SUPPLY OFFICER



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The Supply Officer is supervised by the Facility Management Commander. This component is responsible for commissary services, jail supplies and purchasing.

STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION UNIT

STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION COMMANDER

The Standards and Accreditation Commander is a Corrections Lieutenant who shall be directly responsible to the Commander, Special Services. The Standards and Accreditation Commander shall continually audit and manage the facility, processes, policies, procedures, and performance of personnel to determine that standards established by the Maryland Commission of Correctional Standards, National Commission of Correctional Health Care, American Correctional Association and other inspecting entities are met or exceeded.

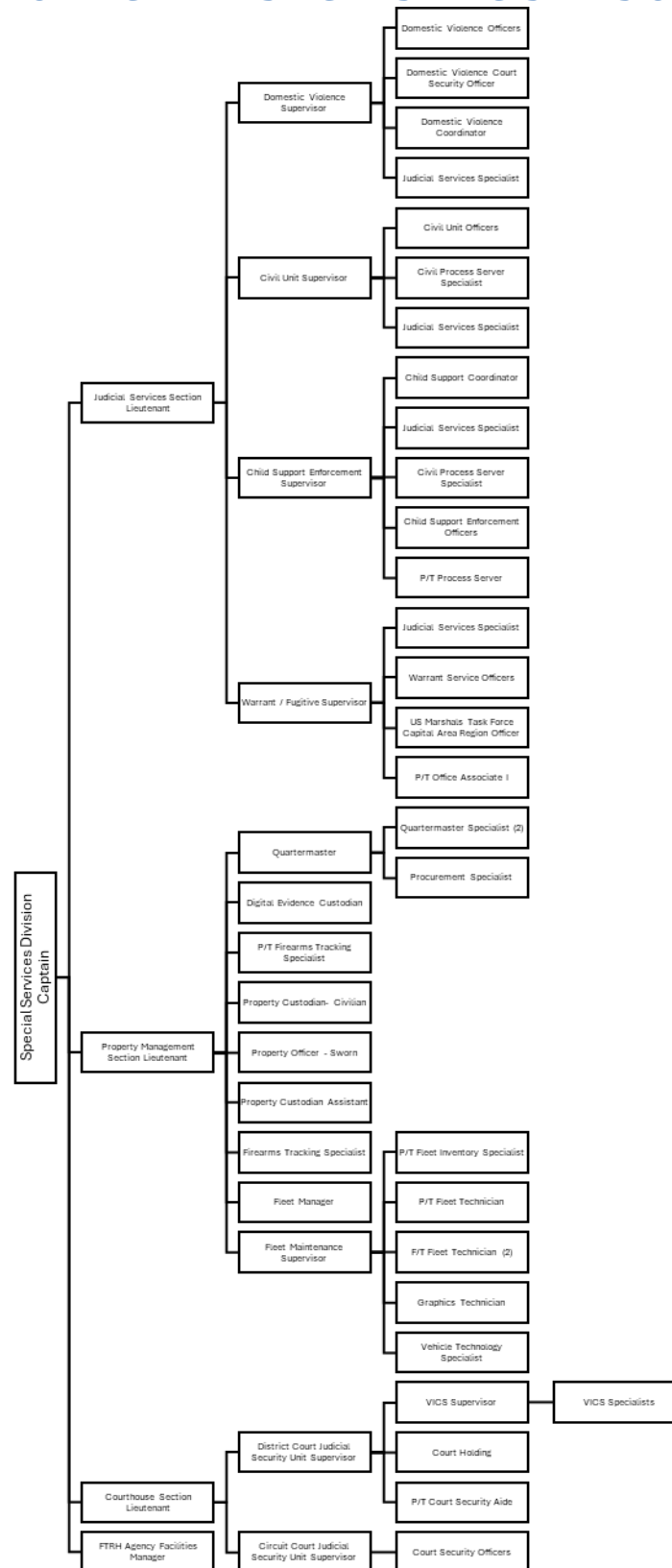


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2-500

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION





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2-500.1 SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION**(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)**

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. JUDICIAL SERVICES SECTION
- C. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION
- D. COURTHOUSE SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Special Services Division is comprised of three sections: Judicial Services Section, Property Management Section, and Courthouse Section. The Judicial Services Section contains the Child Support Enforcement Unit, Warrant/ Fugitive Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, and the Civil Unit. The Property Management Section contains the Quartermaster Section, Property Custodian, Procurement Specialist, Firearms Tracking Specialist, and Fleet. The Courthouse Section contains the Volunteers In Community Service (VICS) and the Courts/ Judicial Security Unit.

The Special Services Division has the primary responsibility for the activities of the Sheriff which are related to the courts and the judicial process. Additionally, this division handles the supply functions and the maintenance of property which has been found, seized, or recovered. Among the various specific functions of this division are found:

1. enforcement of child support orders of the courts;
2. enforcement of orders of the court with regards to domestic violence;
3. the protection of judicial officers and various courtrooms;
4. the service of civil papers;
5. the detection and arrest of fugitives;
6. the acquisition, storage, and distribution of uniforms and equipment used by Agency personnel;
7. the storage and disposal of the property held by the Agency because it was found, recovered after being stolen, is evidence, or was confiscated as contraband;
8. Agency risk management; and
9. Agency owned, leased, or loaned facilities (except detention facilities).

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION COMMANDER

The Special Services Division Commander is a sworn officer the rank of captain who shall be responsible directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Special Services Division Commander is responsible for the direct supervision of subordinates and the performance of administrative duties pertaining to the daily operation of the Division. The Special Services Division Commander is responsible for the performance of all personnel assigned to his / her command.

The Special Services Division Commander shall be responsible for:

1. maintaining the relationships between the CCSO and the various judicial officials with whom the Agency deals;
2. inspecting the various courtrooms for which he / she is responsible and providing for their security, making recommendations to the Sheriff and the various judicial officials as may be appropriate;
3. developing measures for the overall security of the Charles County Courthouse;
4. the availability and maintenance of all supplies and equipment used by Agency personnel in the performance of their duties;
 - a) this includes the Agency fleet of vehicles, their fuel, equipment, insurance, maintenance, and repair.
5. overall fleet safety and shall monitor collision and damage reports as well as injury reports, where the cause of injury is a fleet collision;
6. maintaining such statistical information in this regard that he / she may make recommendations to the Commander, Training Division, the Assistant Sheriffs and the Sheriff's "Safe Driving Programs," driver



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- training, Collision Free Driving awards, and budget information;
 7. the secure and efficient storage and disposition of all property which may come into the keeping of the Agency as a result of its daily law enforcement and public safety activities;
 - a) this would include evidence, contraband, recovered stolen property, found property, etc.
 - b) The Commander shall develop and implement such policies as will allow for the proper chain of custody of evidence and for the availability of the evidence for presentation in court.
 - c) He/ she will provide for the disposition of all property which has been held past its usefulness as evidence or which has gone unclaimed for a period required by law.
 - d) He/ she will see that such funds as may be derived from the sale of property and any cash held, which may be legally converted to the use of the Sheriff's Office or government activities, is deposited in the proper government accounts.
 8. inspecting the personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources assigned to his command on a regular basis.
 - a) He/ she shall be responsible to maintain these elements of his command in compliance with the policies set forth in this manual and in other official directives of the Agency.

The Special Services Division Commander shall require members of his command to support the efforts of the courts to:

1. curb domestic violence;
2. transport fugitives outside the State of Maryland as well as capture fugitives in Charles County wanted by other states and coordinate extradition between the State's Attorney's Office and other agencies;
3. facilitate such civil matters as may come under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Sheriff.

AGENCY FACILITIES MANAGER

The Agency Facilities Manager is responsible for the maintenance and daily operations of the Agency's building facilities / physical plants, and equipment, except for the CCDC and Court Holding facility. The employee is responsible for all maintenance and building management issues at assigned facilities, as well as the lease agreements for all satellite facilities that require service. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Commander, Special Services Division.

B. JUDICIAL SERVICES SECTION

Judicial Services Section is comprised of the following four units:

1. Domestic Violence;
2. Warrant / Fugitive;
3. Civil;
4. Child Support Enforcement.

The Judicial Services Section is responsible to:

1. provide support of the court in the arrest of persons for whom the court has issued warrants;
2. serve such civil processes as may be issued by the court; and
3. provide support of the court in areas pertaining to domestic violence.

COMMANDER, JUDICIAL SERVICES SECTION

The Commander, Judicial Services Section is a sworn officer the rank of lieutenant who reports to, and is responsible to, the Commander, Special Services Division. The Commander, Judicial Services Section will ensure that the responsibilities of the Judicial Services Section are faithfully carried out and that personnel within his



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command:

1. are knowledgeable in their respective areas of responsibility;
2. are aware of all rules, laws, and procedures which affect the performance of their duties;
3. are properly equipped and prepared for the tasks which they are required to complete;
4. attend to their duties and responsibilities in a timely and expeditious manner;
5. execute their daily activities consistent with the essential functions established for their specific position and within the framework of Agency policy and any Standard Operating Procedures established for the Judicial Services Section; and
6. faithfully discharge their lawfully assigned tasks and duties.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

(Last reviewed: 5/27/2025)

Personnel assigned to Domestic Violence receive and serve interim/ temporary/ final/ modified protective orders, interim/ temporary/ final/ modified peace orders, arrest warrants, criminal summonses, and other civil and criminal process. These officers will give guidance to victims and coordinate efforts with community groups and services for domestic violence.

SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor is a sworn officer, the rank of sergeant, who is responsible for the daily operation of the unit. The supervisor will:

1. maintain a close working relationship with the courts, concerned agencies, and domestic violence volunteer groups;
2. maintain monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes; and
3. assist the Judicial Services Section Commander, learning that position in order that he/ she may fill that role as required in the commander's absence.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVILIANS ASSIGNED TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit Judicial Services Specialist is a civilian who is responsible to the Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor. The specialist will be responsible for data entry of civil and criminal warrants / processes.

The Domestic Violence Court Coordinator is responsible for assisting victims of domestic violence at the courthouse during protective order applications and hearings.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT SECURITY OFFICER

The Domestic Violence Court Security Officer is responsible for maintaining security in the courtroom during domestic violence hearings at the Charles County Courthouse. In addition, this officer is the primary individual responsible for serving petitioners and respondents with peace and protective orders, as well as any related paperwork, within the courthouse.

WARRANT/ FUGITIVE UNIT

The Warrant/ Fugitive Unit acts as the Agency fugitive squad and handles the extradition of persons captured out of state for crimes committed within Charles County and arranges for their return to stand trial.

SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Warrant/ Fugitive Unit Supervisor is a sworn officer, the rank of sergeant, who is responsible for the daily operation of the unit. The supervisor will maintain a close working relationship with the courts and other concerned agencies, including U.S. Marshals. The supervisor will maintain monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes. The unit supervisor will assist the Judicial Services Section Commander, learning that position in order that he/ she

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may fill that role as required in the commander's absence.

WARRANT SERVICE- SWORN OFFICERS

Sworn officers assigned to warrant service are responsible for the service of arrest warrants, attachments, criminal summonses, summons / indictments, and criminal information. Sworn officers are responsible for prisoner transports including long-distance extraditions and duties as may be assigned by supervisory personnel. Officers will assist the unit supervisor and will be responsible for other duties as assigned. One sworn officer will be deputized and assigned to the U.S. Marshal's Task Force for high risk and outside jurisdiction warrants.

WARRANT / FUGITIVE UNIT- JUDICIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST

The Warrant / Fugitive Unit Judicial Services Specialist is a civilian who is responsible to the Warrant / Fugitive Unit Supervisor. The specialist will be responsible for data entry of civil and criminal warrants/ processes. The specialist will assist the unit supervisor with monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes. The Judicial Services Specialist will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

CIVIL UNIT

The Civil Unit provides for the service of civil processes, including, but not limited to, subpoenas, summonses, evictions, and juvenile court papers. It is also responsible for the seizure, and in some cases, the seizure and sale, of personal and/ or real properties as required by court order.

The unit is responsible for the service of warrants of restitution without partiality to either the landlord or tenant. It conducts sales and attaches property. Its personnel may at any time be required to assist wherever needed within the organization.

The unit is staffed with both sworn officers and civilian Civil Process Server Specialists. Sworn officers are required to perform all of the duties of this section. Civilian Civil Process Server Specialists are required to perform only the duties which do not require the power of arrest or the use of force.

CIVIL UNIT SUPERVISOR

The Civil Unit Supervisor is a sworn officer, the rank of sergeant, who will:

1. oversee Sheriff's sales, evictions, writs of execution, and all other civil process;
2. maintain monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes;
3. maintain a close working relationship with the courts and other law enforcement agencies;
4. assist the Judicial Services Section Commander, learning that position in order that he/ she may fill that role as required in the commander's absence.

CIVILIAN CIVIL PROCESS SERVER SPECIALISTS

Employees who occupy the position of Civil Process Server Specialist are not sworn law enforcement officers. They have no power of arrest, and are not expected to, or empowered to, use any level of force in the performance of their duties. These employees are, however, agents of the Sheriff of Charles County, Maryland, for the purpose of providing the service of civil process on behalf of the Sheriff.

Employees in this position are not issued impact weapons, firearms or any other type of weapon with the exception of a K-9, taser and spray, which may be issued to ward off attacking animals. The Sheriff does not expect or anticipate that weapons will be needed or used by the individuals who perform the duties of civilian Civil Process Server Specialist; however, weapons may be carried under the provisions of HR-218.

This position requires civilian Civil Process Server Specialists to deliver original court documents to individuals who are named in those documents. Delivery will be accomplished without the use of force, and the civilian Civil Process



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Server Specialist will retreat from any threatening or hostile situation which develops during the attempted service of these papers.

Civilian Civil Process Server Specialists will not participate in the service of any document which requires arrest powers. They may serve papers which notify a witness/ defendant/ petitioner/ respondent of the date, time, and place of an appearance or required action in a criminal or civil trial/ hearing/ matter. Civilian Civil Process Server Specialists may assist sworn officers in the handling of certain scenes, such as an eviction scene, only after sworn officers have made that scene secure and removed any persons who may pose a threat.

Civil Process Server Specialists have the rights and privileges granted to ordinary citizens, and as such are not prohibited to take such action as could an ordinary citizen. This would include the right to defend themselves from attack to the degree that any citizen would be able to defend themselves or others.

CIVIL PROCESS- SWORN OFFICERS

Sworn officers of the Civil Unit who are assigned to civil process duties are responsible for service of civil and criminal process, including but not limited to: subpoenas, summonses, seizure and sale of all personal or real properties as required by the court, writs of execution, writs of possession, landlord/ tenant warrants of restitution, Sheriff's sales, and all other process which cannot be served by the civilian process server.

Sworn officers are required to assist courthouse security as may be assigned. Sworn officers will assist the Unit Supervisor as needed and will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

CIVIL UNIT - JUDICIAL SERVICES SPECIALISTS

The Civil Unit Judicial Services Specialists are civilians who are responsible for data entry of all civil process received by this Agency. Specialists will enter, modify, clear, cancel, etc., civil and criminal process in the Agency computer system. Specialists will keep in close contact with the courts. Specialists will assist the Unit Supervisor as needed and will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Child Support Enforcement Unit is responsible for the service of arrest warrants, attachments, summonses, and other process relating to child support. They will provide security for the Domestic Relations court when it sits on child support matters. Sworn officers will assist the Unit Supervisor as needed and will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT SUPERVISOR

The Child Support Enforcement Unit Supervisor is a sworn officer, the rank of sergeant, responsible for the daily operation of the Unit. The Supervisor will:

1. maintain monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes;
2. maintain a close working relationship with the State Department of Human Resources Child Support Enforcement Administration, the local Department of Social Services, the Circuit Court for Charles County, the Master for Domestic Relations, and agencies and volunteer groups associated with child support enforcement;
3. assist the Judicial Services Section Commander, learning that position in order that he/ she may fill that role as required in the Commander's absence.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT COORDINATOR

The Child Support Enforcement Unit Coordinator is a civilian who is responsible to the Unit Supervisor. The Coordinator is responsible for data entry of all civil and criminal warrants/ process received by this Agency that are child support related.



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The Coordinator will maintain a close working relationship with the courts, the State Department of Human Resources Child Support Enforcement Administration, local Department of Social Services, and allied agencies, volunteer groups, and law enforcement agencies. The Coordinator will assist the Unit Supervisor with monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes, and as otherwise needed.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT - JUDICIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST

The Child Support Enforcement Unit Judicial Services Specialist is a civilian responsible to the Unit Supervisor. The Specialist is responsible for data entry related to the child support enforcement warrants and other processes. The Specialist will maintain a close working relationship with the courts, the State Department of Human Resources Child Support Enforcement Administration, local Department of Social Services, and allied agencies, volunteer groups, and law enforcement agencies.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT CIVIL PROCESS SERVER SPECIALIST

The Child Support Enforcement Unit Civil Process Server Specialist is a civilian responsible to the Unit Supervisor. The Process Server Specialist will have the primary responsibility for the service of all child support related summonses. The Process Server Specialist will not participate in the service of any document which requires arrest powers. Civilian Process Server Specialists have the rights and privileges granted to ordinary citizens, and as such are not prohibited to take such action as could any ordinary citizen. This would include the right to defend themselves from attack to the degree that any citizen would be able to defend themselves or another. The carrying of weapons is authorized only as stated in HR-218.

CHILD SUPPORT COURT OFFICER

The Child Support Court Officer is a sworn officer who is primarily responsible to provide security within the Charles County Courthouse relating to child support matters. The duties of this position include:

1. checking for any weapons or other illegal items normally prohibited from the courtroom such as knives, scissors, drugs, tape recorders, etc.; and
2. handling all the necessary paperwork which follows each prisoner; and
3. escorting prisoners to offices as needed to sign necessary paperwork; and
4. working warrants and writs of attachment; and
5. participating with other child support officers in attempting to locate individuals wanted in child support matters.

Child Support Officers are grant-funded and serve child support papers only.

C. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Property Management Section is responsible for the Agency's vehicle fleet, supply functions, administering security for agency facilities, and disposition of property held by the Agency. The section is comprised of a Quartermaster, Property Custodian, Property Officer, Property Custodian Assistant, Firearms Tracking Specialist, Fleet Manager, and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

COMMANDER, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Commander, Property Management Section is a sworn lieutenant who will manage and oversee Agency facilities excluding the Charles County Detention Center. This includes safety / security related items, keys and electronic door entry functions. Additionally, the Commander, Property Management will manage and oversee the



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Agency vehicle fleet. These duties will include procuring Agency vehicles, building out those vehicles for specified assignment, obtaining tag / title / insurance, and scheduled maintenance intervals required.

The Commander, Property Management will oversee the Quartermasters Office, responsible for managing Agency property. The Commander, Property Management will also oversee the Property Management Unit and will ensure all property storage, retention, and rules are followed for Agency evidentiary and general property. All Agency and evidentiary tows will be coordinated with the Commander, Property Management for billing, storage and forfeitures. Vehicles salvaged, sold or converted will be approved by the commander as well.

QUARTERMASTER

The Quartermaster is responsible for the supply of Agency authorized uniforms, equipment, and supplies. The Quartermaster will requisition, store, and inventory all uniforms and associated items used by Agency personnel. The Quartermaster shall control the distribution and disposal of these items in a manner consistent with Agency policy.

The Quartermaster shall requisition and inventory all supplies and equipment used by components of the Agency where it is necessary to have stocks on hand or when there is a significant saving involved in bulk purchases. The Quartermaster shall control and distribute these items in accordance with Agency policy with the assistance of the Quartermaster Specialists and Procurement Specialist. The Quartermaster, with the assistance of the Quartermaster Inventory Specialist, shall prepare and cause to be distributed to, Deputy Director, Accounting monthly inventory reports.

QUARTERMASTER INVENTORY SPECIALIST

The Quartermaster Inventory Specialist performs work relative to the office receipt and/ or disbursement of items purchased through the Fleet purchasing system, entering data into the various computer systems, compiling monthly and yearly inventory reports, answering the telephone, updating and maintaining files, records, reports, and providing clerical support. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Quartermaster.

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

The Procurement Specialist is a civilian responsible to the Quartermaster. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Quartermaster. The Procurement Specialist is to assist the Quartermaster with the purchasing process and procure high quality goods and services for the best value. Most purchases are done through a comprehensive system of specifications and competitive bidding. The Procurement Specialist will communicate with vendors, contractors, and consulting firms regarding bids and RFPs for materials, equipment, supplies, and services required.

SWORN PROPERTY OFFICER

The Sworn Property Officer is a sworn officer responsible to the Commander, Property Management Section who will coordinate with the Civilian Property Custodian for the receipt, storage, security and disposal of property recovered, found, confiscated or held as a result of the activities of the Agency. This property includes controlled dangerous substances seized in connection with CDS/ gambling/ vice investigations. The property which is the object of the Property Officer's activities is that of outside persons or entities which has come under the control of the Agency as a result of its legitimate activities.

The Property Officer must secure and inventory property in such a manner as to maintain not only the safety of that property from loss, but to the degree that the chain of custody of items is maintained as necessary for production as evidence in court hearings. The Property Officer shall maintain records which will allow him to determine when an item is no longer needed for evidence purposes.

The Property Officer shall dispose of CDS held on a regular basis in a manner consistent with law and/ or Agency policy and coordinate all other disposals with the Property Custodian. The Property Officer shall ensure that no

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property is kept beyond the length of time required by law or beyond the time for which it is needed as evidence.

CIVILIAN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

The Civilian Property Custodian is a civilian responsible to the Commander, Property Management Section who oversees the receipt, storage, security, and disposal of property recovered, found, confiscated, or held as a result of the activities of the Agency. This property does not include controlled dangerous substances seized in connection with CDS / gambling/ vice cases or the supplies, equipment, and the like which are under ownership of the Agency. The property which is the object of the Civilian Property Custodian's activities is that of outside persons or entities which has come under the control of the Agency as a result of its legitimate activities.

The Property Custodian may be assigned to assist in the transportation of CDS from the Agency vault to the laboratory approved for analysis of such evidence. The Property Custodian may also be assigned to assist in the retrieval of such analyzed CDS and its return to the Agency drug vault.

The Property Custodian must secure and inventory property in such a manner as to maintain not only the safety of that property from loss, but to the degree that the chain of custody of items is maintained as necessary for production as evidence in court hearings. The Property Custodian shall maintain records which will allow him to determine when an item is no longer needed for evidence purposes. The Property Custodian shall dispose of property held on a regular basis in a manner consistent with law and/ or Agency policy and deposit such monies as may be received from that disposition in accounts as required by law and/ or Agency policy. The Property Custodian shall ensure that property is not kept beyond the length of time required by law or beyond the time for which it is needed as evidence.

The Property Custodian shall conduct a complete inventory of all property within his custody each January and July. The report of that inventory is due and shall be forwarded to the Commander, Special Services Division, by January 31 and July 31, respectively.

The Property Custodian receives support from a Property Custodian Assistant who reports directly to the Commander, Property Management.

FIREARMS TRACKING SPECIALIST

The Firearms Tracking Specialist is a civilian responsible to the Commander, Property Management Section, who oversees the receipt, security, and disposal of firearms recovered, found, held for safekeeping, or held as a result of other activities of this Agency. The firearms which are the object of the Firearms Tracking Specialist's assignment are those of outside persons or entities which have come under the control of the Charles County Sheriff's Office as a result of its legitimate activities and may also include firearms which have been placed into lawful service of the Agency and used as training aids related to the handling, identification, and packaging of recovered firearms.

The Firearms Tracking Specialist must secure and inventory in such a manner as to maintain not only the safety of the firearms from loss, but to the degree that the chain of custody of items is maintained as necessary for production as evidence in court hearings. The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall maintain records which will allow him to determine when an item is no longer needed for evidentiary purposes.

The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall dispose of firearms on a regular basis in a manner consistent with law and/ or Agency policy.

The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall ensure firearms are not kept beyond the length of time required by law or for which they may be needed as evidence.

The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall conduct a complete inventory of all firearms within his custody during January and July of each year. A report of those inventories is due and shall be forwarded to the Commander, Special Services Division through the Commander, Property Management Section no later than January 31 and July 31, respectively.



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The Firearms Tracking Specialist receives support from a part-time Firearms Tracking Specialist who reports directly to the Commander, Property Management.

DIGITAL EVIDENCE CUSTODIAN

The Digital Evidence Custodian will report to the Commander, Property Management with the primary function of proper management and storage of digital property. This position will be responsible for daily digital file management and storage of digital evidence submitted by officers. The storing of this evidence will comply with all retention laws, regulations, and policies for the storing of digital evidence. The Digital Evidence Custodian will also ensure the function of the agency's digital case management system.

FLEET MANAGER

The Fleet Manager is the primary contact for vendors concerning all issues relating to vehicle management and repair or service. If the Fleet Manager is not readily available, the Commander, Property Management Section shall be contacted. Division Commanders are responsible for specialized equipment within their division and will ensure all repairs, maintenance, and service are completed in coordination with the Fleet Manager.

FLEET MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The employee in this position will oversee, assemble, troubleshoot, and repair all Agency installed vehicle equipment. The Fleet Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for the complete building of emergency police vehicles and is the primary repair source for any electronic components installed by the Agency. The Fleet Maintenance Supervisor is the senior employee in this area and may delegate work, address safety problems, and will be responsible for all work performed at this location. The Fleet Maintenance Supervisor will also inspect and may reject work performed by contracted vendors that fail to meet appropriate quality standards. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Commander, Property Management Section.

FLEET INVENTORY SPECIALIST

The Fleet Inventory Specialist performs work relative to the office receipt and/ or disbursement of items purchased through the Fleet purchasing system, entering data into the various computer systems, compiling monthly and yearly inventory reports, answering the telephone, updating and maintaining files, records, reports, and providing clerical support. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

FLEET SERVICES TECHNICIAN

This employee serves as an assistant to the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor and generally performs routine repair work as needed. The Fleet Services Technician will perform vehicle disassembly to vehicles that have been removed from service, assist in preparatory work with new vehicle assembly, and perform minor mechanical repairs. Technical electronic repairs or installs are permitted under the direction and guidance of the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Commander, Property Management Section.

VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

The vehicle Technology Specialist will report to the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor and have the primary function of installing and troubleshooting technological equipment in Agency vehicles. This equipment primarily covers in car cameras, body worn cameras, in car computers, GPS, radio and emergency light programming. This position will assist in other vehicle buildout duties as directed by the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

FULL-TIME GRAPHICS TECHNICIAN

The Full-time Graphics Technician will report to the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor with the primary function of



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creating and installation of Agency graphics. The main graphic duties are vehicle related and include vinyl wrapping doors, creating and installing sheriff decal designs to vehicles. This position will also design and install Agency related building art and parking direction signage.

D. COURTHOUSE SECTION

The Courthouse Section is comprised of the following units:

1. District Court Judicial Security Unit Supervisor
2. Circuit Court Judicial Security Unit Supervisor

COMMANDER, COURTHOUSE SECTION

The Commander, Courthouse Section is a sworn officer the rank of lieutenant who reports to the Commander, Special Services Division. The Commander, Courthouse Section will ensure that the responsibilities of the Courthouse Section are carried out and that personnel within their command:

1. are knowledgeable in their respective areas of responsibility;
2. are aware of all rules, laws, and procedures which affect the performance of their duties;
3. are properly equipped and prepared for the tasks which they are required to complete;
4. attend to their duties and responsibilities in a timely and expeditious manner;
5. execute their daily activities consistent with the essential functions established for their specific position and within the framework of Agency policy and any Standard Operating Procedures established for the Courthouse Section; and
6. carry out their lawfully assigned tasks and duties.

DISTRICT COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL SECURITY UNITS

These units shall be responsible for the physical security of the courthouse and courtroom security. Judicial Security is comprised of special class full-time sworn officers, special class sworn full-time reduced hours officers, correctional officers, and part-time security aides. Employees will operate metal detectors to screen visitors to the courthouse and patrol the outer perimeter of the courthouse grounds in an effort to maintain a safe environment for employees and the general public. Employees will work shifts so as to open and close the courthouse and assure that the building is secure upon closing. Officers working courtroom security will assist the sitting judge and will carry out instructions from the judge in a courteous and expeditious manner. Officers will transport prisoners between court holding and the courtrooms as needed and maintain order within their courtrooms. Employees will assist the Unit Supervisor as needed and will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

COURTS / JUDICIAL SECURITY UNIT SUPERVISORS

The Courts / Judicial Security Supervisors are sworn officers, the rank of sergeant, who are responsible for the daily operation of the units.

The Supervisors will:

1. ensure there is available adequate personnel each day to provide the necessary security for the Courthouse and any courtrooms in use; and
2. coordinate courthouse/courtroom security assignments as well as prisoner transports between court holding and the courtrooms; and
3. be responsible for the issuance and security of any and all passes used to control admittance to the Courthouse; and



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4. maintain accurate records concerning these passes and any door keys controlling access at the Courthouse; and
5. assist Public Facilities in overseeing the maintenance of the alarm system installed at the Courthouse; and
6. attempt to identify the cause of any false alarm generated by the system; and
7. work within the supervisory structure of the CCSO and the entities using the Courthouse in order to eliminate false alarms through system and security awareness training; and
8. maintain monthly and yearly statistics for reporting purposes; and
9. assist the Courthouse Section Commander, gaining knowledge of the role to fulfill that position as needed in the Commander's absence.

VOLUNTEERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE (VICS)

The Volunteers in Community Service (VICS) function is supervised by a civilian VICS Supervisor responsible to the District Court Judicial Security Supervisor. This component is comprised of civilian support staff and is tasked with all duties associated with alternative sentencing programs. Information regarding the daily duties of the function can be located in the VICS SOP.

COURT HOLDING OFFICER

The position of Court Holding Officer is held by contractual correctional officers who are responsible for direct detainee supervision, including the intake, search, and monitoring of prisoners within the Court Holding facility. Court Holding Officers work in coordination with Court Security Officers to ensure the safety and security of the facility, its detainees, and the staff. Court Holding Officers report to the Supervisor, District Court Judicial Security Unit.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY AIDE

The courthouse security aide is a part-time civilian position. The security aide is unarmed, poses no custodial authority, and does not have powers of arrest. The position is assigned to the courthouse to assist the sworn courthouse security officers with the day-to-day security operations of the courthouse. The security aide wears Agency issued civilian attire as described in this Manual.

COURT SECURITY OFFICERS

This position is staffed by a special class of sworn officers hired and assigned specifically to provide courthouse, courtroom, and general judicial security. These officers are sworn with all associated powers. The powers of these officers are limited, however, by the Sheriff, to be used only during those times when the officer is actually assigned to perform judicial security work or in traveling directly to and from work. At all other times, these officers are prohibited from carrying Agency firearms or firearms in any capacity not available to ordinary citizens, and using their powers of arrest, or acting in any other official capacity. Court Security Officers are required to complete a Field Training Program, as detailed in the Courthouse Section SOP.

Court Security Officers are prohibited from wearing their uniforms during non-duty hours, except when traveling directly from their residences to their assigned duties and returning directly to their residences upon completion of their assigned duties. Court Security Officers are prohibited from working in any capacity other than for the Sheriff while wearing their Charles County Sheriff's Office uniforms. Court Security Officers may not work for any employer, other than the Charles County Sheriff, where their sworn powers are to be used or could reasonably be expected to be used.

Court Security Officers are civilian employees for the purpose of pay, retirement, disability, or any other benefit



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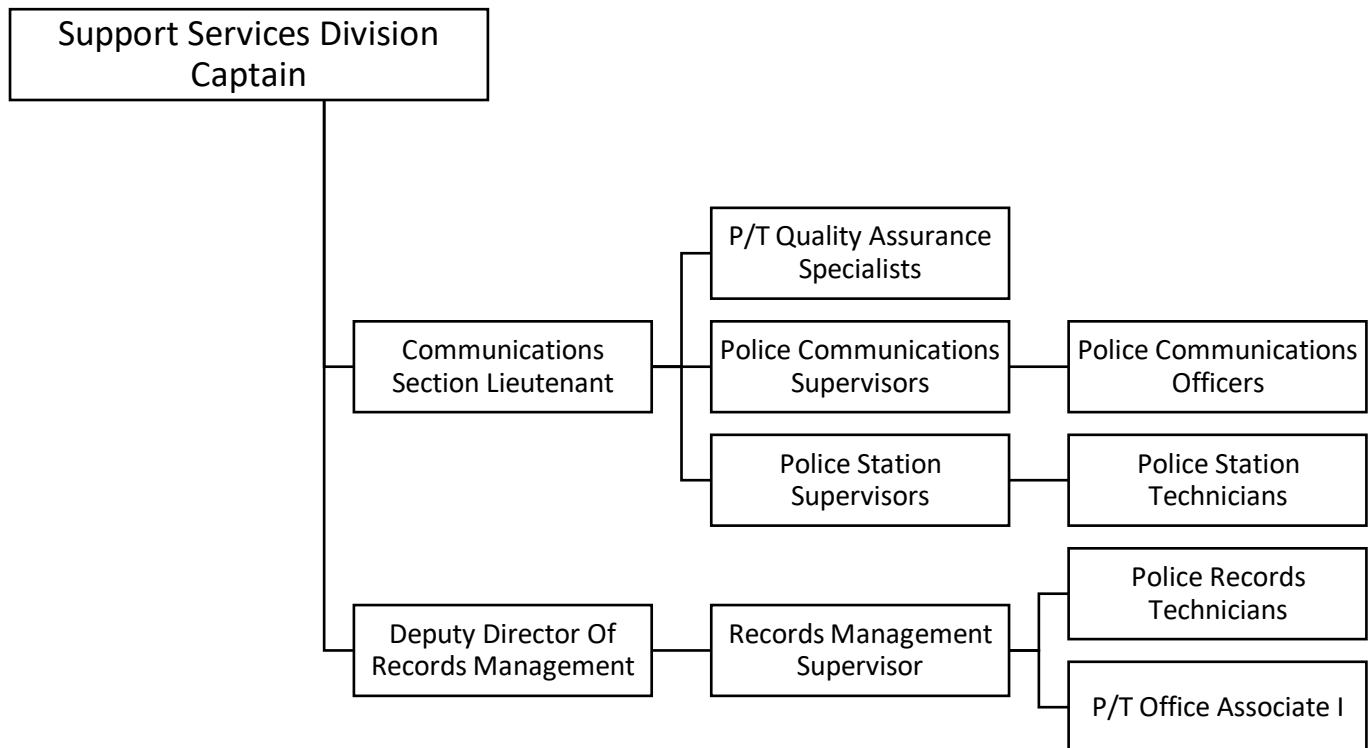
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matter. Court Security Officers working part-time are not entitled to any benefit other than those provided for part-time civilian employees. Full-time reduced hours Court Security Officers work at will per the assignment of the Judicial Security Unit Supervisor or Coordinator and have no guaranteed minimum number of work hours.



2-600

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION





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2-600.1 SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Last Reviewed: September 5, 2025

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
- C. RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Support Services Division is the information management segment of the Agency, responsible for processing, storing and retrieving critical data. This division is responsible for the management of information processing regarding:

1. requests for services;
2. how calls are handled and cleared;
3. investigations;
4. complainants, victims, suspects, persons arrested;
5. coordination with other law enforcement agencies; and
6. fulfilment of Maryland Public Information Requests.

This responsibility encompasses all procedures, hardware, and software supporting Agency operations, including voice communication networks and data transmission systems.

The Support Services Division is comprised of the Communications Section and the Records Management Section.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION COMMANDER

The Support Services Division Commander is a sworn officer, the rank of captain, who is directly responsible to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Commander is responsible for the direct supervision of subordinate commanders and the performance of administrative duties pertaining to the daily operation of the division. He is responsible for the performance of all personnel assigned to his command.

The Support Services Division Commander shall be responsible for maintaining Agency information and records systems, Agency communications systems, and the equipment associated with that function.

The Support Services Division Commander shall inspect the personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources assigned to his command on a regular basis. He shall be responsible for maintaining these elements of his command in compliance with the policies set forth in official directives of the Agency.

B. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION COMMANDER

The Communications Section Commander is a sworn officer, the rank of lieutenant, who is responsible to the Support Services Division Commander. The Commander, Communications Section is responsible for direct supervision of the Police Station Supervisors and the Police Communications Supervisors. The Commander is responsible for all radio and other communications devices used by the Agency, with the exception of specialized devices used in vice / intelligence operations.

PART-TIME QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST

This non-critical position provides a variety of clerical and administrative support services relative to the operation of the Communications Section. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Commander,



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Communications Section.

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (PCO) SUPERVISOR

The Police Communications Officer Supervisor, a first-line civilian supervisory position, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of a particular shift of Police Communications Officers (PCOs). The PCO Supervisor must:

1. ensure that his particular shift is staffed to properly handle the anticipated work load;
2. ensure that all calls for service are received and routed in an efficient manner;
3. approve / disapprove leave requests, train and evaluate subordinates, and interact with other components of the Agency.

The PCO Supervisor is responsible to the Communications Section Commander.

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (PCO)

The Police Communications Officer (PCO), a civilian, is responsible for the reception and proper handling of all calls for service. The PCO must use the radio, computer, telephone, and data communications devices of the Agency to provide support of other Agency personnel.

POLICE STATION SUPERVISOR

The Police Station Supervisor is a civilian directly responsible to the Commander, Communications. The Police Station Supervisor, a first-line supervisory position, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a particular shift of police station technicians, to include scheduling, performance ratings, and other related duties.

POLICE STATION TECHNICIANS

The Police Station Technician is a civilian position requiring 24 hours per day, 7 days per week shift coverage. Police Station Technicians shall also:

1. serve as receptionists a point of contact for callers and visitors;
2. handle non-emergency and overflow emergency calls;
3. enter appropriate information in the Agency CAD system;
4. maintain situational awareness of available Agency resources.
5. assist crime victims/witnesses and providing referrals
6. perform NCIC / METERS functions;
7. complete other assigned administrative tasks; and
8. perform other duties as assigned by the Commander, Communications.

C. RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section is directly responsible to the Commander, Support Services Division. The Deputy Director is the "Custodian of Records." The Deputy Director shall be responsible for oversight and management of all record-keeping functions, and evaluates and counsels the Records Supervisor, and disciplines subordinates. This includes the gathering and storage of information concerning calls for service, investigations, persons, photographs, administrative files, etc.

Deputy Director will:

1. manage all record-keeping functions;
2. supervise and evaluate the Records Supervisor;



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3. oversee data collection, storage, retention, and lawful expungement of records;
4. ensure compliance with Agency policies and state regulations;
5. manage the agency's records request portal;
6. oversee the Body Worn Camera Unit;
7. prepare / submit crime statistics to the Maryland State Police; and
8. approve and release of materials in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act.

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section shall be the authority for the disposal of any record or files and will establish time tables for the retention and disposal of various types of records and files. The Deputy Director, Records Management Section is responsible for the lawful expungement of records.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR

The civilian Records Management Supervisor coordinates the daily operations of the Records Management Section by dissemination of daily assignments to each police records technician. He performs other related work and special assignments as directed by the Deputy Director, Records Management Section to include:

1. troubleshooting report classification and coding issues;
2. overseeing the Expungement Process in adherence with legal requirements; and
3. training, evaluating, and disciplining personnel as needed

POLICE RECORDS TECHNICIANS

Civilian Police Records Technicians assigned to the Records Management Section are responsible for the processing of all materials entering the section. This includes:

1. processing reports per Records SOP;
2. reviewing reports for proper NIBRS classification and coding;
3. fulfilment of records requests for the public or other law enforcement agencies;
4. performing records checks; and
5. preparing U.S. mail for pickup.

Police records technicians perform other related work and special assignments delegated by the Records Supervisor and/or the Deputy Director as needed.

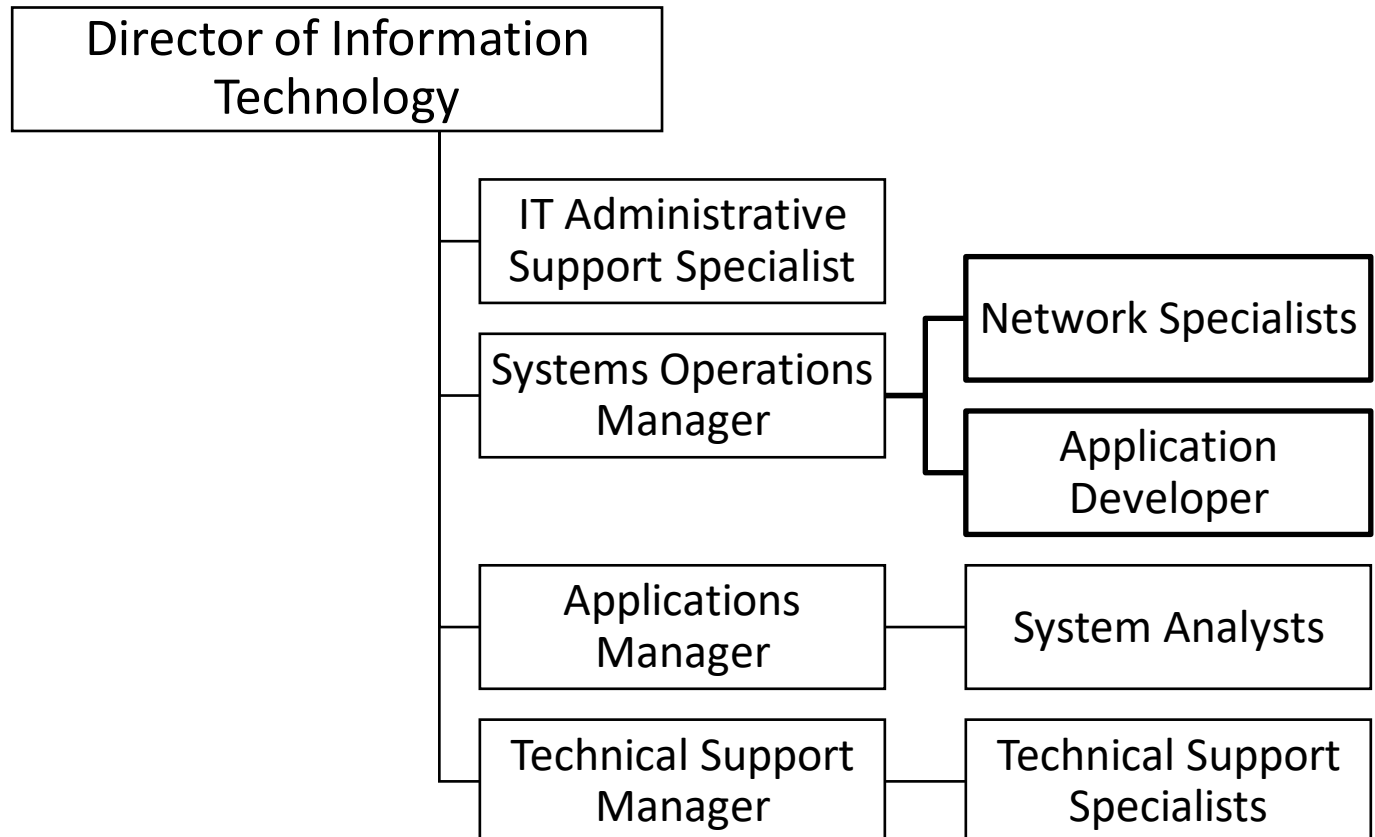
OFFICE ASSOCIATE

The Office Associate position is held by a civilian and is responsible for providing administrative support to the section, to include performing data entry, responding to inquiries, assisting visitors and other duties as assigned. This position is responsible to the Records Management Supervisor.



2-700

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION





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2-700.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (ITD)

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. SYSTEMS OPERATIONS SECTION
- C. APPLICATIONS SECTION
- D. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The ITD is commanded by a civilian director who reports directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Director is responsible for ensuring the ITD is responsive to the agency's needs and for managing the ITD overall. ITD consists of three sections: Systems Operations Section, Applications Section, and the Technical Support Section.

The position of IT Administrative Support Specialist is held by a civilian reporting directly to the Director, ITD, and providing support to all the units within ITD in the following areas:

1. administration of the ITD Help Desk;
2. coordination of the work order responses to the user population;
3. assistance with creation of documentation; and
4. tracking of requisitions and purchase orders used by ITD.

DIRECTOR, ITD

The Director, ITD, is a civilian who reports to the Assistant Sheriff, Administration and is responsible for all hardware, software, network communications links, and the processing of information within the Agency and, in certain areas, the processing of information outside the Agency. This responsibility includes:

1. acquisition and maintenance of hardware and software systems;
2. continued review of applicability of existing information systems;
3. exploration of new technologies that would enhance the efficiency of Agency information systems;
4. oversight of the use of all information systems within the Agency;
5. creation of user manuals or acquisition of existing manuals;
6. maintenance of all hardware and software systems either through ITD personnel or outside contractors;
7. maintenance of all data communication links and network hardware and software;
8. creation and/or modification of software used within the Agency;
9. satisfaction of requests for statistical data;
10. upkeep of the Agency website and development and use of an in-house Intranet site; and
11. response to user calls for service and technical problem resolution on a 24-hour, 7-day basis.

B. SYSTEMS OPERATIONS SECTION

The Systems Operations Section consists of the civilian positions of Network Specialist and Application Developer. These positions report to the Systems Operations Manager. This section is responsible for all network hardware and software applications, to include:

1. oversight of the network LAN and WAN connections;
2. administration of the network software;
3. administration of the network user population;
4. maintenance of the network devices;
5. establishment of new network connections;
6. monitoring network use and identification of bottlenecks;



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7. maintenance and support of the UNIX servers;
8. evaluation of new technologies; and
9. administration of network backup systems.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS MANAGER

The Systems Operations Manager position is held by a civilian who is tasked with supervising the Systems Operations Section and all of the critical network and server hardware and software systems within the Agency.

NETWORK SPECIALIST

The Network Specialist position is held by a civilian who is tasked with supervising the critical network infrastructure within the agency in coordination with the Systems Operations Manager.

APPLICATION DEVELOPER

The Application Developer position is responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of all websites, applications, scripts, and databases developed by the Charles County Sheriff's Office. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining and supporting all web servers and related network infrastructure.

C. APPLICATIONS SECTION

The Applications Section consist of the civilian position of System Analyst. The Application Section is responsible for maintaining the software used by the Agency and other allied agencies with respect to our computerized records for police calls and reports. This section works closely with personnel who utilize this software in the following areas:

1. Police communications and the County 911 Fire and EMS in Computer Aided Dispatch;
2. Police Station Technicians at the district stations in calls for service start up and tracking;
3. Records, Narcotics, and CID in Records Management;
4. Civil and warrant units in civil process and warrant tracking;
5. Child Support Enforcement Unit;
6. the Detention Center in arrest processing and jail intake and tracking of incarcerated individuals;
7. Patrol operations and community policing; and
8. the PC-based office software used throughout the Agency.

APPLICATIONS MANAGER

The Applications Manager is a civilian tasked with supervision of the Applications Section with responsibility for:

1. interaction with the software vendor concerning problems and enhancements;
2. interaction with system users including resolution of problems, training, and documentation;
3. development of ad-hoc reports;
4. continued assessment and audit of system security issues; and
5. evaluation of upgrades and / or new software products that would benefit the Agency.

SYSTEMS ANALYST

The Systems Analyst position is held by a civilian responsible to the Applications Section. The Analyst will perform duties as indicated in the position description maintained in the Agency's Human Resources Section and other duties as assigned.

D. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION

The Technical Support Section is overseen by the Technical Support Manager and is responsible for all PC



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hardware, software, and related peripherals such as printers, scanners, etc.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT MANAGER

The position of Technical Support Manager is held by a civilian tasked with supervision of the Technical Support Section with responsibility for:

1. establishment of PC operational procedures;
2. all PC installations and movements within the Agency;
3. keeping abreast of all improvements in hardware and software;
4. interaction with the software and hardware vendors concerning problems and technology enhancements;
5. interaction with PC users including resolution of problems, training and documentation;
6. PC software and hardware inventory; and
7. continued assessment and audit of system security issues.

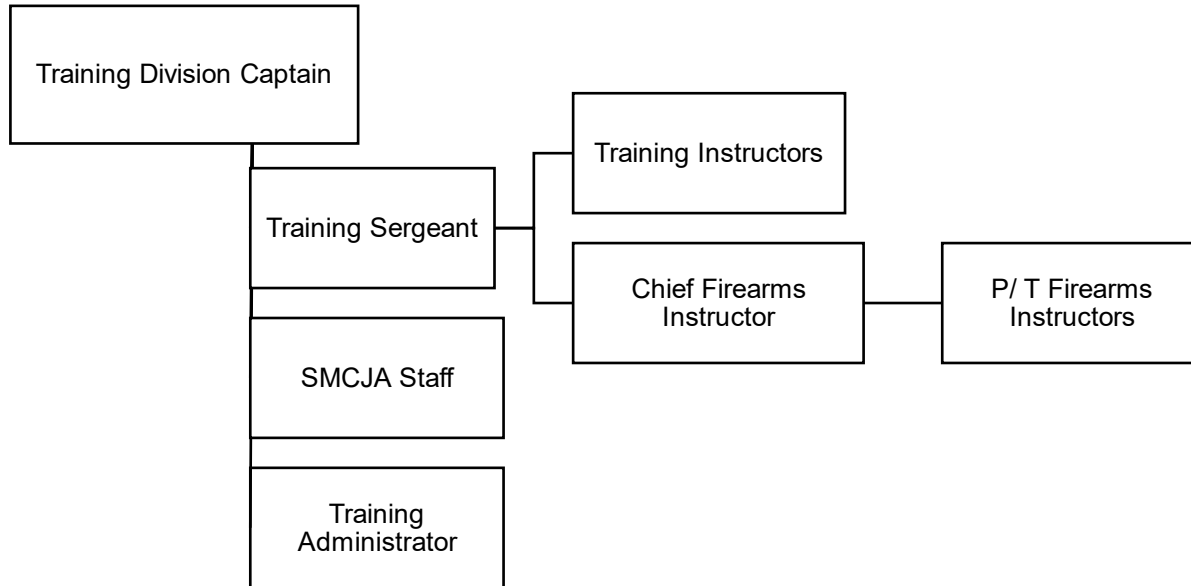
TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

The Technical Support Specialists report to the Technical Support Manager. They will perform duties as indicated in the position description maintained in the Agency's Human Resources Section and other duties as assigned.



2-800

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - TRAINING DIVISION



**Administrative and Operational Manual****April 1, 2026****2-800.1 TRAINING DIVISION****(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)**

- A. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATION
- B. SOUTHERN MARYLAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY (SMCJA)
- C. TRAINING UNIT
- D. FIREARMS TRAINING DETAIL

A. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATION

The Training Division has direct responsibility for the overall management of all Agency training, even though some training programs are sponsored, conducted, or administered by other entities.

The component is comprised of sworn Agency training personnel, the Training Administrator, Agency personnel assigned to the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy (SMCJA), and the Firearms Training Detail.

COMMANDER, TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division is commanded by a sworn Captain who reports directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Field and Support. The Commander is responsible for the direct supervision of subordinate personnel and the performance of administrative duties pertaining to the daily operation of the division. He is responsible for the performance of all personnel assigned to this command. The Training Division Commander shall inspect the personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources assigned to his command on a regular basis. He shall be responsible for maintaining these elements of his command in compliance with the policies set forth in this Manual and in other official directives of the Agency. Additionally, the Training Commander is responsible for coordinating the Agency Training Advisory Council (TAC) detailed elsewhere in policy.

TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

This civilian position involves a variety of administrative duties relative to the operation of the Training Division, specifically the Training Unit. This employee handles requests for training, registration, travel, expenses, and other related items. Specialized Agency training programs conducted or organized by the Agency are coordinated through this office. The Training Administrator regularly coordinates with the three Assistant Sheriffs to ensure Agency training is properly scheduled, organized, financed and within budget. The Training Administrator interacts with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) to ensure Agency personnel have met all training requirements and that training is properly documented and reported to MPCTC. The Training Administrator is responsible for addressing any concerns of the Commission and responding to audits of training records requested by MPCTC. Additionally, the Training Administrator will compile records and information to satisfy any applicable standards mandated by CALEA. This position also serves as the Systems Administrator for the Agency online training website. The Training Administrator reports directly to, and is supervised by, the Commander, Training Division.

B. SOUTHERN MARYLAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY (SMCJA)

The Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy (SMCJA) is an institution supported by the Agency through monetary payments and dedication of personnel. It is the institution of choice for mandated sworn and correctional officer entry level training.

The Commander of the SMCJA is responsible to the Sheriffs of Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties collectively for the operation of this institution. However, the personnel assigned from the Charles County Sheriff's Office to staff the institution are assigned to the Training Division.

At the beginning of the entry level training program, Academy staff will provide a copy of the Academy rules and regulations governing the recruit's daily activities while attending the academy. Through a curriculum developed



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by the SMCJA, the Academy's training staff will ensure that all training objectives required by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) are met, to include evaluation and testing of recruit officers to verify competency. Evaluation and testing are conducted mainly through observation, demonstration of skills, and written testing.

The Assistant Sheriff of Field and Support will monitor the activities of the personnel assigned to the SMCJA and determine that their job performance is to the credit of the Agency. He will assist the Sheriff in maintaining an awareness of the programs and operations of the SMCJA.

The Supervisor of the Training Unit is a sworn Sergeant who reports directly to the Commander, Training Division. The supervisor of the Training Unit is charged with the responsibility of the continual evaluation of the Agency employee levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) in relationship to the performance of tasks required of the employee as a result of the employee's position within the Agency. In this regard, the Training Unit must provide training opportunities which close any gap between the KSA needed and those possessed.

TRAINING COORDINATOR

The Training Coordinator is a civilian responsible to the Commander SMCJA with responsibility for:

1. Instructing annual in-service training, as well as entrance level training for both correctional and law enforcement officer programs;
2. Developing and conducting training programs to certify and qualify employees as mandated by the MPTSC.

TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Training instructors are sworn and part-time civilian positions responsible to the Commander, SMCJA and/ or the Training Division Commander, based on their assignment, with responsibility to:

1. Instruct annual in-service training and entrance level training for both correctional and law enforcement officer programs;
2. Develop and conduct training programs to certify and qualify employees as mandated by the MPTSC;
3. Prepare teaching materials for new training programs; review, evaluate, and modify existing and proposed programs and recommend appropriate changes.

C. TRAINING UNIT

The Supervisor of the Training Unit is a sworn Sergeant who reports directly to the Commander, Training Division. The supervisor of the Training Unit is charged with the responsibility of the continual evaluation of the Agency employee levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) in relationship to the performance of tasks required of the employee as a result of the employee's position within the Agency. In this regard, the Training Unit must provide training opportunities which close any gap between the KSA needed and those possessed.

Following is a list of some of the specific tasks assigned to the Training Unit and the Training Administrator. The supervisor will see that these and other associated responsibilities are managed to the benefit of the Agency and the citizens of Charles County.

1. Training files will be maintained for each employee of the Agency, to include a record of each training program attended.
2. A record of each training program conducted by the Agency shall be maintained. This record will contain, at least, the course content (lesson plan), the names of attendees, and their association if they are from



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outside the Agency, and the performance of each attendee as measured by tests (if administered).

3. A record will be kept and an analysis made of funds expended to accomplish training in order to gain the greatest benefit-to-cost ratio.
4. There will be a monitoring process to determine that all required or mandated training is being accomplished.
5. There will be a continual search for the best training programs, methods, and techniques available to accomplish Agency training.
6. Support will be provided for the Agency Training Advisory Council, and the Council's recommendations will guide the Commander in choosing subject material for Agency training.
7. A master lesson plan file will be maintained for all training conducted by the Agency or at the direction of the Agency in any on-going format. This file will retain lesson plans for programs which have been discontinued or changed, maintaining the outdated plans for support of any future litigation regarding training. These lesson plans will contain at least:
 - a) a statement of performance and job-related objectives;
 - b) the content of the training and specifications of the appropriate instructional techniques;
 - c) a statement authorizing that the lesson plan is approved for a particular training purpose under the authority granted the Commander, Training Division; and
 - d) identification of any tests used in the training process and the acceptable score for receiving credit for successful completion of the program.
8. A remedial training policy is established and administered which is designed to ensure that any deficiencies noted in training or in actual performance of Agency tasks are identified and corrected.
9. Oversight will be maintained of new employee on-the-job training and in-service training, to include specialized training for all employees who may be promoted to new positions or duties.
10. Oversight of training necessary to assure compliance with the Agency's EEOC Plan will be maintained.

D. FIREARMS TRAINING DETAIL

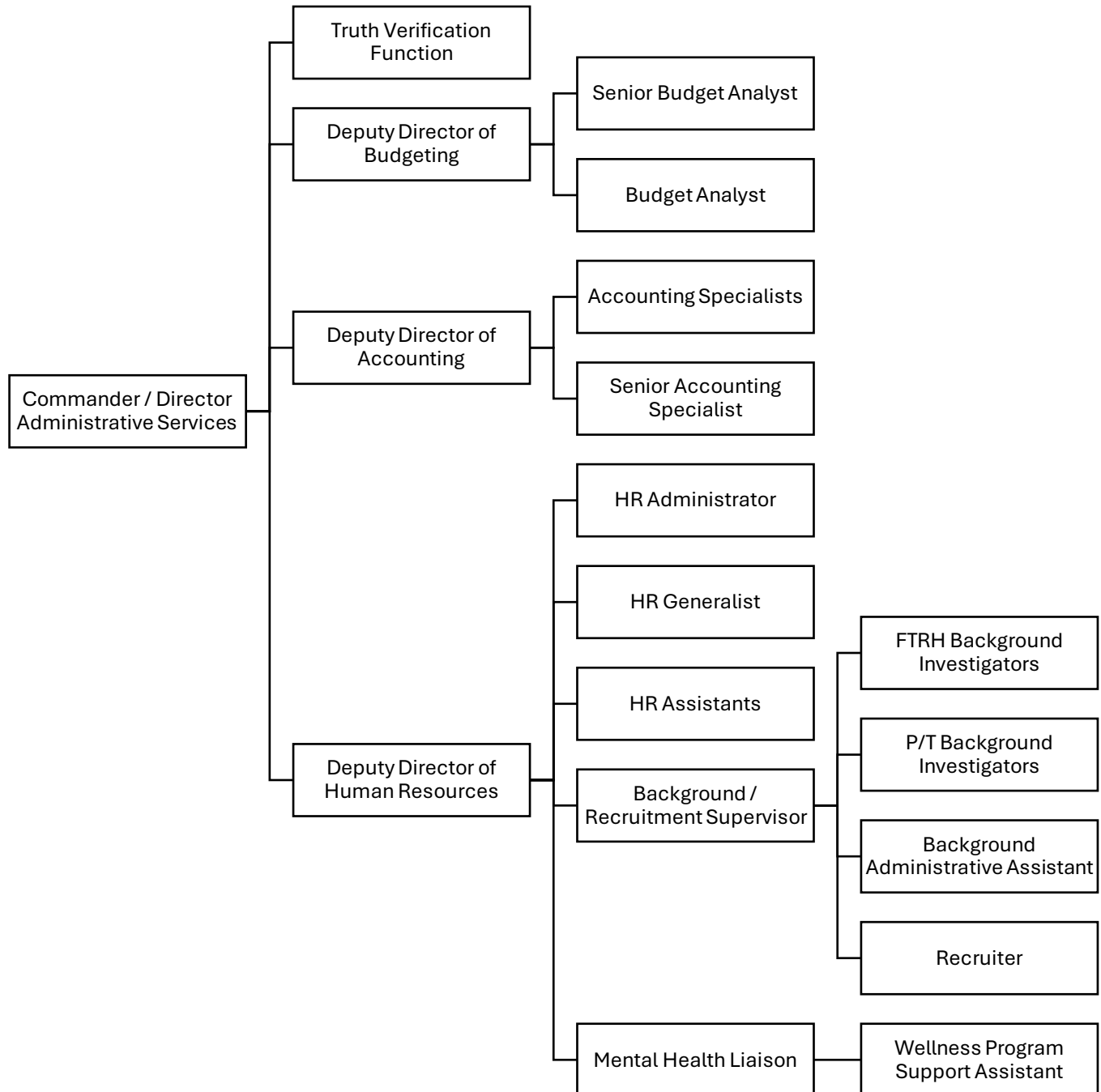
This Detail is comprised of firearms instructors, including the Agency Chief Firearms Instructor, who provide training to all personnel. This component is responsible to provide initial training, in-service training, and specialized training to entry level, in-service level, and even retired level personnel. Instruction in handguns, rifles, shotguns, and special use weapons is required. The Chief Firearms Instructor will make sure that all requirements for Agency personnel to use firearms, both in policy and law, are complied with insofar as the administration of training can accomplish this.

CHIEF FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

The Chief Firearms Instructor is a full time civilian who is responsible for the supervision and coordination of the firearms instructors and the day to day operations of the Firearms Training Detail. The Chief Firearms Instructor will ensure that all firearms programs meet MPTSC standards and any instruction provided to Agency personnel will be properly recorded and documented. The Chief Firearms Instructor is also responsible for the Agency Armory facilities and tracking all firearms and ammunition utilized by the Agency. The Chief Firearms Instructor reports directly to the Supervisor, Training Unit.



2-900 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



**Administrative and Operational Manual****April 1, 2026****2-900.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION****Last Reviewed: September 5, 2025**

- A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. ACCOUNTING SECTION
- C. BUDGETING SECTION
- D. HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION

A. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Administrative Services Division is managed by a sworn commander the rank of captain or a civilian director who reports directly to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing the Agency's Budgeting, Accounting and Human Resources sections. The Commander / Director represents these sections during meetings with the Command Staff and the Sheriff. The Commander / Director is designated as the Agency's EEO Coordinator. The Commander / Director, in addition to the duties listed in the position description, is responsible for:

1. providing guidance and assistance to the Deputy Directors within the division on various issues;
2. overseeing the hiring process in order to hire and retain the best possible candidates to staff the various positions throughout the Agency;
3. managing and overseeing the Agency's budget development, approval, and implementation;
4. reviewing and approving the processes of background investigations, ensuring all legal requirements have been met;
5. researching alternative methods of testing applicants, ensuring the Agency is current in its processes;
6. acting as liaison between the Sheriff and Human Resources in order to assist the Sheriff with hiring decisions concerning police officers, corrections officers and higher level civilian positions;
7. overseeing the process of promotion by forming committees, chairing meetings, and otherwise ensuring the validity of the entire process;
8. controlling the re-evaluation of positions and their placement on pay scales;
9. evaluating and researching the Agency's rate of pay for the various positions within the Agency's classification plan; and
10. developing and submitting the Division budget and controlling the use of the approved budget.

TRUTH VERIFICATION FUNCTION

The Truth Verification Function is comprised of sworn members of the Agency who have successfully completed training from a recognized institution and who are to administer polygraph examinations. The Function will conduct tests using only instruments purchased by the Agency and approved by the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function. The Function will be supervised by a sworn member of the Agency holding the rank of Sergeant or higher.

The Truth Verification Function will be managed through the Administrative Services Division. On matters related to this Function, the supervisor will report to the Commander, Administrative Services. Examiners assigned to this Function will have regular assignments throughout the Agency, but will be available to conduct examinations when necessary. While in the performance of their duties in association with this Function, the examiners will be supervised by the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function. When not performing a task related to this Function, the examiners will be responsible to their assigned chain of command.

B. ACCOUNTING SECTION

The Accounting Section is administered by a civilian Deputy Director, who reports to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division. In the absence of the Deputy Director, Budgeting Section, the Deputy Director, Accounting Section acts as the Sheriff's liaison with County Government finance personnel and outside auditors.



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Accounting is composed of four major areas: Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Accounting, and Payroll.

Personnel assigned to the Accounting Section will be responsible to the Deputy Director, Accounting Section.

In addition, the Accounting Section is responsible for the following duties:

PAYROLL

The Accounting Section is responsible for processing the biweekly Payroll Change Notices and biweekly additional pay data entries received from the Agency timekeepers in accordance with the Charles County Government's Payroll office.

CASH FUNDS

The Accounting Section, in conjunction with division commanders and the Office of Professional Responsibility, is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of Agency cash fund accounts. Accounting shall maintain a record of all components or personnel who are authorized by the Sheriff to receive, maintain, or disburse cash.

JAIL ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Section is responsible for the bank reconciliations and related reports for both checking accounts at the Detention Center. In addition, the Accounting Section:

1. prepares monthly bank reconciliations and reports for the two bank accounts at the Detention Center; and
2. audits the petty cash fund monthly and replenishes funds as needed.

GRANT ACCOUNTING

Grant Accounting prepares monthly and quarterly financial reports of federal, state, and local grant programs and projects the Agency participates in and submits financial reports and documents to granting agencies for reimbursement.

The Accounting Section is responsible for monitoring and tracking the financials for all grants awarded to the Sheriff's Office. The Planning and Accreditation Section is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the programmatic grant process. The Deputy Director, Accounting and the Grant Coordinator work closely together to coordinate these efforts, especially during the grant reporting process throughout the life of the grant.

During the life of the grant, the Deputy Director, Accounting, as well as the Grant Coordinator, will maintain separate grant files. The Grant Coordinator will keep all signed grant application and award documents as well as any grant adjustments and programmatic report documents. The Deputy Director, Accounting (or designee) will keep all financial related documents as well as financial report documents. The Grant Coordinator will send all pertinent information to the Accounting Section to be maintained in the Agency's master file, along with all financial information relating to a particular grant award. A complete file must be maintained by the Accounting Section in order to meet audit and record retention requirements.

In addition, the Grant Coordinator and Deputy Director, Accounting will upload and maintain electronic grant documents on a designated shared network drive, which certain members of Planning and Accreditation, Budgeting and Accounting can access.

C. BUDGETING SECTION

The Budgeting Section is administered by a civilian Deputy Director, who reports to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division. The Deputy Director, Budgeting Section, acts as the Sheriff's liaison with County



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Government finance personnel and outside auditors.

The Budgeting Section is responsible for the management of the Agency budget process and the final budget preparation.

In addition, the Budgeting Section is responsible for the following duties:

1. Administers the Agency's annual operating and capital budgets, including grants, and the financial analysis of the Agency's fiscal operations.
2. Provides the County with information regarding the Sheriff's Office capital improvement program and lease / purchase program.
3. Prepares monthly and quarterly management and budget reports.
4. Provides technical assistance to other Agency components to ensure the availability of funds and compliance with the Agency's accounting procedures.
5. Prepares yearly projected expense and revenue budgets and meets with County Government personnel for annual budget requests.
6. Manages the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Agency's annual budget.
7. Provides timely and accurate financial analysis of the Agency's fiscal operations.
8. Maintains the monthly expenses and revenues for the Asset Forfeiture accounts following written guidelines in conjunction the Accounting Section.
9. Prepares monthly expense and revenue reports for SMCJA.
10. Prepares and maintains the master position control listing for the Agency.
11. Prepares and distributes the Agency pay scales.
12. Reviews all requests for financial appropriation from all operating units within the Agency.
13. Reviews contracts and leases for budget appropriations.

D. HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION

The Deputy Director, Human Resources, is responsible to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division, and plans, organizes, and controls all activities of the Human Resources Section, including the Pre-Employment / Recruitment Unit, and the Mental Health Liaison position. The Deputy Director is designated as the Agency Assistant Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator (EEOC).

Personnel assigned to Human Resources will be responsible to the Deputy Director.

In addition, the Human Resources Section is responsible for the following duties:

1. Establishing and maintaining personnel records;
2. Monitoring the accuracy of the employee personnel files;
3. Monitoring the performance evaluation programs;
4. Administering the Agency's grievance process;
5. Administering classification programs, including the classifying and reclassifying of positions, and



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- development and maintenance of a position description for each position within the personnel structure of the Agency;
6. Providing information to the Accounting and Budgeting sections concerning employment, terminations, and compensation;
 7. Administering time and attendance functions for the majority of Sheriff's Office employees;
 8. Monitoring benefits programs for all employment groups;
 9. Coordinating various educational benefit programs;
 10. Maintaining the computerized personnel program by entering and updating employee information;
 11. Scheduling and administering internal administrative tests for position upgrades and/or employee transfers;
 12. Producing and advertising all external job announcements;
 13. Receiving and filing employment applications;
 14. Entering applicant information into the Agency computerized personnel program;
 15. Reviewing all applications to determine eligibility;
 16. Organizing and scheduling various appropriate testing for all external candidates;
 17. Organizing the interview process for all internal and external candidates;
 18. Maintaining lists of eligible candidates for all positions;
 19. Maintaining contact with the applicant from the time the application is submitted to the final disposition of the application;
 20. Forwarding files of those applicants selected to continue in the process to the Pre-Employment / Recruitment Unit;
 21. Notifying, by letter, those applicants not chosen and reason;
 22. Notifying applicants selected for employment and establishing the orientation date;
 23. Acting as the clearinghouse for all external inquiries regarding current and former employees;
 24. Acting as a liaison between employees and the insurance carrier for workers' compensation claims;
 25. Administering and coordinating employees' Family Medical Leave;
 26. Overseeing the Agency orientation and exit interview process;
 27. Preparing EEOC annual reports and maintaining other records, reports, and logs to conform to EEOC regulations;
 28. Providing recommendations to Agency supervisors on various Human Resource related issues;
 29. Coordinating officers' certifications through the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC);
 30. Acting as the liaison to the MPCTC; and
 31. Coordinating internal position testing.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT/ RECRUITMENT

The Pre-Employment / Recruitment Unit is supervised by a civilian Background Supervisor and staffed by civilian background investigators who have prior police and human resources experience. The unit's mission is to ensure that only the applicants with the highest level of integrity are awarded positions within the Agency. The unit maintains a recruitment plan that is reviewed annually.

The pre-employment investigations process for Sworn and Corrections is conducted in accordance with mandated guidelines established by the MPCTC. All investigations are subject to Agency review on a continuing basis to ensure compliance and are also subject to external audit by state authorities at any time.

MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON

The Mental Health Liaison is an operational position that serves as the Charles County Sheriff's Office liaison and authority on mental health issues and wellness. This position provides assistance to employees who are in need of mental health services by coordinating and connecting employees with services which will aid them in coping with the challenges of crisis and issues related to mental health. The Liaison is responsible for facilitating, managing, and consulting for the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), Peer Support, and Crisis Intervention Team functions; and for conducting incident debriefs with employees, as required. The employee receives supervision from, and reports directly to, the Deputy Director Human Resources, Administrative Services



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Division. The Mental Health Liaison is assisted by a Wellness Program Support Assistant who reports directly to the Mental Health Liaison.

CHAPTER 3 – AGENCY ADMINISTRATION, UNIFORMS, AND APPEARANCE

3-100 AGENCY PERSONNEL SUBJECT TO SUMMONS OR SUBPOENA

3-100.1 DEFINITIONS

Summons – A summons is a command to appear in court directed to a defendant. Refer to AOM 3-658 for procedures relating to the receipt of a summons for civil litigation.

Subpoena – A subpoena is a command to appear in court to provide testimony, records, or both.

Subpoena testificandum – a subpoena to testify

Subpoena duces tecum – a subpoena to produce records. “Records” can include physical items such as evidence collected during an investigation.

3-100.2 SUBPOENAS

A subpoena can be served by a person over the age of 18 who is not a party to the case.

Unless a judge orders otherwise, a subpoena cannot command the production of records before a scheduled court hearing. Often, though, a subpoena will say that appearance at a hearing may be excused if the requested records are provided before the hearing. This is a courtesy for both sides; the party with the subpoena does not have to wait for the records, and the person in the subpoena does not have to go to court.

Any questions about a subpoena should be referred to the Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel should be contacted about any subpoena that requests confidential or privileged material such as information contained in a personnel file or relating to a disciplinary investigation conducted by the Office of Professional Responsibility.

Employees, whether on- or off-duty, will accept any subpoena or other legal court or civil process which is served on them personally unless such service directly interferes with an immediate police operation or task. Employees are encouraged to make arrangements to receive service when service will not interfere with the employee’s duties. Supervisors will not take officers out of service to enable attorneys or process servers to serve civil subpoenas.

A District Court subpoena may be served by first class mail. All other subpoenas must be physically handed to the person named in the subpoena or a person authorized to accept service. No employee, other than an attorney with the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to accept service of a subpoena on behalf of another employee. The Office of General Counsel may accept service after consultation with the employee named in the subpoena on a case by case basis.

3-100.3 STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – COURT NOTIFICATION PROGRAM (“eSubpoena”)

Agency personnel needed to testify for the State in a criminal proceeding will receive notice of court dates through the State’s Attorney’s Office’s court notification program, “eSubpoena.” Agency employees are expected to comply with e-Subpoena notifications from the State’s Attorney’s Office as if served with a subpoena.

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The program is accessible from the Sheriff's Office Intranet page, under the Tools heading on the Toolbar. The administrator of the program is a representative of the State's Attorney's Office (adminunit@charlescountymd.gov) and is the contact to have passwords reset or for any problems with the system. Questions about court cases should be directed as follows:

- Circuit: Contact the assigned attorney on the case. This can be viewed on the detail link in eSubpoena.
- Juvenile: (juvenile@charlescountymd.gov)
- District: (Dist_Ct_Group@charlescountymd.gov)

The eSubpoena Program contains all court cases scheduled for officers in both District Court (jailable traffic and any related charges, criminal cases) and Circuit Court. The officer will be able to view all pertinent information for each of his cases, including the subpoena for the case. The program does not include information for subpoenas issued from defense attorneys or attorneys in civil lawsuits.

Officers should receive notifications of new subpoenas awaiting their acceptance and updates on cases by way of email. Officers are directed to check their email each work day for any new subpoenas or status updates such as the case being canceled or called off. Officers shall also log into the eSubpoena system weekly to ensure they are aware of any outstanding subpoenas and status updates. The attorney assigned to the case may also be in contact with the officer directly via email. Officers need to appear in court unless they have been called off or canceled. The State's Attorney's Office no longer utilizes the "on call" feature.

Supervisors will have the ability to check their subordinates' court cases and determine whether they have opened / viewed their subpoenas and on what date. They can also view the status of each case as well as the subpoenas for the case. Supervisors and commanders should log into the eSubpoena system periodically to ensure their staff is keeping current with accepting any outstanding subpoenas.

3-100.4 DISTRICT COURT – PAYABLE TRAFFIC DOCKETS

Officers will receive notification of all District Court dates from the District Court via the Administrative Associate – Patrol. The District Court notices include criminal cases, "must appear" traffic offenses, and payable traffic offenses. All employees are expected to appear in District Court for payable citations when notified of a date by the Court. Court appearances for criminal and "must appear" traffic offenses are controlled by the State's Attorney's Office's eSubpoena program.

3-100.5 UNAVAILABILITY FOR COURT; SAO AND DISTRICT COURT NOTIFICATIONS

When an officer knows in advance he will be unavailable for court due to approved leave, training, or other circumstances, the officer shall submit a Court Notifications Form #528, at least 30 days in advance, to his supervisor. Forms will be reviewed and signed by the officer's supervisor and commander. The commander will ensure the proper notations are made to the State's Attorney's eSubpoena program with the appropriate leave and days the officer will be unavailable. The form will then be forwarded to:

- Administrative Associate – Patrol (all divisions outside of CID);
- CID Administrator (CID).

The coordinator in each division will be responsible for preparing and sending an email to the District court and the State's Attorney's Office. A copy of the email and all forms will be kept on file for a period of three years. Officers should check their calendars routinely to ensure their leave was posted correctly.

The Agency cannot excuse an officer who has received a summons or subpoena from attending court. When an officer receives a summons from the courts (excluding payable traffic court), either prior to or after submitting a Court Notifications Form to the State's Attorney's Office, it is the officer's responsibility to contact the State's Attorney's Office. Payable traffic court cannot be rescheduled.



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District Court dates for criminal and traffic proceedings are published for the calendar year in advance. Scheduled leave requests should not interfere with those dates.

When an officer on approved sick and safe leave is unable to appear in response to a State's Attorney notification, he will make a personal notification to the State's Attorney's Office and make note of the date and time and the person to whom the notification was made.

3-100.6 SUBPOENAS FOR NON-RECORDS MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

An employee who has been served with a subpoena to appear in court should comply with the subpoena except as described below:

- Unavailable on the scheduled hearing date: notify supervisor and the Office of General Counsel.
- The subpoena seeks productions of records not under the employee's control: forward the subpoena to Records Management with a copy to the Office of General Counsel.
- Disclosure of records would be contrary to the Agency's interests (for example, disclosure of information about a confidential informant): notify the Office of General Counsel.
- Employees need to appear in court unless they have been called off or canceled by the party who issued the subpoena.

3-100.7 SUBPOENAS – RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Records Management has the primary responsibility to respond to subpoenas duces tecum. Unless directed otherwise by the Office of General Counsel, records disclosed pursuant to a subpoena will be redacted in the same manner as records requests received under the Maryland Public Information Act.

Criminal Cases

Upon receipt of a subpoena for a criminal case, Records Management will forward a copy of the subpoena to the State's Attorney's Office. District Court subpoenas are to be forwarded to the State's Attorney's Office District Court coordinator. Circuit Court subpoenas are to be forwarded to the State's Attorney's Office Circuit Court coordinator. Records Management will inform the State's Attorney's Office that the Sheriff's Office intends to comply with the subpoena unless asked to do otherwise within a period not to exceed 3 days.

- If there is no response from the State's Attorney's Office: Records Management will comply with the subpoena and send a copy of records disclosed to the State's Attorney's Office.
- If the State's Attorney's Office has already provided the requested records: Records Management will contact the attorney who issued the subpoena to determine if the material is still being requested from the Sheriff's Office.
- If the State's Attorney's Office will file a motion to quash the subpoena: Records Management will notify the Office of General Counsel. Records Management will not comply with the subpoena until directed to do so by the Office of General Counsel.

Civil Cases

Upon receipt of a subpoena for a civil case, Records Management will determine if the subpoena requests records relating to an open investigation. If the records relate to an open investigation, Records Management will contact the investigating officer. If the investigating officer believes disclosure will interfere in the investigation, Records Management will contact the Office of General Counsel.

3-100.8 SUBPOENAS – DETENTION CENTER

The Custodian of Records for the Detention Center has primary responsibility to respond to subpoenas duces



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tecum for Detention Center records.

Upon receipt of a subpoena, the Custodian will assemble the records sought. The Custodian will forward the records and the subpoena to the Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel will review the material prior to providing it to the requesting party. In criminal cases, the Office of General Counsel will send a copy of the subpoena and records to the State's Attorney's Office unless the request is for an incarcerated individual's medical records or other records protected by privilege.

If the subpoena requests records relating to an incarcerated individual other than the defendant, the Custodian will forward the subpoena to the Office of General Counsel prior to assembling the requested records. The Office of General Counsel may contact the attorney for the affected incarcerated individual. The Office of General Counsel will then advise the Custodian as to the appropriate response to the subpoena.

3-101 ATTENDING COURT

Upon arriving for a court appearance, regardless of duty status, employees will swipe their key card against the log-in panel located near the security desk of the courthouse they are attending. This action verifies the employee's attendance for the case(s) they are appearing for. Employees will also swipe out at the log-out panel located near the main exit door when the employee leaves the courthouse after being released. If the employee has to return to the courthouse for other cases, the employee will swipe in again to verify their attendance for those cases and swipe out after being released.

Employees will submit and document overtime on their timesheets as required. Audits of this process will be conducted.

3-104 EMPLOYEES AS LITIGANTS - PROHIBITIONS

Employees, while appearing in any court for a personal case not related to official Agency business, shall not wear the Agency uniform or other items of identification which make it apparent they are employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Examples of such cases include:

- Defendant in a criminal proceeding;
- Litigant in a civil proceeding;
- Party to an action;
- Witness in a case not related to official duties;
- Juror.

In all the above cases, with the exception of jury duty, the employee's personally earned and accrued leave must be used to cover work time which the employee misses. Sick and safe leave will not be granted in these cases except as provided in AOM 3-609. As stated elsewhere in policy, employees who serve on jury duty will be permitted to be absent from their duties, as needed, without loss of pay or a charge against any leave.

3-105 OFFICERS AS WITNESSES

An officer summoned or requested to testify on behalf of a defendant in a criminal case shall, as soon as possible after having been summoned or requested, notify the appropriate prosecutor prior to the trial



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3-106 AGENCY MAIL HANDLING

It is the responsibility of the commander, director, or manager of each Agency component to ensure that mail, to and from the component, is expeditiously handled. This means that components which work a 24 / 7 schedule will move mail at least once in each period of the day (evenings, nights, and days); and all other components will move mail at least once for each day of the week for which any of the component's personnel work.

To facilitate this process, the Headquarters Mail Room is the focal point for all pick-up and deliveries. Mail will be dropped-off and picked-up at the Headquarters Mail Room as required by the previous paragraph, and as amplified by the following paragraph.

Mail for delivery by the US Postal Service will be processed through the La Plata Post Office (Zip Code 20646). Transport of US Mail between the La Plata Post Office and Headquarters will be the responsibility of the Commander, Corrections Division, who shall utilize Corrections Transport Officers to fulfill this function. US Mail coming into the Agency will be delivered to the Records Section for sorting and distribution.

3-106.1 MAIL REQUIRING SIGNATURES

When there is mail to be picked up at the Post Office which requires a signature, the Corrections Transport Officer will sign for that mail. Any such mail received will be bundled and delivered to the Assistant Sheriff of Operations' Administrative Coordinator. The Administrative Coordinator will see that this mail is delivered through the chain of command to the addressee. Any notice of mail to be signed for at the Post Office will be handled in like manner.

3-106.2 CADET MAIL DELIVERY

There are regularly scheduled mail runs which are staffed by Agency cadet personnel. There are occasions and sometimes periods when there are no cadet personnel available to staff these mail runs. When these runs do take place, they relieve the various commanders of the responsibility for mail pick-up and delivery. The schedule for these runs is:

- Monday through Friday:
 - 0900 to 1100, and
 - 1600 to 1800; then
- Saturday and Sunday:
 - 1200 to 1400 hours.

If these mail-runs do not occur during the scheduled hours, the various commanders will ensure the mail is moved as previously required by this policy.

3-106.3 MAIL NEEDING US POSTAGE

Whenever mail to be sent via the US Postal Service needs postage applied to the envelope or package, it can be brought to the Records Section Office at Headquarters where postage will be applied. This applies only to official Agency correspondence. Once mail has been weighed and franked, it may be left at Records for delivery to the US Post Office on the next scheduled mail-run, or it may be carried to the Post Office by the Agency person needing the item mailed. Outgoing Mail Codes Form #756 will be attached to all envelopes or packages with the proper Agency account circled.



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3-107 RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The ride-along program is designed to provide a vehicle for persons who have an interest in the operations of the Agency, to acquire first-hand knowledge of these operations. The expected benefit is a more knowledgeable community regarding the operations of the Agency, and therefore a community more supportive of the Agency. This program is the responsibility of Patrol operations commanders. The Patrol Commanders will administer the program; however, with approval of other component commanders, a ride-along may take place within any facet of the Agency.

This policy sets forth guidelines regarding the Agency's ride-along program. Specifically, the policy defines that persons who demonstrate a legitimate interest in the operations of the Agency may request permission for a ride-along. Persons who may present a liability to the operations of the Agency may be excluded from participation. Participation is limited, in any event, to a level needed to accomplish the purpose of the program. Generally, several ride-along sessions will suffice. However, the Patrol operations commanders, or other commanders, in the case where the ride-along is to take place within their component, may approve additional ride-along sessions to accomplish a specific purpose or goal. All ride-along participants will be subject to a criminal records check. Ride-alongs are permitted during day and evening shifts only and will not be authorized for the midnight shift.

Employees of the Agency, who are designated by their supervisory authority to ride-along during their work hours for familiarization, and Agency Chaplains are not considered a part of this program. They are not required to complete the ride-along application or waiver. They must, however, complete and have approved the Ride-Along Program Authorization, located in the Ride-Along Program Packet #38. This form provides a means of tracking ride-along activity of all participants. Employees and Chaplains are required to conform to the Guidelines for Ride-Along Participants found in the Ride-Along Program Packet during their participation in the program.

Employees of the Agency, the Charles County Government, and Agency Chaplains, who wish, on their own time, to participate in the program, are required to complete the Ride-Along Program Packet #38. These requests will generally be honored unless they become an obstacle to normal operations of the Agency. Due to the Agency Chaplains' duties and responsibilities, requests made on short notice will be accommodated.

Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Public Safety Cadets Unit are required to conform to all requirements of the Agency's Public Safety Cadets Unit. Adherence to this policy is essential for the efficient operation of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, as well as for the protection of Agency members and the community.

3-107.1 GENERAL

- Participants must be at least 15 years of age.
- Participants must complete Ride-Along Program Packet #38 prior to the commencement of any ride-along. Juvenile participants must have a parent or guardian sign these documents.
- Participation may be limited by commanders when they believe such limitation is in the best operational interests of their command.
- Participants will generally be assigned to a one-officer unit and will never accompany a Field Training Officer (FTO) training a recruit officer.
- Participants must be properly attired and observe proper personal hygiene habits.
- All requests must be made at least three days in advance (the affected division commander may waive this requirement at the division commander's discretion).



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- All participants shall be subject to a criminal records check.
- A supervisor shall instruct the ride-along participants concerning the following:
 - participants must follow directions of the officer they are accompanying; and
 - participants may be required to appear as a witness in a court; and
 - participants may end the ride whenever the participants wish; and
 - a review of the guidelines will be conducted with the ride-along participant and any participant questions answered.

3-107.1.1 SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Persons may request to participate in the ride-along program for a number of reasons and may come from any area of our society. From students completing an educational project, to sworn officers from other agencies considering employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office, to friends and relatives of current officers and government officials seeking a better understanding of the responsibilities and duties of a police officer, to assessors examining the Agency for compliance with CALEA standards, many individuals have legitimate reason to request a ride-along. It therefore becomes important to differentiate between these persons and what they may and may not participate in to better ensure their safety and the integrity of the Agency's investigations and other activities.

Generally, persons participating in a ride-along who are not employees of this Agency shall not be permitted to enter:

- the private property of any victim, complainant, witness, suspect, or accused;
- the secure areas of any detention facility, to include the Charles County Detention Center;
- the secure areas of any State facility; i.e., Boys' Village at Cheltenham;
- the restricted areas of any facility; i.e., hospital morgues; and
- any other place to which the general public would not otherwise have access.

Officers encountering these situations during a ride-along will deliver the participant to an Agency district station or, if impractical, have the participant remain in the car or an area of public access. An exception may be made for Public Safety Cadets (in uniform), Criminal Justice Students (in uniform) and Cadets (in uniform) with prior approval from a participant's parent as well as the facility or property owner in question. Officers must consider not all facilities will allow civilian personnel to enter, no matter what their affiliation.

3-107.2 RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

All ride-along program packets are to be submitted to the police station technicians. They will review the application for completeness and conduct a record check of the applicant, to include Local, MILES, and NCIC. A copy of the result of the record check will be attached to the application package, and it will be forwarded to the Administrative Associate – Patrol.

Upon receipt of the program packet, the Administrative Associate – Patrol will review the package to determine eligibility. Once the applicant is determined to be eligible to participate, the applicant information will be logged into the database and the package will be forwarded to the appropriate Patrol Division Commander for dissemination to the designated shift commander.



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The shift commander will contact the applicant to schedule the ride-along. Once the ride-along is completed, the shift commander shall ensure the comments section of the application is completed and will forward the packet back to the Administrative Associate - Patrol to be filed.

3-107.3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICER

The officer directly accompanying the ride-along participant shall:

- refrain from engaging the participant in dangerous situations whenever possible;
- know and understand the Guidelines for the Ride-Along Participants located in Packet #38.
- return the participant to the point of origin in any incident of objectionable behavior or interference. Should this occur, such action shall be documented by memorandum and forwarded through the chain of command to the employee's division commander, or designee;
- complete, at the end of the program or tour of duty, the Follow-Up Information section of the Ride-Along Program Authorization Form within the Ride-Along Program Packet #38 and forward same to the employee's division commander via the commander approving the ride-along.

3-107.4 PUBLIC SAFETY CADETS UNIT RIDE-ALONGS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is the sponsoring Agency for Public Safety Cadets Unit. As a requirement of the Public Safety Cadet's advancement in the Unit, they must participate in the Agency's ride-along program. While participating in this program, the Public Safety Cadet is considered an observer and is not given any authority to act as a law enforcement officer. Public Safety Cadets shall be treated as any other civilian participating in the program.

Training, expected conduct, qualifying requirements, and regulations are detailed in the Public Safety Cadets Unit SOP Manual.

3-107.4.1 OFFICER GUIDELINES

- Supervising officers with whom the Public Safety Cadet is scheduled to ride should be thoroughly familiar with the objectives of the Public Safety Cadets Unit generally, the CCSO Ride-Along Program specifically, and willingly accept the Public Safety Cadet for the ride-along;
- The supervising officer will be approved by the affected Shift/Section Commander, District Supervisor, and the Lead Mentor;
- As determined by the Shift/Section Commander, District Supervisor, and Lead Mentor, the officer will have no compromising disciplinary action on file;
- The supervising officer will be furnished with a copy of the Ride-Along Program Packet;
- The supervising officer will complete a Public Safety Cadets Evaluation Form #38E after the Public Safety Cadet's ride-along, which will be forwarded to the Lead Mentor through the district supervisor;
- Approval for the supervising officer participation in this program will be at the discretion of the Lead Mentor;



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- In the event a supervising officer has a problem with a Public Safety Cadet in the program, the officer will submit a typed letter stating the problem to the Shift/Section Commander, through the chain of command, for relay to the Lead Mentor.

3-107.4.2 HIGH RISK CALL/SITUATIONS

If, during the course of the ride-along, the supervising officer determines that further participation by the Public Safety Cadet could or would place the Public Safety Cadet in a high-risk situation, the supervising officer will disengage the Public Safety Cadet by one of the below-described methods. Any introduction of a Public Safety Cadet into an emergency or service call will be consistent with established Agency policy and procedures.

Option A

- The Public Safety Cadet will remain in the vehicle and observe;
- In the event of an emergency, should the officer be unable to request assistance, the Public Safety Cadet will transmit a call for back-up or medical assistance;
- The Public Safety Cadet will remain in the vehicle until the supervising officer has determined the situation is safe and under control. Only upon direct verbal authority from the supervising officer will the Public Safety Cadet be permitted to exit the vehicle.

Option B

Upon receiving a possible high-risk call, the supervising officer will discharge the Public Safety Cadet from the vehicle at the first safe and secure convenient location and transmit the Public Safety Cadet's location so that another unit can effect a pick up while the dispatched officer proceeds to the call.

In selecting a suitable locale for discharging the Public Safety Cadet, the supervising officer will consider the factors of lighting, shelter, safe environment, weather conditions, availability of telephones, and ease of discovery by responding pick up units, in conjunction with the exigencies of the circumstances of the call prompting this action.

3-108 EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL FILE

- A. PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE
- B. REVIEW BY SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY
- C. PERSONNEL RECORDS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW

A. PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the maintenance, access, and confidentiality of employee personnel files. This policy ensures that all employment-related documentation is handled in a consistent and secure manner, while also providing employees with reasonable access to their records.

1. Employees wishing to inspect their Personnel File must contact the Human Resources Section to make an appointment.
2. Within five working days of receiving the employee's request, the Human Resources Section will schedule an appointment during which the employee can review their file.
 - a) All appointments are scheduled during regular business hours.
3. The inspection of the Personnel File will take place in the offices of the Human Resources Section, in the



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presence of a Human Resources employee.

4. Employees may make notes, but may not remove or add materials to their Personnel File.
5. Employees are limited to one review of their Personnel File within a 12-month period.
 - a) The Commander / Director Administrative Services Division may authorize an exception to this limit upon written request of an employee.
6. An employee who reviews their Personnel File shall sign the Personnel File Log Book, which is maintained in the offices of the Human Resources Section.

ADVERSE MATERIAL

Adverse material (corrective action forms, formal counseling forms, letters of reprimand, etc.) shall be placed in the affected employee's personnel file in accordance with procedures in those respective policies.

B. REVIEW BY SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Officials who supervise the work of an employee may inspect the Personnel File of that employee. Supervisory personnel may review files for such purposes as:

1. familiarization by new supervisors with those employees within his responsibility; and
2. employment review for Agency recognition, such as:
 - a. retirement; and
 - b. "Officer of the Year" award; and
 - c. Agency Awards Banquet; and
3. Command Staff Review; for promotion/ transfer consideration.

Any commander, manager, supervisor, or other authorized supervisory authority who reviews an employee Personnel File shall sign, date, and indicate the reason for review in the Personnel File Log Book, which is maintained in the offices of the Human Resources Section.

C. PERSONNEL RECORDS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW

The following records, which comprise an employee's Personnel File, are subject to review:

1. Performance Ratings/ Evaluations;
2. Job Descriptions;
3. Payroll Change Notices;
4. Transfers/ Promotions/ Upgrades;
5. Corrective Action Forms;
6. Disciplinary Actions; and
7. Employee Commendations/ Awards.

3-109 NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE'S VITAL INFORMATION CHANGE

Employees must maintain a telephone, either cellular or landline. Telephone, address, and emergency notification information will be maintained by the Information Technology Division.

Employees will submit change of name, address, telephone and emergency notification information to the Human Resources Section within three days of the change. The Human Resources Section will ensure changes are made to the appropriate records and notify the appropriate sections of the Agency.



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3-110 RELEASE OF TELEPHONE OR ADDRESS INFORMATION

The telephone number or address of a current employee will not be released to anyone who is not employed by the Sheriff's Office. If it appears necessary that the member / employee be contacted immediately, an Agency employee will attempt to telephone that person and request that he call the concerned party. Otherwise, the inquiring party will be advised to either contact the employee during his next tour of duty or leave a message

The Patrol Division Administrator Coordinator will notify the Clerk of Charles County Circuit Court in writing of a sworn employee's departure in order that sworn members may be removed from the rolls of police officers of the County. The notification also allows the Circuit and District Courts, as well as the State's Attorney's Office, to properly address summonses necessary to require the appearance of prior employees.

3-111 SOLICITATION OF MEMBERS/ EMPLOYEES WHILE WORKING

Organizations will not be permitted to solicit the support of members / employees of this Agency during their on-duty time. No solicitation or distribution of literature shall be permitted where the orderly operation of the Agency would be impaired.

Individuals may be permitted to solicit support or distribute literature in public areas, such as parking lots and public entrances to buildings, but will not be permitted to interfere with any member / employee who is on duty.

3-113 FLAG PROTOCOL AND GESTURES OF RESPECT – GENERALLY

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is a paramilitary organization and as such, it is incumbent upon employees to observe and abide by some basic rules of military protocol. These include, but are not limited to:

- proper display and handling of the various flags utilized by the Agency;
- appropriate gestures of respect during the playing of the National Anthem;
- appropriate conduct during the passage of the U.S. Flag; and
- appropriate gestures of respect when reporting to or greeting a uniformed, commissioned officer or member of a formal board.

This section of policy is intended to give guidance to all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office in these matters as they pertain to Agency operations.

3-113.1 FLAGS

This Agency maintains and displays a number of flags both inside and outside its various facilities. Flags authorized for display, in strict hierarchal order, are:

- Flag of the United States;
- Flag of the State of Maryland;
- Flag of Charles County;
- Flag of the Charles County Sheriff's Office; and
- Flag of The National League of Families POW / MIA.

The Federal Flag Code and Maryland State law require certain protocol be observed when displaying and handling flags. Further, military protocol requires certain conduct when in the presence of the United States flag.



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The Commander, Property Management shall designate a person responsible for the flags at Charles County Sheriff's Office Headquarters. District commanders shall designate a person responsible for flags at each district station. For all other Agency facilities, the ranking commander / director assigned to that facility shall designate a responsible person. These persons shall see to it that all flags are displayed in accordance with this policy, to include:

- ensuring all flags being displayed are falling free, not damaged, and do not show excessive wear;
- ensuring flags are never allowed to touch the ground or floor while being displayed, raised, or lowered;
- ensuring all appropriate flags are lowered to half-staff at 0001 hours and raised again at 2400 hours in observance of the following:
 - Peace Officers Memorial Day - May 15th of each year, unless it conflicts with Armed Forces Day, in which case it will be observed on May 16th;
 - Memorial Day - the last Monday in May of each year, (half-staff until 1200 hours only);
 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - December 7th of each year; and
- any other time in response to official directive:
 - the U.S. flag may be lowered to half-staff by order of the President of the United States only;
 - the Maryland flag may be lowered to half-staff by order of the Governor of Maryland only;
 - the Charles County flag may be lowered to half-staff by order of the Charles County Commissioners only; and
 - the Charles County Sheriff's Office flag may be lowered to half-staff by order of the Sheriff of Charles County only.
- the Commander, Property Management shall be immediately notified whenever an official directive is received, and provided with its details;
- ensuring whenever any flag is flown at half-staff, each subordinate flag is appropriately lowered; i.e., the U.S. flag shall be the first flag raised and the last lowered in any display or ceremony;
- ensuring no flag is displayed in a position of higher honor than the U.S. flag, which is any of the following:
 - at the center of a group of flags on separate flagstaffs, and the central staff is the highest point;
 - at the highest point if on the same flagstaff; or
- on the flagstaff to the observer's extreme left if displayed with other flags on separate flagstaffs of equal height.
- ensuring proper (direct) illumination of flags displayed during hours of darkness; and
- ensuring no other flag displayed is larger than the U.S. flag displayed in the same forum.

The U.S. flag shall always be displayed with the field of union stars in the uppermost left position as viewed by the observer.



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The Maryland flag is most easily described as being divided into quadrants with the first and fourth quadrants consisting of alternating gold and black bands, and the second and third quadrants consisting of the cross bottony on fields of red and white. The flag is to be displayed with the black stripe of the first quadrant in the uppermost left position as viewed by the observer, regardless of the method of display (see following illustration).



The Maryland flag shall occupy the position of highest honor subordinate to the U.S. flag, or the flag of another nation if displayed. This would be:

- to the immediate right of the U.S. flag if on flagstaffs of equal height, as viewed by the observer;
- immediately below the U.S. flag if on the same flagstaff; or
- to the extreme left of the U.S. flag if the U.S. flag is displayed at the center point of a group of flags.

If the U.S. and Maryland flags are displayed in the same forum on separate crossed staffs of equal height, the U.S. flag should be on the left as viewed by the observer, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the Maryland flag.

If the U.S. and Maryland flags are displayed on staffs on a speaker's platform or at floor level in a public auditorium, the U.S. flag should be on the speaker's right as the speaker faces the audience, and the Maryland flag should be on the speaker's left. Alternately, both flags can be placed on the speaker's right.

The Charles County flag and the Charles County Sheriff's Office flag shall always be displayed in such a manner as to permit the observer to read the wording on the flag:

- upright if displayed horizontally;
- with the top of the flag to the observer's left if displayed vertically;
- the Charles County Sheriff's Office flag shall be displayed below the Charles County flag if on the same flagstaff; and
- the Charles County Sheriff's Office flag shall be displayed to the right of the Charles County flag as viewed by the observer, if on separate flagstaffs.

It shall be the prerogative of the Sheriff of Charles County to present to any person he deems appropriate, a replica of the Charles County Sheriff's Office flag. The replica may be of any size, style, or material as determined by the Sheriff.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office flag and its design are the property of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and



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may not be duplicated, displayed, bartered, traded, or sold without the permission of the Sheriff or his designee.

The finials or ornaments to be displayed at the top of flagstaffs shall be:

- U.S. flag - Eagle;
- Maryland flag - Gold Cross Bottony, (see illustration);
- Charles County flag - Ball on affixed flagstaffs, and Fancy Spear Point on movable or room flagstaffs; and
- Charles County Sheriff's Office flag - Ball on affixed flagstaffs, and Round Spear Point on movable or room flagstaffs.

3-113.1.1 POW / MIA FLAG

The National League of Families POW / MIA flag shall be flown every day of the year in memory of all prisoners of war and Americans missing in action. It shall be smaller than the U.S. flag as dictated by U.S. Flag protocol.

When flying the U.S. flag, the National League of Families POW / MIA flag, and the State flag from two poles, the POW / MIA flag should be flown from the same pole as the U.S. flag, beneath the U.S. flag, with the State flag flying from the pole to the left.

3-113.2 GESTURES OF RESPECT

When in uniform, officers will salute uniformed commissioned officers, who will return the salute. Indoors, only the Sheriff or the Chairman of a formal board (e.g., Hearing Board or Promotion Interview Board) will be saluted.

When reporting to a formal board in uniform, an officer will face and salute the highest ranking member of the board. If the officer is wearing a hat, the officer will remove it prior to being seated.

When the National Anthem is being played or sung, uniformed officers will stand at attention facing the flag and salute if wearing the hat. If the hat is not being worn, uniformed officers and employees in civilian attire will stand at attention facing the flag, and place their right hands over their hearts. If no flag is displayed, all employees will face toward the music and follow the same procedures as if the flag were present.

When the U.S. flag passes by, uniformed officers wearing hats will stand at attention facing the flag and salute until it passes. If the hat is not being worn, uniformed officers and employees in civilian attire will stand at attention, facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts until it passes.

Officers of this Agency are often called upon to assist with traffic direction at intersections for funeral processions. This is the final service police officers can perform for that person. Additionally, it may be the only opportunity the deceased's family has to form an impression of the Agency and its members.

As a gesture of respect to the deceased and support for the family, officers will stand at a funeral procession traffic post, coming to the position of attention and saluting as the hearse and car(s) of the immediate family pass the officer's position.

Officers must continually be aware, however, of all traffic movement occurring during a funeral procession, and take appropriate action to ensure both the officer's safety and that of the public.

3-114 SEPARATING FROM EMPLOYMENT

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

A. PURPOSE

B. EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION



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- C. RETIREMENT PROCEDURES
- D. DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP)
- E. TERMINAL LEAVE
- F. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
- G. EMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE FORM
- H. FINANCIAL AGREEMENT
- I. CLERK OF THE COURT NOTIFICATION
- J. EXIT INTERVIEWS

A. PURPOSE

All employees who separate from their employment with the Sheriff's Office, will comply with the following employment clearance procedures. The procedures are designed to ensure that uniforms, equipment, vehicles, supplies, money, and obligations owed to the Sheriff's Office, or other government entities, are paid and / or fulfilled. The procedures are also designed to provide that the employee will receive all compensation, benefits, or other obligations owed to the employee by the Sheriff's Office or other government entities. Nothing in this procedure will preclude the Sheriff's Office from instituting criminal and / or civil action as may be indicated by the circumstances of a particular employee's actions or activities.

B. EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

Employees who wish to resign their position with the Sheriff's Office shall submit a letter of resignation to the Sheriff through their chain of command. The letter will contain the date the employee plans to leave and will be submitted at least two weeks in advance of that date. Upon the acceptance of this letter by the Sheriff, a copy will be sent to Human Resources by the Sheriff's Executive Office Administrator. If circumstances require, the employee may request, or the Sheriff may require, that all or part of the two week period be waived.

Employees who return to employment with the Agency within three (3) years of their resignation will be issued the same employee identification number, if they return to the same Agency segment. If the employee returns to a different segment of the Agency, they will be issued a new employee identification number.

Employees shall not be absent from their place of employment nor abandon their duties without leave to do so. Any employee who does so will be considered to have abandoned his employment with the Office of the Sheriff, Charles County, Maryland.

Failure of the employee to comply with this section will result in a notation of these circumstances in the employee's personnel file.

C. RETIREMENT PROCEDURES

Eligible civilian employees who wish to retire must notify the Sheriff in writing through their chain of command at least thirty (30) days in advance of their intended retirement date.

Sworn and Correctional officers should notify the Sheriff through their chain of command at least sixty (60) days in advance of their intended retirement date. This will allow for the ordering of the personalized retirement badge and other administrative functions such as notification to the courts, State's Attorney's Office, applications for handgun permits, etc.

Upon receipt of the retirement notification, the Sheriff's Executive Office Administrator will forward the original to Human Resources for filing in employee's personnel file.



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Human Resources will prepare and disseminate a Personnel Order to all Agency personnel. Human Resources will make specific notification to the following personnel:

1. Agency Quartermaster so a retirement badge may be ordered,
2. Deputy Director, Accounting Section to prepare and submit a Payroll Change Notice to the following:
 - a) County Payroll Manager
 - b) County Benefits Coordinator
 - c) Agency Human Resources
3. Administrative Associate, Patrol Operations who will make notification to the Courts and State's Attorney's Office.

D. DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP)

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan includes a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for sworn officers, correctional officers and police communications officers. The DROP allows a participating employee to retire without terminating employment for a set period of time. During this time, retirement benefits accumulate and earn an interest rate that is determined at the date of entry into the DROP. At the time of termination from the DROP, a lump sum payment is disbursed and the employee begins receiving their regular retirement benefit. Detailed information for the DROP and how it is applied to specific employee classifications is located in the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan.

DROP ENROLLMENT

A sworn, correctional or police communications officer who wishes to participate in the DROP will complete the following:

1. The employee must have attained either the age or service requirement for their Normal Retirement Date at the effective date of participation in the DROP.
2. A binding letter of resignation will be submitted through the employee's chain of command to the Sheriff containing the following information:
 - a) The date they reached (or will reach) their Normal Retirement Date.
 - b) A request to participate in the DROP.
 - c) The effective date of DROP participation.
 - d) Their final deferred retirement date.
 - e) A completed Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan Election to Participate in Deferred Retirement Option Program form (County form).

After review, the Sheriff will provide a written response either denying or approving the request for DROP participation.

1. If denied, the employee has an option of continuing employment or initiating the regular retirement process.
2. If approved, the employee must submit the written response from the Sheriff, binding letter of resignation and completed Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan Election to Participate in Deferred Retirement Option Program form to the Charles County Government Department of Human Resources **ninety (90) days** prior to their effective date of DROP participation.



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3. A copy of the above documentation will be provided to the Human Resources Section for inclusion in the employee's personnel file, prior to their effective date of DROP participation.

An employee's election to participate in the DROP is irrevocable as of the effective date of their DROP participation.

DROP TERM PERIODS AND TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION

The maximum term period for participation in the DROP is as follows:

1. Sworn Officers- Five (5) years from their effective date of participation.
2. Correctional Officers- Three (3) years from their effective date of participation.
3. Police Communications Officers- Three (3) years from their effective date of participation.

LEAVING AT MAXIMUM TERM PERIOD

At the conclusion of their maximum term period, the participating employee must separate from employment with the Agency and begin receiving their regular retirement benefit. They will receive a disbursement from the DROP consisting of the following:

1. Accumulated retirement benefit
2. Accumulated employee contributions
3. Interest on the total of the two above amounts subject to the provisions in the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan.

LEAVING PRIOR TO MAXIMUM TERM PERIOD

A participating employee may choose to terminate their employment through the DROP and begin receiving their retirement benefit prior to the end of the maximum term period.

If the employee leaves the DROP prior to completing one full year after their effective date of participation:

1. The employee will receive a disbursement consisting of the accumulated retirement benefit and accumulated employee contributions for the time of participation in the drop.
2. The employee will not receive an interest payment with their distribution.

If the employee leaves the DROP after completing one full year after their effective date of participation, but before the maximum term period:

1. The employee will receive a disbursement consisting of the accumulated retirement benefit and accumulated employee contributions for the time of participation in the drop.
2. The employee will receive pro-rated interest, determined by the time of participation in the DROP, on the total of the two above amounts subject to the provisions in the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan.

DEATH OR DISABILITY WHILE PARTICIPATING IN DROP

If employment is terminated before the end of the maximum term period because of death or disability, the employee is treated as if they never elected to participate in the DROP. Neither the retiree, nor beneficiary, will receive a distribution of the DROP account. The death or disability benefits will be determined using pay and years of service earned, including the time earned while a participant in the DROP.

NOTIFICATION OF FINAL RETIREMENT



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Agency employees will refer to and follow the policy listed in the Retirement Procedures section of this manual, including notification in writing through their chain of command in the time limits specified, when they decide to terminate from the DROP and enter their final retirement date. In addition, the employee will make notification to the Charles County Government Department of Human Resources, so the DROP dispersal can be calculated in a timely manner.

E. TERMINAL LEAVE

For employees who have established a retirement date and have leave which they would like to use prior to separation, the following guidelines will apply:

1. The employee may use two weeks of leave.
2. If additional leave is to be used beyond the initial two weeks, the employee will be required to work at least one (1) day per week leading up to their retirement date. This may also be dependent upon the needs of the Agency for a particular position.

For employees separating from the Agency for other reasons, leave will be approved on a case by case basis.

F. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The termination of an Agency employee will only occur under the direction and order of the Sheriff, or his designee.

All terminations will be coordinated with the employee's Division Commander / Director, Human Resources, the Office of General Counsel, and, if a disciplinary matter, OPR. As detailed below, the following documents will be prepared:

ORDER TO TERMINATE

If the Sheriff, having received a full briefing of relevant information, makes a determination to terminate an employee, the employee's Division Commander / Director or Assistant Sheriff will draft a memo citing the specific employment deficiencies which are present. The memo will then be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel for legal sufficiency and forwarded through the chain of command to the Sheriff for review. A Chain of Command Coversheet (form #144) will be utilized through this process. The signed original will be submitted to Human Resources and stored in the employee's personnel file.

NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATION TO EMPLOYEE

Human Resources, in coordination with the employee's Division Commander / Director, will draft a notification of termination letter, which will be served to the employee. The letter will be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel for legal sufficiency prior to service. It will contain the following information:

1. The reason for the termination of employment.
2. The effective date of the termination of employment.
3. A point of contact within the Accounting Section for receiving information about obtaining a final payroll check distribution.
4. A point of contact within the Charles County Government Human Resources for obtaining information about



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the status of any fringe or retirement benefits available after the termination of employment.

The notification of termination letter will be served to the employee by a Division Commander / Director or higher rank, in coordination with Human Resources.

EMPLOYEE CLEARANCE FORM & AGENCY EQUIPMENT

When an employee is terminated from the Agency, the employee's Division Commander / Director is responsible for coordinating the recovery of all Agency property in the possession of the employee and the completion of the Employment Clearance Form #240. The Employment Clearance Form will not be issued to a terminated employee.

NOTIFICATIONS & RECORDS

1. The Deputy Director, Human Resources will notify the Deputy Director, Accounting Section of the pending termination.
2. The Deputy Director, Human Resources will prepare a Personnel Order to be transmitted throughout the Agency, concerning the respondent employee's status.
3. Copies of all documents detailing the termination will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

G. EMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE FORM

When an employee leaves the Agency they are required to make arrangements to return all Agency owned / issued property and equipment. This will be accomplished by utilizing the Employment Clearance Form #240, which may be obtained under the forms section on the intranet or by contacting the Human Resources Section. Supervisors must provide each employee ample time to return all equipment and complete Form #240.

All Agency owned / issued property and equipment will be returned to the section / division in which it was obtained. When returning these items, the employee will provide the Employment Clearance Form #240 to an authorized representative of each required section / division listed on the form to be signed and to list any property which was not returned and its value.

In the event some obligation is not satisfied, the obligation shall be noted on the form. If value cannot be determined, leave that area blank and return the signed form to the employee. In no instance will the form be held hostage until all obligations are discharged.

Division / Section - The section or division commander shall review the provision of this section (Chapter 3, Section 114) with the employee and the contents of the Form #240.

If any special property or equipment is issued at the section or division level, that property shall be recovered by the section / division commander. If any property is not recovered, it shall be listed in the space provided. The total cost of the unrecovered item(s) (the price the Agency originally paid for the item(s)) shall be listed in the space provided.

The employee's division commander shall sign the form (if the employee works in the Office of the Sheriff, an Assistant Sheriff will sign in the division commander space).

Employee's Division Commander - The employee's division commander shall recover any special uniform(s), equipment item(s) or weapon(s) issued outside the Quartermaster issue system, except those issued by the Chief Firearms Instructor. The property would have been issued as a result of the employee's participation in some special Patrol Operations Function. Item(s) issued through the Chief Firearms Instructor are not included in this



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section of the form since there is a section specifically for the Chief Firearms Instructor. The employee's division commander shall sign the form.

Information Technology Division – All Agency-owned electronic or related equipment issued to the employee will be returned to this division. The IT Division Commander shall sign the Employment Clearance Form #240.

Chief Firearms Instructor - The Chief Firearms Instructor shall recover any special weapons or associated ammunition and equipment which were issued to an employee through the Chief Firearms Instructor. The Chief Firearms Instructor shall sign the form.

NOTE: Any weapon or special equipment not issued by the Quartermaster may be recovered by the Quartermaster if the responsibility for that item has, subsequent to the issue of the weapon or special equipment, been transferred to the Quartermaster. In these cases, the Quartermaster shall notify the issuing authority in order that the issuing authority's records may be cleared. Any adjustments necessary to notations previously made on the Employment Clearance Form #240 shall be initialed (initials and ID number) by the Quartermaster and the issuing authority.

Quartermaster - The Quartermaster shall retrieve all uniforms and other items the employee signed for on the Sheriff's Equipment Agreement Form #241. In addition, the Quartermaster shall retrieve any items which may have been issued by another Agency entity, but have since been assigned to the Quartermaster's responsibilities. The Quartermaster shall sign the Employment Clearance Form #240.

Fleet Services – Agency-owned vehicle and related equipment will be returned to this function. The Commander, Property Management Section shall sign the Employment Clearance Form #240.

Communications Section – Agency-owned radio and related equipment will be returned to this section. The Commander, Communications Section shall sign the Employment Clearance Form #240.

Accounting Section – If a Vehicle Certification form and/or Tuition Funding Obligations need to be reconciled, they will be done by contacting the Accounting Section. Employees should refer to AOM 3-620.6 "Service Commitment" regarding tuition funding reimbursement obligations to the Agency for further details. The Deputy Director, Accounting Section shall sign the Employment Clearance Form #240.

Human Resources - Human Resources shall retrieve the employee's issued identification cards. A Personnel Order shall be generated and disseminated announcing the end of the employee's employment with the Agency. The employee's personnel file shall be placed with the inactive personnel files of the Agency. The Deputy Director, Human Resources shall sign and date the Form #240.

When the Employment Clearance Form #240 has been completed through the Employee Certification section, the employee will deliver the form to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division. If all obligations of the employee have been satisfied, the Commander / Director shall check the proper boxes in the final section of the form, sign the form and forward it to Human Resources for filing in the employee's personnel file.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE FORM AND/ OR RETURN AGENCY PROPERTY

In the event that an employee leaves employment without completing the Employment Clearance Form, the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services shall have this segment of the process brought to completion. If upon completion of the Form #240, Agency property is not accounted for, the Commander/ Director will make every effort to contact the employee to reconcile this issue. If the issue cannot be reconciled and the financial obligation is of a significant amount to warrant Agency action, the Commander/ Director shall forward all pertinent reports and documents to General Counsel.

When further action is warranted by General Counsel, the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility shall



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be responsible for the internal investigation. Should criminal charges be necessary, the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility shall cause such charges to be brought by the Internal Affairs investigator assigned to the case. If civil process is warranted, General Counsel will be responsible for the drafting and filing of the necessary documents.

The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility shall be responsible for following the criminal case to completion and shall coordinate the marshaling of witnesses and evidence for trial. General Counsel shall bear this responsibility in the civil case. Internal Affairs shall assist General Counsel with any investigation or coordination of witnesses.

Return of Agency property is not optional. The employee may not choose to keep Agency property by paying for that property. Payment for property is for those cases where the employee's negligence has caused the property to be lost, stolen or destroyed.

H. FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

For clearance procedures to be complete, all uniforms, equipment, identification cards, vehicles, gas cards, keys, and any other property belonging to the Sheriff's Office will have been returned. Any damaged or lost items will have been reported in accordance with Sheriff's Office procedures and paid for, unless payment is not required per direction of the Sheriff. Additionally, any outstanding obligations, such as advanced leave, educational funding obligation, disciplinary fines, training service agreement, and so forth, will be satisfied.

In cases where the employee is not in a position to satisfy a financial obligation, a promissory note option will be made available. In this manner, the financial obligation may be satisfied without initiating civil or criminal action.

I. CLERK OF THE COURT NOTIFICATION

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Associate, Patrol Division, to advise the Clerk of the Charles County Circuit Court of the departure of sworn police officers and other employees as necessary. The notification will be in writing and will contain the departing employee's full name, ID number, and the last work date of the employee.

For sworn members, this notification is necessary in order that they may be removed from the rolls of police officers of the County. The notification also allows the Circuit and District Courts, as well as the State's Attorney's Office, to properly address summonses necessary to require the appearance of prior employees.

J. EXIT INTERVIEWS

The Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division, will be responsible for exit interviews for all departing employees. The employee shall contact Human Resources to schedule the interview. These interviews will be conducted as near to the last day of employment as is practical, in order that the information obtained be as candid as possible. The employee is under no compulsion to provide any particular information, but is required to attend the interview. Exception: no employee who is terminated is required to complete this interview.

The purpose of the interview is to obtain the employee's perspective of the organization. The Departing Employee Questionnaire Form #242 is used for this purpose. The employee may consider answers to the questions provided on the form before the actual interview and in fact have the form completed upon arrival at the interview. The interview is still necessary in order that clarification may be sought on items which may be unclear.

The actual interview documents will be kept segregated with other confidential documents within the employee's personnel file. Human Resources will maintain the security of these files.



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RETIREE QUESTIONNAIRE

During the exit interview for retiring employees, the Retiree Questionnaire Form #087 shall be completed by the retiring employee. The information collected will assist the banquet committee and Media Relations Office in creating personalized and celebratory content for retirement events and associated media posts. Employees have the option to decline their retirement announcement on Agency managed social media within the form.

3-116 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

The Charles County Government provides an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is available to all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. This program can serve as a valuable resource to employees and their immediate family members.

The EAP functions to help employees and their family members with problems that can affect job performance. Problems such as marital issues, job stress, grief, financial concerns, abuse, depression, and chemical dependency can take their toll and often lead to fatigue, poor health, and impaired job performance. The EAP can assist with individual intervention services, seminars, and workshops.

An EAP professional staff member can be reached by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist with any needs. Initial assessments are free. If additional services are needed, an appropriate referral will be made. The EAP representative will provide guidance and advice to help arrange for the most cost effective services available.

All records of contacts with the EAP and its representatives are strictly confidential and are filed by a case number rather than by name. Information from these files can only be released with written permission of the employee or family member. The only exception to maintaining confidentiality is if an individual poses a clear and immediate danger to themselves, to others, or if the individual has been requested by the Agency to contact the EAP for an Agency mandated evaluation.

EAP brochures with contact information and an outline of the program are available from either the Sheriff's Office or County's Human Resources offices.

3-117 DEATH AND FUNERAL PROCEDURES

3-117.1 DEFINITIONS

Crisis Response Team (CRT) - Members of the team will be the Executive Command Staff and Media Relations Personnel. The CRT is responsible for immediate planning and communications at the Executive Command Staff level during the first 12-24 hours of an unforeseen emergency event.

Family Liaison Officer- a facilitator of services for the family of the deceased. He shall act as a conduit between the family and the Agency, and relay information between the two parties. The Liaison will be there for the family during the difficult and sometimes confusing time.

Immediate Family Member-individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. This may include individuals who are living with the employee.

Notification Team- team members will be decided by CRT, which should include a Command Staff member and an Agency Chaplain at the minimum. The Mental Health Liaison may also be included. The purpose of the team is to tell the emergency contact designated by the employee about the passing or serious injury of the employee.

Regional Law Enforcement Agency (Maryland Region) - consists of Prince George's County, St. Mary's



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County, Calvert County, and Anne Arundel County in Maryland. King George County and Westmoreland County in Virginia, any Maryland State Law Enforcement agency, which includes all Sheriff's Offices and any Law Enforcement agency in Washington D.C.

3-117.2 INTRODUCTION TO FUNERAL PROCEDURES

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Agency through the difficult period of mourning after the loss of a member of the CCSO family. Listed are the honors which will be generally afforded each category of personnel that make up the organization. While not every situation can be accounted for, this policy describes the situations that will most often be faced by the Agency when it comes to honoring the passing of members of the CCSO. The final discretion on the implementation of this policy on any given occasion lies with the Sheriff or his designee.

3-117.3 NOTIFICATION OF DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE CCSO FAMILY

With the advent of social media, the number one concern for police agencies in regards to the passing of Agency members and those associated with CCSO is the timely and proper notification of those parties identified by the Agency as needing an official notification. With the ability for news to be spread quickly, both accurately and inaccurately, it is imperative that all members of CCSO follow the listed steps in reference to a death notification:

- Any supervisory member learning of the death or grave injury to a member of the CCSO family shall immediately notify their Section Commander by phone. This verbal communication should include the member or members involved in the incident, their current conditions, and their current physical location. If the member is being transported to a medical facility, that information should be passed on as well. If the member is injured or killed on duty, Communications will be responsible to notify the Communications Section Commander to fulfill this section.
- The Section Commander receiving this notification will be responsible for contacting their Division Commander for pass through of the information in the Chain of Command to the Sheriff. After his Division Commander is notified, the Section Commander will immediately notify the supervising employee of the injured or deceased member if they are not aware or it is not known if they are aware.
- The Division Commander receiving notification shall immediately contact their Assistant Sheriff and provide the known information. The Assistant Sheriff receiving the notification will immediately contact the Sheriff and Chief of Staff and enact the Crisis Response Team (CRT) Protocol if the passing was an unforeseen emergency situation. The Crisis Response Team is responsible for immediate planning and communications at the Executive Command Staff level during the first 12-24 hours of an unforeseen emergency event.
- The members of the Crisis Response Team will respond to the 3rd floor of HQ to provide the Agency logistical and communications support during the initial crisis period. There may be specific cases that members of the Crisis Response Team are unable to respond to due to obligations to the Agency which supersede the CRT; (i.e. CID Commander leading Crime Scene Investigations, SOD Commander leading traffic crash investigation, etc.). Those members not present should not be assigned tasks related to the CRT function until they are available and present in the CRT room. The CRT should be separate from the command structure at the scene of the incident. There should be a designated communications officer on scene responsible for the passing of information to the CRT. The on-scene commander should not attempt to manage the tasks that are the responsibility of the CRT from the scene. These must be mutually exclusive tasks that share information one way, from scene to CRT. The on-scene commanders will become part of the planning process once the CRT is disbanded and replaced by the planning committee, or ICS command structure that will follow.



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- The CRT will decide on the notification team, which should include a Command Staff member and an Agency Chaplain at the minimum. The Mental Health Liaison may also be considered for inclusion into this notification group. If the notification team is not practical because of distance, i.e., the person being notified lives out of state, the CRT will determine the appropriate manner of notification. Significant thought should be given to using a local police agency with capabilities similar to CCSO in regards to victim services, chaplains, and supporting staff. The briefing of any such outside team will need to be significant and an Agency liaison should be assigned to provide immediate direct contact to the notification team, ensuring they have the latest information and all questions are answered.

The CRT, once the notification team has been assembled and is on task, begins the process of notification of personnel essential to the agency in the handling of the events surrounding the passing of the employee. This group will include the Honor Guard Commander, the Media Relations Office, the Agency Facilities Manager, Fleet Manager, and any other personnel that are deemed necessary to accomplish immediate tasks. Those personnel should respond to the CRT HQ to provide valuable insight to the CRT and help prioritize those tasks which have to be accomplished in the first 12-24 hours. Anything outside that time frame should be identified and documented for further action once the CRT is disbanded and replaced by the planning committee.

3-117.3.1 PURPOSE OF THE NOTIFICATION TEAM

The purpose of the initial notification team is to tell the emergency contact designated by the employee about the passing or serious injury of the employee. This should be accomplished in a manner which shows respect for the employee and gives the family the reassurance that the Agency cares for their welfare and well-being in the aftermath of their loss. Items the notification team should cover:

- The condition of the employee. If the employee is alive, they should provide transportation to the medical facility treating the employee. The notification team should reassure the employee's family that everything is being done to help the employee but should never deceive the person being notified about the condition of the employee. If the employee has passed, that should be conveyed in as sensitive of a manner as possible.
- A description of the police process surrounding the situation which led to the employee being gravely injured or killed. If there is a criminal, traffic, or internal investigation being conducted, an explanation should be given generally about what it entails. The notification team should be careful to avoid timetables or conclusive statements about cause or disposition.
- Determine the amount of assistance that the family wishes to receive from the Agency in regards to funeral planning. No specifics should be discussed with the family; they should be made aware that the Honor Guard Commander will contact them to discuss specifics of any Agency honors that would be given. There is no pressing reason for honors determination in the CRT timeframe with rare exceptions. The notification team should render all of the emotional support possible to the family during the initial visit.
- Depending on the type of the notification, the notification team may be with the family a significant amount of time during the initial notification. This time should be used for the Agency Chaplain, Mental Health Liaison, and administrators to support the family's emotional needs and facilitate additional notifications if necessary. The notification team should be in regular contact with the CRT to update them on what has been done for documentation purposes.

3-117.4 TASKS FOR CRT TO ACCOMPLISH

While there is an in-depth checklist associated with the process of honoring an employee that has passed in an emergency circumstance, it should be the objective of the CRT to accomplish the following in the timeframe in which the CRT exists:

- Notify the family of the employee;



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- Provide information to the entire CCSO family concerning the passing or grave injury;
- Monitor social and traditional media for any unauthorized release of information by CCSO employees in contradiction to Agency policy or for public information which may be damaging or detrimental to Agency members or the public;
- Issue an initial public statement / media release concerning the passing or grave injury;
- Make a decision / notification on the wearing of the mourning band (Guidelines for the wearing of the mourning band in Section 3-553);
- Order flags to half-staff (Guidelines for the lowering of flags in Section 3-113.1);
- Initiate employee support response by grief counselors / chaplains / etc. and designate a time and place for their availability;
- Assign a liaison officer. The notification team should do reconnaissance with the family to determine who they feel closest to within the Agency. That information should be relayed to the CRT to incorporate into the decision making process. Some factors to consider in determining a liaison officer:
 - The employee's relationship with the family of the Agency employee;
 - The employee's experience including time on job, rank, previous critical incident management, etc.;
 - The effect of the incident on the employee;
- Provide for an initial teletype to be sent via NCIC in reference to a line of duty death. The first teletype should include:
 - Name / Rank or Title of deceased;
 - Date / time of death;
 - Circumstances of death (minimal);
 - Time with Agency;
 - Statement of funeral arrangements to follow;
- Determine the type of death and if the death is in the line of duty, immediately begin the HR process for the line of duty death;
- Have the Honor Guard Commander, based on the death determination, brief the CRT on the protocol that has been determined in this policy based on the status of the employee and how they were killed or died;
- Notify the Chairperson for the Planning Committee for the type of Agency death that the situation dictates and establish the first Committee meeting date, time and location. The Chairperson of the Planning Committee is designated elsewhere in this policy based on the type of death.

Note: The employee requested by the family for the liaison officer position may not be completely capable of handling the intense nature of the assignment, and in those cases another officer more qualified to handle the assignment may be suggested to the family, incorporating the requested officer as part of a liaison team. There is a tremendous amount of responsibility and tact required in the family liaison position as sometimes requests made are either impossible to provide or conflict with another family request. Each of these requests or issues must be handled delicately and in concert with the preparations being made by CCSO. Therefore, a great deal of consideration should be given to this selection. Once a member of the Agency is designated as a family liaison, they shall have no other assigned tasks throughout the funeral process (i.e., a family liaison cannot act as an Honor Guard member the day of the funeral).

3-117.5 PLANNING COMMITTEE MAKEUP

The Planning Committee for an Agency related death should encompass all of the persons who will have a command or supervisory responsibility during the execution of a funeral plan with CCSO. The Incident Command Structure, which is the execution group for the Planning Committee, will often mirror this group with the exception of aspects only used the day of the funeral. The Planning Committee's function is to plan the ceremonies and activities associated with the event. From the pre-funeral planning to the wake, all aspects have to be considered and accounted for whenever possible. The size and scope of this committee will change based on the type of death, the employee's position within the Agency, and the relationship of the death to their work assignment.



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A line of duty death committee will be a much larger and more encompassing group than a committee for a retired officer's funeral. The listed members of the Planning Committee for each type of funeral only delineate Agency personnel. More often than not, members of allied agencies such as Department of Emergency Services, Charles County Government, etc., may be named as members of the Planning Committee. A Planning Committee should be enacted whenever honors are given by the Agency to an employee / former employee. The Chairperson of the Committee is responsible for setting the meeting schedule for their Committee and for the documentation of the event being completed.

The Planning Committee for the services surrounding the death of an **Immediate Family Member of a CCSO Employee**:

- Community Services Division Commander **(Chair)**
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Division Commander of employee affected
- Section Commander of employee affected
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Traffic Operations Supervisor

This Committee may only meet the minimum of one time to ensure all of the action items related to this type of funeral are covered.

The Planning Committee for the services surrounding the death of an **Active Member of a Maryland Regional Law Enforcement Agency or Regional Department Head**:

- Community Services Division Commander **(Chair)**
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor

This Committee may only meet the minimum of one time to ensure all of the action items related to this type of funeral are covered.

The Planning Committee for the services surrounding the death in the Line of Duty of an Outside Law Enforcement Agency:

- Community Services Division Commander **(Chair)**
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor

This Committee may only meet the minimum of one time to ensure all of the action items related to this type of funeral are covered.

The Planning Committee for the services surrounding the **Death of an Active / Retired Member in Questionable or Poor Standing**:



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- Assistant Sheriff of Administration **(Chair)**
 - Assistant Sheriff of Operations (if employee is currently under their command)
 - Assistant Sheriff of Field & Support (if employee is currently under their command)
 - Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
 - Community Services Division Commander
 - Special Operations Division Commander
 - Field Operations Section Commander
 - Honor Guard Commander
 - Honor Guard Coordinator
 - Traffic Operations Supervisor
 - Commander of the affected employee's Division
 - Commander of the affected employee's Section

The Chairman will evaluate the personnel file of the employee in question. If the subject is no longer employed by the Agency, the Chairman, in consultation with the Sheriff, will decide if honors will be given. If an employee was terminated, no honors are rendered. If an employee was facing termination at the time of his death, the Sheriff shall determine if the findings of the personnel process would coincide with a termination and no honors shall be rendered. If a review of the personnel file shows that the employee left in poor standing but was not terminated, the Sheriff shall determine, based on the employee's contribution to the Agency and the community, whether or not the employee shall have limited honors bestowed. If the employee was under scrutiny at the time of their death, but no absolute determination can be made prior to the employee's burial, the employee shall receive limited honors as determined by the Planning Committee evaluation of the honors available in Section 3-117.6 and under the direction of the Sheriff or his designee. It is recognized that investigations and inquiries can often have unexpected outcomes and it is impossible to provide honors to a subject post internment.

The Planning Committee for the services for a **Retired Civilian Member**:

- Assistant Sheriff of Administration **(Chair)**
- Commander of Division employee retired from (last assignment)
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor
- Media Relations Representative

If the Retired Civilian Member is having services in the Maryland Region, these honors will be made. Any other requests will be considered on a case by case basis as approved by the Sheriff.

The Planning Committee for the services of **Retired Uniformed Member**:

- Assistant Sheriff of Administration **(Chair)**
- Commander of Division employee retired from (last assignment)
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander



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- Honor Guard Coordinator
 - Traffic Operations Supervisor
 - Media Relations Representative

These honors will be made available for funerals in the Maryland Region. Any requests outside this region will be considered on a case by case basis as approved by the Sheriff.

The Planning Committee for the services of an **Active Civilian Member in Good Standing**:

- Chief of Staff / Lieutenant Colonel **(Chair)**
- Assistant Sheriff of the employee's Division
- Commander of the employee's Division
- Commander of the employee's Section
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor
- Media Relations Representative

The Planning Committee for the services of an **Active Uniformed Member in Good Standing**:

- Chief of Staff / Lieutenant Colonel **(Chair)**
- Assistant Sheriff of Operations
- Assistant Sheriff of Administration
- Assistant Sheriff of Field & Support
- Commander of the employee's Division
- Commander of the employee's Section
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor
- Media Relations Representative

The Planning Committee for the services of a **Civilian that is Killed or Dies in the Line of Duty**:

- Chief of Staff / Lieutenant Colonel **(Chair)**
- Assistant Sheriff of Operations
- Assistant Sheriff of Administration
- Assistant Sheriff of Field & Support
- Commander of the employee's Division
- Commander of the employee's Section
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander



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- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor
- Media Relations Representative

The Planning Committee for the services for a **Uniformed Officer that is Killed or Dies in the Line of Duty:**

- Chief of Staff / Lieutenant Colonel (Chair)
- Assistant Sheriff of Operations
- Assistant Sheriff of Administration
- Assistant Sheriff of Field & Support
- Administrative Services Division Commander / Director
- Community Services Division Commander
- Special Operations Division Commander
- Field Operations Section Commander
- Honor Guard Commander
- Honor Guard Coordinator
- Traffic Operations Supervisor
- Media Relations Representative
- Commander, Support Services
- Commander, Patrol Division
- Executive Command Staff Members not specifically named
- Executive Command Staff of Corrections if the employee is from the Corrections Division

All Planning Committees will be responsible for ensuring the Agency properly shows respect to the family of the lost member while documenting and monitoring such issues as cost, manpower, and affect to our response capability, etc. The Planning Committee's goal should be to foresee problems and issues and prepare for them so that on the day of the funeral such issues are minimized, mitigated, or avoided all together.

3-117.6 HONORS GUIDELINES FOR EACH TYPE OF AGENCY FUNERAL

Below, listed in the same order as the planning committees, is stated the type of honors that CCSO may provide to each type of Agency related funeral. These honors will be made available for funerals in the Maryland Region. Any requests outside this region will be considered on a case by case basis as approved by the Sheriff. The honors provided in each group type demonstrate a deep regard to each employee's / retiree's contributions and the Agency's desire to show respect and appreciation for their family. They keep in the best traditions of police agencies from all over the country. Detailed definitions explaining each one of the listed honors is available in the Honor Guard SOP in the Community Services Division.

- **Death of an Active CCSO Uniformed Officer's Immediate Family Member**
 - Casket Team (Honorary Pallbearer)
 - Procession Support

This is also to extend to a uniformed officers family member who served in the military who was honorably discharged and has been denied services from the military due to manpower.

- **Death of an Active Member of Regional Law Enforcement Agency or Regional Department Head**
 - Color Team
 - Honor Platoon



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- Procession Support
 - **Death in the Line of Duty of a Member of Another Law Enforcement Agency**
 - Color Team
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession Support
 - **Death of an Active Member / Retired Member in Questionable / Poor Standing**
 - Casket Team (Honorary Pallbearer)
 - Flag Fold
 - Procession
 - **Death of a Retired Civilian Member**
 - (2) Man Casket Team
 - Flag Fold (if flag draped)
 - Agency Flag Presentation
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession
 - **Death of a Retired Uniformed Member**
 - Taps
 - 3 Volley Salute
 - Casket Team
 - Color Team
 - Modified Death Watch (limited to day of service)
 - Flag Fold
 - Agency Flag Presentation
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession
 - Representative at the viewing
 - **Death of an Active Civilian Member in Good Standing**
 - Casket Team
 - Color Team
 - Flag Fold (if flag draped)
 - Modified Death Watch
 - Agency Flag
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession
 - **Death of an Active Uniformed Member in Good Standing**
 - Taps
 - 3 Volley Salute
 - Casket Team
 - Color Team
 - Last Call
 - Modified Death Watch
 - Flag Fold
 - Agency Flag Presentation
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession



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- **Death in the Line of Duty of a Civilian Member**
 - Casket Team
 - Color Team
 - Death Watch
 - Flag Fold
 - Agency Flag Presentation
 - Bunting
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession

- **Death in the Line of Duty of Uniformed Member**
 - Taps
 - 21 Round Volley Salute
 - Bagpipes
 - Memorial Car
 - Bunting
 - Casket Team
 - Color Team
 - Last Call
 - Death Watch
 - Flag Fold
 - Agency Flag Presentation
 - Caisson
 - Outside Agency Participation request
 - Flyover
 - Honor Platoon
 - Procession

The responsibility for the production of each of these honors is listed as follows:

Honor Guard Commander

- Taps
- Volley Salute
- Bagpipes
- Casket Team
- Color Team
- Death Watch
- Flag Fold (Members of the Military or In the Line of Duty Death Only)
- Agency Flag Presentation
- Honor Platoon

Field Operations Section Commander

- Procession
- Flyover
- Caisson

Commander of Officer's Section

- Memorial Car

Communications Section Commander

- Last Call
- Outside Agency Participation request



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Facility Commanders

- Bunting

3-117.7 PLANNING COMMITTEE TASKS

The Planning Committee will be responsible for all aspects of the planning and preparation for an Agency funeral up to the day of the event(s). On that day, the Planning Committee shall turn over the event to the Incident Command Structure developed for the events surrounding the funeral. This Committee, and the corresponding ICS, can include members from outside the agency who are responsible for the monitoring or management of tasks during a funeral event. The following list may be used as a guide.

- Review Funeral Honors
 - Provide honors information to the family
 - Determine based on family wishes, what honors and services are needed
- Benefits
 - Based on type of death, begin Human Resources processes related to the member
 - Apply for local, state, and federal benefits as they apply to the loss of member
 - Coordinate non-governmental benefits (i.e. C.O.P.S. and FOP) with family
- Communications
 - Send second nationwide teletype with complete death / funeral arrangement information
 - Send email communications to the following groups in reference to arrangements, as applicable:
 - COG
 - Honor Guards
 - Motorcycle Units
 - K-9 Function
 - Fire / EMS associations
- Family / Member's Personal Needs
 - Liaison Communications
 - Family Needs and Support
 - Transportation
- Funeral Preparations
 - Honors determined – Honor Guard process detailed in Honor Guard SOP
 - Communications with religious officiate and locations of services for site plan and service order
 - Uniform retrieval and preparation, if applicable
 - Obituary assistance to family
 - Provide for policing coverage within the county if appropriate
- Property / Quartermaster
 - Retrieval and inventory of all Agency property and vehicles
 - Process and submit all personal property to Property Held to be released to the Estate (no personal property should be returned to the family)
 - Prepare Memorial Car when applicable
 - Coordinate necessary uniform and equipment for Agency funeral, uniform, casket flags, etc.
- Media Communications
 - Provide updated information on incident when applicable
 - Inform affected citizens about services and the implications on traffic, etc.
 - Determine with family how much media access, if any, will occur at services



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- Provide photographic and video services to memorialize the event for the Agency when applicable
- Repass / Food
 - Determine how much, if any, Agency involvement will occur during the repass
 - Provide food for Honor Guard when possible and necessary during prolonged events such as the viewing and funeral
 - Assist in organizing and providing food to the family during the days after the loss of the employee when applicable
- Outside Agency Liaison
 - Maintain roster of all departments who send condolences, plan on attending, or wish to participate in some fashion
 - Forward those wishing to participate to the proper Agency coordinator (honor guards to Honor Guard Coordinator, motorcycles to Traffic Operations, etc.)
 - Arrange for police coverage during funerals requiring all members be available to attend
- Medical
 - Provide medical standby services throughout all of the scheduled events
 - Provide for the rehabilitation / maintenance of participating members physical / medical needs during events
- Work Coverage
 - Reach out to neighboring agencies for backfilling of positions within CCSO to ensure adequate police services are rendered during a funeral event
- Security for Event
 - Bomb Detection
 - 1st Amendment Preparation
- Executive Protection Coordination
 - Provide for identification, arrangements once on scene
 - List who is coming to which events

3-117.8 MEMORIAL CAR

The Memorial Car is an honor to be extended only to an officer who is killed or dies in the line of duty.

The Commander, Property Management will arrange for a marked cruiser to be used as a Memorial Car. It will be clean with no extra equipment in its interior. The Memorial Car shall have its light bar draped with black bunting and one stripe of black tape will be placed horizontally through each door shield at the center of the star. The Sheriff's decal on the cruiser's trunk shall have one stripe of black tape running horizontally through the center of each decal. The Memorial Car shall have the officer's ID number placed on each side and rear of the vehicle. The Memorial Car will be assigned to a member of the officer's squad / unit and will be the responsibility of the squad throughout the events leading up to and including the funeral.

3-117.9 DEATH BUNTING FOR CCSO FACILITY BUILDINGS

Death bunting will be draped on the front of the Headquarters building and all district stations. This may be obtained through local fire departments or neighboring law enforcement agencies. It shall be the responsibility of each facility commander to arrange for death bunting on their facility. The following facilities shall have death bunting displayed:

- CCSO Headquarters



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- CCDC
- CCSO Annex on Audie Lane
- District One
- District Two
- District Three

3-117.10 MOURNING BANDS

Uniformed personnel shall wear mourning bands on the issued Agency badge during mourning periods. All other employees may wear the mourning ribbon on the upper outer garment in a location of the employee's discretion. The bands and ribbons are available on an as-needed basis from the Quartermaster. Official mourning periods have been established by the Sheriff:

- For a line of duty death of a CCSO officer, from the time of death until midnight on the 30th day after the death;
- For a non-line of duty death of a CCSO officer, from the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral;
- For a line of duty death of an officer of a Maryland or Washington D.C. agency, from the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral;
- While attending the funeral or other memorial service for an officer or retired officer;
- On National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), from 0001 hours until 2359 hours;
- Any other time, as determined by the Sheriff or his designee.

3-120 FUNERALS FOR MEMBERS OF OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In the event of the death of a member of another law enforcement agency within our region who has been killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries / wounds sustained in the line of duty, the extent of the Agency's participation shall be:

- The Honor Guard will participate in the services to the extent requested by the agency of loss and in accordance with this policy.

NOTE: For the purpose of this policy, our region consists of Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Calvert, and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland; King George and Westmoreland counties in Virginia; any Maryland State Law Enforcement agency, which includes all Sheriff's offices; and any Law Enforcement agency in Washington, D.C.

3-121 REQUEST TO SERVE AS A PALLBEARER IN UNIFORM FOR SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE AGENCY

If a sworn member of this Office is asked to serve as a pallbearer in uniform for someone outside the Agency, the request shall be submitted in writing to the Sheriff. The Sheriff or his designee will approve or deny that request at their discretion.

3-122 PROCEDURAL VARIATION

The procedures outlined in this policy shall be followed in most cases. Any changes made necessary by shortage



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of manpower, the unusual size of the funeral, the type of service, the physical arrangement of the place of service or any other reason shall be made by the Sheriff or his designee.

Any additional honors to be accorded to the deceased employees of this organization or other law enforcement agencies shall be at the discretion of the Sheriff.

3-123 AGENCY SENTIMENTS OF SYMPATHY

It is appropriate that the Agency express sentiments of sympathy on the occasion of a personal loss experienced by one of its employees or when an employee experiences a grave illness, injury, hospitalization or similar hardship.

To this end, all supervisors, managers, commanders and directors are charged to be continually aware of the needs of their subordinates. Additionally, it should be understood by all employees they are expected to relay knowledge of the needs of fellow employees to supervisory personnel. Such information should be communicated up the employee's chain of command to their respective Assistant Sheriff.

If it is appropriate under this policy, the Assistant Sheriff shall direct the Executive Administrative Coordinator to send a gift of flowers, a plant, or other appropriate gift, in the name of the Agency.

3-123.1 RECORD KEEPING

The Executive Administrative Coordinator shall keep a record of each item purchased under this policy. That record shall include:

- the nature of the item purchased;
- the date of the purchase;
- the vendor from whom item was purchased;
- the amount of the expenditure;
- the name of the employee and, if a relative of the employee was the reason for the purchase, the name of the relative;
- the date and place the item was delivered; and
- the method of delivery, or in the case the item was delivered by an employee, the name of the employee.

3-123.2 INTERAGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATHS - AGENCY PERSONNEL FAMILY MEMBERS, PROMINENT CITIZENS, AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The death of Agency personnel family members, prominent citizens, or public officials shall require certain notifications be made. In this regard, the following requirements will be met:

1. Any time an employee learns of a death meeting the above criteria, that information shall be immediately relayed to the employee's Division Commander. The Division Commander, or the commander's designee, will then provide that information to the Chief of Staff through the Chain of Command. This information will be distributed by the most effective means, to include the use of telephone or cell phone contact, if other methods do not allow for timely notification.
2. If funeral arrangements are not initially provided, the information, when obtained, will be forwarded to the Office of the Sheriff personnel.
3. Agency-wide official notification will then be prepared and distributed by the Office of the Sheriff, under the Sheriff's signature, announcing the arrangements.



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4. In all cases where there is less than two days' notice prior to the first viewing, telephone notifications will be made, as soon as practical, to the Sheriff and the Chief of Staff by the commander or a designee.

3-130 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SERVICE DIVERSION PROGRAMS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office recognizes there are criminal justice and social service diversion programs available which are sometimes better suited to handle distinct cases. Such cases may involve:

- alcohol and drug abuse problems;
- mental illness; and
- non-violent juvenile offenders.

It shall be the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to cooperate, when appropriate, with criminal justice and social service diversion programs. In making the decision as to whether to use diversion programs, officers will rely on their training, experience, and the guidelines in the AOM. Examples of typical cases officers may be involved in include, but are not limited to:

- issuance of alcohol and juvenile citations;
- emergency psychiatric evaluations;
- referrals to Teen Court via Form #170; and
- referrals to social service agencies.

The Agency's role with regards to referrals to social service agencies is normally limited to non-criminal cases. Charles County social service agencies and some of the services they provide include:

- The County Department of Social Services:
 - family foster care;
 - emergency food resources; and
 - homelessness and emergency housing.
- The County Department of Health:
 - substance abuse treatment and prevention services;
 - assistance for disabled persons; and
 - mental illness.
- The County Department of Community Services:
 - senior care programs;
 - family care giver support;
 - emergency assistance for seniors for food, fuel and prescriptions;
 - meals-on-wheels;
 - legal services; and
 - senior housing options.

Communications shall maintain contact information for the above County departments, and information is also available on the Charles County Government's web page.

3-148 REQUESTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Last Reviewed: September 5, 2025



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- A. PURPOSE AND GENERAL GUIDELINES
- B. EMERGENCY REQUESTS
- D. NON-EMERGENCY AND PRE-PLANNED REQUESTS

A. PURPOSE AND GENERAL GUIDELINES

This policy establishes procedures for requesting assistance from or responding to assist other law enforcement and public safety agencies, ensuring compliance with formal agreements and operational efficiency in collaboration with external agencies.

In addition to the guidelines below, when a formal agreement exists between the CCSO and another public safety agency, Agency members shall follow the procedures outlined in the established agreement.

B. EMERGENCY REQUESTS

The following procedures will be followed for any emergency request for immediate assistance, either from or to another law enforcement agency:

1. All requests will be made through Communications.
2. Communications must contact an on-duty shift commander for approval before requesting or dispatching assistance.
3. Continuous contact will be maintained between Communications and the other agency to relay essential information.
4. Upon arrival, units from each agency should be paired together to maintain effective communication between the agencies.
5. Emergency requests for specialized assistance will be directed to the Assistant Sheriff, Field and Support, or his designee.

C. NON-EMERGENCY AND PRE-PLANNED REQUESTS

1. In a non-emergency situation, only supervisory or command officers may authorize:
 - a) Making a request for assistance from another agency or
 - b) Responding to a request for assistance from another agency.
2. Routine, pre-planned requests for assistance must be forwarded through the chain of command to the Sheriff, or his designee, for approval.-

3-149 FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Last Reviewed: September 5, 2025

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- B. DEFINITIONS
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A. PURPOSE



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This policy governs procedures for developing, maintaining and disseminating formal agreements with other agencies.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Cooperative Agreement-** a document governing the financial management of funding between a sponsor and a recipient which is being provided to complete a specific task (or set of tasks) to accomplish a common goal.
2. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)-** an agreement stating each party's intent to enter into a partnership, and which details the actions, responsibilities, and expectations of each party. In most cases, MOUs are established between agencies with concurrent jurisdiction, including state and federal agencies (such as task force agreements). In some cases, MOUs can involve funding from another agency. An MOU is sometimes referred to as a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
3. **Mutual Aid Agreement-** a document outlining procedures, responsibilities, authorities granted, and expected types of support between public safety agencies to effectively manage emergency operations, or to assist with pre-planned events requiring assistance. In most cases, mutual aid agreements are established between neighboring agencies.

C. GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

1. Only the Sheriff may sign and authorize entry, revision, termination or renewal of any agreement.
2. Members of the Executive Command Staff, through the course of their duties, play a crucial role in recognizing the need to create a new agreement or revise an existing agreement and are responsible for advising the Sheriff on such matters.
3. At the Sheriff's direction, Executive Command Staff members will be responsible for the creation of or revision to an agreement, in coordination with the Office of General Counsel (OGC).
4. For agreements that only impact one division or section of the Agency, the responsible Division Commander / Director, or his designee, will be responsible for initiating revisions and renewals, as necessary.
5. All new agreements and revisions to existing agreements will be reviewed by the OGC for legal sufficiency and signed by the Sheriff upon his approval.
6. Agreements providing a funding source for the Agency will be forwarded to the Grant Coordinator who will facilitate the process for legal review and notification to the Charles County Commissioners, the CCSO Accounting and Budgeting sections, and the County Department of Fiscal Services.
7. All agreements are considered to be in force unless formally terminated or expired without an extension clause.

D. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AGREEMENTS

Conditions that may indicate the need to create or revise an agreement between agencies include:

1. circumstances involving a shared goal or outcome, with each agency having a different role or responsibility, and
2. a likelihood of needing cooperation to achieve the goal.

Prior to developing or entering any formal agreement with another agency, the Agency should consider the



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following:

1. the purpose and details of the collaboration;
2. responsibilities of both parties;
3. the legal liabilities of agencies and agency personnel;
4. procedures for requesting assistance and identification of persons authorized to make requests for assistance;
5. communication procedures between agencies;
6. when the agreement involves a funding source for the agency, the financial terms of the agreement, and procedures for how financial reporting and reimbursement will be accomplished;
7. reporting responsibilities; and
8. procedures for review, revision and termination of the agreement.

In addition to the above, when developing an MOU or any agreement with an agency sharing concurrent jurisdiction, the Agency should take the following into consideration:

1. identification of which agency responds to a call for service by type, and
2. provision of back-up support between jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, when developing a mutual aid agreement or any agreement with an agency outside of CCSO's jurisdiction, the Agency should take the following into consideration:

1. procedures for vesting provider agency personnel with the legal authority to act within the receiver agency's jurisdiction;
2. identification of persons to whom outside personnel are to report;
3. procedures for maintaining radio communication with outside personnel; and
4. expenditures, if any, which should be borne by the receiver agency to compensate for the use of the provider agency's resources.

E. DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

1. All original agreements will be retained by the OGC consistent with Agency retention schedules.
2. A digital copy of all current agreements will be maintained on the CCSO Intranet.
3. When the Agency enters into a new agreement or an existing agreement is revised, the OGC will provide Agency personnel with a summary of the pertinent changes.
4. Agreements affecting Agency operations will be summarized in Agency policy.

3-150 MARYLAND STATE POLICE - COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the interactions of the two Agencies. The MOU was created in order that the best possible service might be rendered to the citizens of Charles County by both Agencies. This can be done through the cooperative efforts of the two Agencies in coordinating the delivery of services.

This MOU provides that certain responsibilities will be primary for each Agency. The Agency which is not primary will provide supporting services to the other upon request. The MOU also provides for the sharing of information and reporting of activities in a manner which best serves the citizens of the County.



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3-150.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will have the primary responsibility for:

- requests for police services;
- all criminal investigations, except where an involved citizen specifically and adamantly requests the Maryland State Police investigate the incident;
- disaster and civil emergency response;
- the Charles County Courthouse;
- the Charles County Detention Center;
- the Charles County Work Release Facilities;
- any joint county / state facilities;
- the handling of a scene of a minor traffic incident occurring on a state or interstate route when the Charles County Officer is on the scene when the crash occurs, or immediately thereafter, unless committed to a higher priority;
- the investigation of traffic crashes involving Charles County owned vehicles, regardless of the location of the crash within Charles County;
- the investigation of all motor vehicle crashes involving County owned and privately owned school buses used for the transportation of students associated with the Charles County Board of Education, private contractors, and related activities on all roadways in Charles County;
- traffic enforcement, traffic control, traffic crashes, roadway hazards, abandoned vehicles and the like on other than state and interstate highways in Charles County; and
- the investigation of all criminal and administrative incidents involving the use of deadly force or discharge of a weapon by a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-150.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE

The Maryland State Police will have primary responsibility for:

- traffic enforcement, traffic control, traffic crashes, roadway hazards, abandoned vehicles and the like on state and interstate highways in Charles County;
- the handling of a scene of a minor traffic incident occurring on a County roadway when the State Police Officer is on the scene when the crash occurs, or immediately thereafter, unless committed to a higher priority;
- law enforcement activities (including criminal investigations) and response to rioting and civil unrest at state owned or operated facilities or institutions;
- the investigation of traffic crashes involving state owned vehicles regardless of the location of the crash



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within Charles County;

- the investigation of criminal matters when there is a specific request by a public official, law enforcement agency, or an involved citizen;
- the actions necessary to control and handle an in-progress crime when the State Police Officer is on the scene at the time of occurrence (follow-up investigation will be the responsibility of the primary designated agency); and
- the investigation of all criminal and administrative incidents involving the use of deadly force or discharge of a weapon by a member of the Maryland State Police.

In all cases of criminal investigations, with the exception of sensitive, covert, organized crime, criminal conspiracies, and intelligence gathering investigations, the Maryland State Police will consult with the Charles County Sheriff's criminal investigators, as soon as possible, and may, upon agreement of the Charles County Sheriff, relinquish the investigation to the Charles County Sheriff.

3-150.3 CONCURRENT INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The following criminal violations may be investigated by either Agency:

- Assaults - Other than Aggravated;
- Weapons Violations - Illegal Wear / Carry;
- Handgun Permit Violations;
- Drug Abuse Violations;
- Disorderly Conduct;
- Malicious Destruction of Property (witnessed with apprehension);
- Escapees (MSP to investigate those from state owned facilities only);
- Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicles;
- Untaxed Cigarette Violations;
- Liquor Law Violations (witnessed violations only);
- Trespassing;
- Vagrancy; and
- Others / Miscellaneous, i.e., Computer / Environmental Crimes.

3-150.4 MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police have agreed to mutually assist each other, limited to the availability of resources of each Agency. Each Agency has also agreed to request the assistance of the other in cases where a timely response cannot be made because of lack of available resources, regardless who has the primary responsibility in the instant case. Coordination of these requests will be made through the dispatching operations of each Agency.

3-150.5 WARRANT SERVICE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is primarily responsible for warrant service in Charles County. The Maryland State Police will handle only those warrants which are relative to State Police investigations or other state enforcement Agency investigations and inter-jurisdictional warrants received by the State Police.

3-150.6 COOPERATIVE EFFORTS



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It is anticipated that the agreement between the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police will further the cooperative efforts of both agencies in providing the best possible police services to the citizens of Charles County. All members of this Agency will continue to aid the State Police in all law enforcement activities of mutual concern given the limitations imposed by Agency resources. Members will continue to open channels of communications and set up operational cooperative efforts whenever possible.

3-150.7 RESOLUTION OF OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS REGARDING MOU

If a question arises regarding a specific area of responsibility of either Agency, the question should be addressed at the operational level of each Agency. If a resolution of the question cannot be developed at the operational level, the question will be resolved by the management of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and that of the Maryland State Police. A written discussion of the question should be addressed to the Sheriff, by the affected member, and directed through the chain of command. The Sheriff will meet with the Maryland State Police and provide a response to cover the question.

3-151 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - COLONIAL BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

- A. PURPOSE
- B. COLONIAL BEACH POLICE ACTIVITIES
- C. CCSO COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. COMMANDER / SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- E. SENIOR OFFICER / SUPERVISOR ON SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES
- F. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
- G. RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES
- H. COLONIAL BEACH POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Colonial Beach Police Department have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding concerning police services provided to that area of Charles County, which is immediately adjacent to the Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia. This section outlines the MOU and provides guidance to employees of the CCSO when they are called upon to respond to calls for service in this area.

The original MOU was signed on May 19, 1998. A copy of the MOU is filed in the Office of the Sheriff. The MOU remains in effect until canceled or revised by one of the Chief Executives of either Law Enforcement Agency.

The MOU essentially provides that the Colonial Beach Police may make an initial response to emergency needs for police services in those areas of Charles County adjacent to Colonial Beach. It further provides that the assistance and resources of each Agency may be requested and received, one from the other, at the discretion of the providing Agency. Follow-up investigations remain the responsibility of the Agency which has original jurisdiction.

"Emergency," as used in the agreement, may consist of a misdemeanor committed in the presence of the officer, a felony, or any crime in progress.

B. COLONIAL BEACH POLICE ACTIVITIES

Colonial Beach Police who observe or are notified of emergencies or criminal activities immediately adjacent to their town, but within Charles County, will:



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1. notify the Communications Section of the CCSO;
2. respond to the scene;
3. take appropriate action to protect lives and property;
4. apprehend violators;
5. recover contraband and evidence;
6. restore the peace; and
7. secure the scene awaiting arrival of the responding CCSO officers.

C. CCSO COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified of a need for police services within the area of Charles County adjacent to Colonial Beach, Virginia, the Communications employee will relay the request to the appropriate commander / supervisor. The appropriate supervisor will be the senior of:

1. the Commander, South Patrol;
2. the Shift Commander;
3. the Supervisor, District I.

This notification will be by the most expeditious means. The Communications employee shall request the commander / supervisor assign the specific units (or a number of units) and the response code for those units. Communications dispatchers shall provide detailed directions to Colonial Beach for any responding unit who is not familiar with the route.

Any event which necessitates a significant response from the CCSO will require an immediate notification from the Communications Section to the Patrol Shift Commanders, or if unavailable, the Assistant Sheriff of Operations. This notification is in addition to any other required by this section.

D. COMMANDER / SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The commander / supervisor who is contacted by Communications shall evaluate the request for police service in that area of Charles County adjacent to Colonial Beach, Virginia. The commander / supervisor will decide the need for Agency response. If response is indicated, the units needed to respond shall be decided as well as their response code.

If the response is to be for a continuing crime, or an event requiring a significant investigation, a supervisor shall respond with the necessary manpower to handle the event or crime. The commander / supervisor shall maintain contact with Communications Section and request additional resources as are found to be needed.

E. SENIOR OFFICER / SUPERVISOR ON SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of the senior sworn officer / supervisor on the scene at Colonial Beach, to assume supervision of the event and see to the proper discharge of all requirements of this section. The supervisor will coordinate activities with the Colonial Beach Police for use of their resources as necessary.

Sufficient information shall be gathered to confirm that any person taken into custody, or issued a criminal or civil summons, in fact committed a prosecutable offense within Charles County, Maryland. If a person is to be returned to Charles County for processing, it shall be determined that the person was arrested in Charles County, Maryland. If the person was arrested in Virginia, extradition proceedings must be instituted in order to return the person to Maryland.

In addition to any other reports or forms necessary as a result of response to Colonial Beach, the senior sworn



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officer / supervisor shall cause to be completed a Commanders' Information Report. The senior sworn officer / supervisor shall cause the names, addresses and telephone numbers, and such other information as may be necessary to contact individuals, to be gathered for each person who may be a witness or police officer involved in any activity associated with the reason for Charles County Sheriff's Office response to Colonial Beach to be placed in any incident report completed.

If a priority response is to be made to Colonial Beach from Charles County, the senior sworn officer or supervisor will have the Communications Section make a courtesy call to the Maryland Transportation Authority Police at the Harry W. Nice / Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge. Communications will also be required to contact the King George County Sheriff's and Westmoreland County Sheriff's Offices and notify them of the priority response through their jurisdictions. In cases of non-priority response, the notification is optional as time permits.

F. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

All personnel responding to events at Colonial Beach will be mindful that their response must be completed safely in order to accomplish any law enforcement purpose. The response distance is in excess of 30 miles. Even priority responses must be made with the realization that circumstances requiring the response may be concluded prior to the officer's arrival on the scene. The officer must be particularly mindful of the exposure to danger created by such a long priority response and keep safe driving tactics as a primary concern.

Charles County Sheriff's Officers will write any necessary reports concerning events occurring within Charles County. Additionally, they will take charge of any prisoners arrested in Charles County for offenses occurring in Charles County. These persons will be processed in the normal manner dependent upon their crimes and age. In the case of juvenile arrests, where the juvenile is to be released, the juvenile offense reports may be completed in Colonial Beach and the release completed at that location.

Adults to be given citations may be given those citations and released on the scene. Any adult who is to be fingerprinted and photographed shall be returned to the Charles County Detention Center for such processing.

All evidence or property collected with regard to an event occurring within Charles County shall be gathered by the Charles County officers and handled in the usual manner. Any Colonial Beach officer who is a part of the chain of custody shall be formally included in that chain of custody, including a signature on the necessary documents.

Officers will prominently mark all reports resulting from incidents, in which Colonial Beach officers participated, with the words, "Copy to Colonial Beach PD" under the disposition in their incident report narrative. This will alert Records Section to send a copy to the Colonial Beach Police Department.

Officers who are in Colonial Beach as a result of a response under this section, are empowered to act as law enforcement officers within Colonial Beach. They may do so for in-progress crimes or in response to emergencies and mutual aid events. Officers so engaged, have all the immunities from liability and exemption from laws, ordinances and regulations, and have all the pension, relief, disability, workers' compensation and other benefits within the jurisdictional limits of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

G. RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section will require any report, marked with the notation, "Copy to Colonial Beach P D," be copied and mailed to the Colonial Beach Police Department. Any copy of a report regarding an incident occurring within Charles County, which is written by Colonial Beach officers, received by Records Section, will be:

1. copied and sent to the involved officer(s);
2. copied and sent to the Commander, CID; and



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3. placed in the Records file with the original case report written by Charles County officers.

H. COLONIAL BEACH POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Colonial Beach officers are empowered to act in an emergency within Charles County adjacent to Colonial Beach. Arrests made or evidence and property recovered as a result of such activities shall be turned over to Charles County Sheriff's Officers. Colonial Beach officers will provide information as witnesses for reports and in court. The Colonial Beach Police Department will provide to the Charles County Sheriff's Records Section, copies of any reports they write in conjunction with their response to incidents within Charles County.

3-152 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA. SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding concerning police services provided to that area of Charles County, which is immediately adjacent to King George County, Virginia. This section outlines the MOU and provides guidance to employees of the CCSO when they are called upon to respond to calls for service in this area.

The original MOU was signed on July 8, 1999. A copy of the MOU is filed in the Office of the Sheriff. The MOU remains in effect until canceled or revised by one of the Chief Executives of either Law Enforcement Agency.

The MOU essentially provides that the King George County Sheriff's Office may make an initial response to emergency needs for police services in those areas of Charles County adjacent to King George County, Virginia. It further provides that the assistance and resources of each Agency may be requested and received, one from the other, at the discretion of the providing Agency. Follow-up investigations remain the responsibility of the Agency which has original jurisdiction.

"Emergency," as used in the agreement, may consist of a misdemeanor committed in the presence of the officer, a felony or any crime in progress.

3-152.1 KING GEORGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S ACTIVITIES

King George County Sheriff's Officers who observe or are notified of emergencies or criminal activities immediately adjacent to their County, but within Charles County, will:

- notify the Communications Section of the CCSO;
- respond to the scene;
- take appropriate action to protect lives and property;
- apprehend violators;
- recover contraband and evidence;
- restore the peace; and
- secure the scene awaiting arrival of the responding CCSO officers.

3-152.2 CCSO COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified of a need for police services within the area of Charles County adjacent to King George County, Virginia, the Communications employee will relay the request to the appropriate commander / supervisor. The appropriate supervisor will be that which is available in descending order:

- the Commander, District I;



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- the Shift commander;
- the Supervisor, District I.

This notification will be by the most expeditious means. The Communications employee shall request the commander / supervisor assign the specific units (or a number of units) and the response code for those units. Police Communications officers shall provide detailed directions to Fairview Beach or any other area in King George County, Virginia, for any responding unit which is not familiar with the route.

Any event which necessitates a significant response from the CCSO will require an immediate notification from the Communications Section to the Patrol operations commanders, or if unavailable, the Assistant Sheriff. This notification is in addition to any other required by this section.

3-152.3 COMMANDER / SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The commander / supervisor who is contacted by Communications shall evaluate the request for police service in that area of Charles County adjacent to King George County, Virginia. The commander / supervisor will decide the need for Agency response. If response is indicated, the units needed to respond shall be decided as well as their response code.

If the response is to be for a continuing crime, or an event requiring a significant investigation, a supervisor shall respond with the necessary manpower to handle the event or crime. The commander / supervisor shall maintain contact with the Communications Section and request additional resources as are found to be needed.

3-152.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF SENIOR OFFICER / SUPERVISOR ON THE SCENE

It shall be the responsibility of the senior sworn officer / supervisor on the scene at Fairview Beach, or any other location adjacent to King George County, Virginia, to assume supervision of the event and see to the proper discharge of all requirements of this section. The supervisor will coordinate activities with the King George County Sheriff's Office for use of their resources as necessary.

Sufficient information shall be gathered to confirm that any person taken into custody, or issued a criminal or civil summons, in fact committed an offense which can be prosecuted within Charles County, Maryland. If a person is to be returned to Charles County for processing, it shall be determined that the person was arrested in Charles County, Maryland. If the person was arrested in Virginia, extradition proceedings must be instituted in order to return the person to Maryland.

In addition to any other reports or forms necessary as a result of response to King George County, Virginia, the senior sworn officer / supervisor shall cause to be completed a Commanders' Information Report. The senior sworn officer / supervisor shall cause the names, addresses and telephone numbers, and such other information as may be necessary to contact individuals, to be gathered for each person who may be a witness or police officer involved in any activity associated with the reason for Charles County Sheriff's Office response to King George County, Virginia.

If a priority response is to be made to King George County, Virginia, from Charles County, the senior sworn officer or supervisor will have the Communications Section make a courtesy call to the Maryland Transportation Authority Police at the Nice Bridge. In cases of non-priority response, the notification is optional as time permits.

If the activities on the scene result in a court case in Charles County, the senior sworn officer or supervisor on the scene will make every effort to provide information and assistance to King George County Sheriff's Officers who may be required to appear as witnesses in a Charles County Court. These officers may not be familiar with our court routine and should be briefed and supported to the degree necessary to make them feel a part of our police

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team.

3-152.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

All personnel responding to events in King George County will be mindful that their response must be completed safely in order to accomplish any law enforcement purpose. The response distance to Fairview Beach is in excess of 30 miles. Even priority responses must be made with the realization that circumstances requiring the response may be concluded prior to the officer's arrival on the scene. The officer must be particularly mindful of the exposure to danger created by such a long priority response and keep safe driving tactics as a primary concern.

Charles County Sheriff's Officers will write any necessary reports concerning events occurring within Charles County. Additionally, they will take charge of any prisoners arrested in Charles County for offenses occurring in Charles County. These persons will be processed in the normal manner dependent upon their crimes and age. In the case of juvenile arrests, where the juvenile is to be released, the juvenile forms may be completed either on the scene or at the King George County Sheriff's Office and the release completed at that location. A supply of forms shall be stocked at the King George County Sheriff's Office to facilitate this process.

Adults to be given citations may be given those citations and released on the scene. Any adult who is to be fingerprinted and photographed shall be returned to the Charles County Detention Center for such processing.

All evidence or property, collected with regard to an event occurring within Charles County shall be gathered by the Charles County officers and handled in the usual manner. Any King George County Sheriff's Officer who is a part of the chain of custody shall be formally included in that chain of custody, including a signature on the necessary documents.

CCSO officers will prominently mark all reports resulting from incidents, in which King George County Sheriff's Officers participated, with the words, "Copy to King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office." This will alert Records Section to send a copy to the King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office.

CCSO officers who are in King George County, Virginia, as a result of a response under this section, are empowered to act as law enforcement officers within King George County, Virginia. They may do so for in-progress crimes or in response to emergencies. Officers so engaged, have all the immunities from liability and exemption from laws, ordinances and regulations, and have all the pension, relief, disability, workers' compensation and other benefits as they would within the jurisdictional limits of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-152.6 RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section will require any report, marked with the notation, "Copy to King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office" be copied and mailed to the King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office. Any copy of a report, regarding an incident, occurring within Charles County, which is written by King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Officers, received by Records Section, will be:

- copied and sent to the involved officer(s);
- copied and sent to the Commander, CID; and
- placed in the Records file with the original case report written by Charles County Officers.

3-152.7 RESPONSIBILITIES OF KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA. SHERIFF'S OFFICERS

King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Officers are empowered to act in an emergency within Charles County adjacent to King George County, Virginia. Arrests made or evidence and property recovered as a result of such activities shall be turned over to Charles County Sheriff's Officers. King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Officers



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will provide information as witnesses for reports and in court. The King George County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office will provide to the Charles County Sheriff's Records Section, copies of any reports they write in conjunction with their response to incidents within Charles County.

3-155 MOU - CHARLES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Sheriff has entered into an agreement with the Charles County Board of Education to empower the Sheriff to carry out the responsibilities of the Education Article (ED § 26-102). Under this section, the governing board of any public institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education may enter into an agreement with appropriate law enforcement agencies to carry out the responsibilities of the section when:

- The institution is closed; or
- None of the persons designated in Section 3-155.1 are present in the buildings or on the grounds of the institution.

3-155.1 PERSONS WHO MAY DENY ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS

The governing board, president, superintendent, or principal, of any public institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education, or a person designated in writing by the board or any of these persons, may deny access to the buildings or grounds of the institution if the conditions in Section 3-155.2 are met.

3-155.2 DENYING ACCESS

Sworn employees may deny access to the buildings or grounds, of the various institutions of the Charles County Board of Education, to any person who:

- Is not a bona fide, currently registered student, or staff or faculty member at the institution, and who does not have lawful business to pursue at the institution; or
- Is a bona fide, currently registered student at the institution and has been suspended or expelled from the institution, for the duration of the suspension or expulsion; or
- Acts in a manner that disrupts or disturbs the normal educational functions of the institution.

3-155.3 PENALTIES

Persons found guilty of violating the provisions of ED § 26-102 are guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction are subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both if the violator:

- Trespasses on the grounds of any public institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education;
- Fails or refuses to leave the grounds of any of these institutions after being requested to do so by an authorized employee of the institution;
- Willfully damages or defaces any building, furnishing, statue, monument, memorial, tree, shrub, grass, or flower on the grounds of any of these institutions.

3-155.4 CAUTIONS

Employees are cautioned that this section only empowers the Sheriff when there is no representative of the school present when the trespass occurs. In effect, the section empowers the Sheriff as the complainant (property owner)



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if the conditions of the section are met.

3-156 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the La Plata Police Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the interactions of the two Agencies. The MOU was created in order that the best possible service might be rendered to the citizens of Charles County and the Town of La Plata by both Agencies. This can be done through the cooperative efforts of the two Agencies in coordinating the delivery of services.

This MOU provides that certain responsibilities will be primary for each Agency. The Agency which is not primary will provide supporting services to the other upon request. The MOU also provides for the sharing of information and reporting of activities in a manner which best serves the citizens of the County and the Town of La Plata.

The La Plata Police Department and the Charles County Sheriff's Office have joint jurisdiction within the incorporated Town of La Plata. However, the La Plata Police Department shall have the primary responsibility for all requests for police services, enforcement of traffic laws, and investigation of all traffic accidents within the incorporated Town of La Plata except as enumerated within the MOU and as outlined in this policy.

3-156.1 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN THE TOWN OF LA PLATA, MARYLAND

TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS

The La Plata Police Department will have the primary responsibility for traffic related activities such as disabled vehicles, roadway hazards, and point of traffic control.

In the event a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office or the La Plata Police Department witnesses or arrives at the scene of a minor traffic incident (i.e., disabled vehicle, traffic violation, property damage accident), that member will handle the incident unless committed to an assignment of a higher priority.

The La Plata Police Department will have primary responsibility for all non-criminal serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions occurring within the Town limits. The Charles County Sheriff's Traffic Operations Unit will provide assistance as requested and will take on the responsibility of the lead investigative unit upon the request of the La Plata Police Department.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for the investigation of all motor vehicle traffic accidents which involve county-owned vehicles within the incorporated Town of La Plata.

The La Plata Police Department will be responsible for the investigation of all motor vehicle traffic accidents which involve vehicles owned by the Town of La Plata within the incorporated Town of La Plata.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will further be responsible for the investigation of all motor vehicle accidents involving county-owned and privately-owned school buses used for the transportation of students associated with the Charles County Board of Education, private contractors, and related activities on all roadways within the incorporated Town of La Plata.

There is nothing to prevent either agency upon request and agreement from yielding the investigation to the other.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office shall provide communications capabilities to the La Plata Police Department.



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It is the responsibility of the La Plata Police Department to purchase and maintain portable and mobile radios for its officers and vehicles that are compatible with the specifications dictated by the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The La Plata Police Department will have the primary responsibility for the investigation of criminal complaints within the incorporated Town of La Plata except as outlined below:

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will have the primary responsibility for the investigation of the following crimes:

- Deaths (unless natural);
- Shootings (unless accidental);
- Felony assaults, with life threatening injuries;
- Rape;
- Sexual offenses (except fourth degree);
- Commercial robbery;
- Kidnapping / abduction;
- Child abuse;
- Elderly abuse;
- Forgery and related crimes over \$50,000;
- Credit card fraud over \$50,000;
- Other crimes that are currently above the resources of the La Plata Police Department;
- Officer involved Use of Deadly Force.

The La Plata Police Department will be made aware of all of the crimes listed above that occur in the incorporated Town of La Plata, and its detective unit will assist with the investigation whenever feasible. This does not preclude an officer from the Charles County Sheriff's Office from taking over the primary responsibility for any in-person request for service which requires immediate attention, for investigating a crime to which they are a witness, or when due to manpower, in those instances when the La Plata Police Department is unavailable.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will have the primary responsibility for the investigation of all criminal offenses committed on county-owned or county-managed property, including buildings housing the office of county agencies, and all county operated correctional facilities in the incorporated Town of La Plata.

The La Plata Police Department will advise and consult with the Charles County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division, on all crimes that occur within the Town of La Plata where said crime has a nexus to crimes outside the La Plata Police Department jurisdiction being investigated by the Charles County Sheriff's Office. After the consultation, the La Plata Police Department investigation may be reassigned to the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Response to in-progress criminal incidents may be provided by either agency.

ORGANIZED CRIME, CRIMINAL CONSPIRACIES, AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

The Charles County Sheriff's Office and the La Plata Police Department are both responsible for gathering information about organized criminal activity, criminal conspiracies, and all other criminal activity which may affect either Agency. The investigative components of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the La Plata Police Department shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible in the gathering of information described in this paragraph.

NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Through the authority of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, P.L. 81-290, Md. Pub. Safety Code Ann. § 14-101



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et seq., the Charles County Government has established an “Emergency Operations Plan.” The plan establishes a comprehensive emergency management program to respond to natural disasters, man-made disasters, and civil emergencies and assigns functions and responsibilities to all government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, to support the coordinated management of said emergencies.

Under the terms of the Emergency Operations Plan, the Charles County Sheriff's Office is responsible for coordinating emergency law enforcement within the county during periods of disaster or civil unrest which originate or expand outside the incorporated Town of La Plata. The La Plata Police Department shall coordinate incidents within the incorporated Town of La Plata with assistance and support of the Charles County Sheriff's Office as per the Emergency Operations Plan for the incorporated Town of La Plata unless by request and acceptance, the incident shall be turned over to the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-156.2 MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND TIMELY RESPONSE

The La Plata Police Department shall provide 24-hour police coverage within the incorporated Town of La Plata. Should a shortage of manpower exist and the La Plata Police Department is unable to provide coverage, the on-duty shift commander for the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall be notified and, if allowed by available resources, the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall assign a unit to work the Town of La Plata. If available resources limit this assignment, the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall still become the first responder to calls within the incorporated Town of La Plata.

The officers of the Town of La Plata Police Department, when requested by the Sheriff's Office, may respond in a mutual aid capacity outside the incorporated Town of La Plata but within Charles County. This authority will be limited to responses at the specific request of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, unless the officer is rendering assistance to another police officer in conformance with Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Procedure Article § 2-102(b)(3)(i).

In the event it becomes necessary for the Charles County Sheriff's Office or the La Plata Police Department to request the assistance of the other agency in fulfilling the responsibilities conferred in this Memorandum, or any other law enforcement responsibility, such assistance will be provided, subject to available resources.

Should either agency be unable to respond in a timely manner to any call for service in its primary areas of responsibility, the non-primary agency will be requested to respond.

DOCUMENTATION OF MUTUAL AID

Whenever significant mutual aid is provided by either the Charles County Sheriff's Office or the La Plata Police Department, an “assist other agency” report will be prepared when mutually agreed upon by both agencies' shift supervisors. The report will be forwarded to the agency providing the mutual aid.

WARRANT SERVICE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will assume primary responsibility for the processing and service of warrants as issued through the District Court Commissioner unless specifically requested that the warrant be returned to an officer of the La Plata Police Department for service.

FUGITIVE WARRANTS

If a subject wanted on out-of-state charges is located by the La Plata Police Department and there are Charles County charges, the fugitive TTYs confirming the request for extradition will be obtained by the arresting officer and left with the detention center as a detainer. There will be no fugitive charges filed until the subject is released from custody on local charges.



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If a subject wanted on out-of-state charges is located by the La Plata Police Department and there are no local charges, the subject will be turned over to the Charles County Sheriff's Office for charging as a fugitive.

3-160 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Charles County Department of Emergency Services (DES) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the interactions of the two Agencies.

3-160.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSE GROUPS/ PROGRAMS/ PERSONNEL- Each agency will assign personnel from their agency as follows:

DES manages and maintains the following response groups and agrees to provide personnel to support CCSO missions when requested:

- Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) –tactical emergency medical technicians certified, trained, and equipped to provide emergency medical care and support to the CCSO Emergency Services Team (EST).
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat)- hazardous material technicians, supervisors, and commanders certified, trained and equipped to respond to and mitigate hazardous material incidents.
- Medical Standby- emergency medical technicians equipped to provide medical care and support at the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy or other locations.

CCSO agrees to provide personnel to participate in the following response groups:

- Hazardous Materials (HazMat)- CCSO will allow employees who are certified, trained and equipped to participate with members of the DES HazMat Team.

3-160.2 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Both agencies agree to the following operational guidelines, as specified in the MOU:

Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- DES personnel engaged in TEMS support to EST missions or training activities will wear the prescribed duty uniform and equipment as supplied by CCSO.
- CCSO personnel engaged in HazMat missions or training activities will wear the prescribed duty uniform and equipment as supplied by DES.

Operation and maintenance of Apparatus, Vehicles, and Equipment:

- Prior to operating any equipment, vehicles or apparatus, the individual operator will be trained or appropriately licensed in accordance with Maryland Law and the standards set forth by the respective agency owner of the equipment.



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- In the event of a vehicle crash or damage, the agency that owns the vehicle will notify the other agency of the incident and will provide reports, related documentation, and disposition as necessary.

Reporting / Chain of Command:

- Response Groups- During operations when employees are acting as part of a response group (i.e. sworn CCSO members are participating in a HazMat response or TEMS personnel on an EST incident) their primary responsibility will be duties related to that particular response group assignment, and personnel will comply with the command and control structure of the Agency / Department managing the operation.

3-160.3 GENERAL TERMS

The points of contact between the agencies shall be the Special Operations Division Commander for the Sheriff's Office and the Assistant Chief of Special Operations for DES.

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3-162 MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS - CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Recognizing it is in the public interest that law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Maryland cooperate to the greatest extent possible to provide prompt, effective, and professional law enforcement services, this Agency has entered into a mutual aid agreement with the listed counties' law enforcement agencies. This agreement allows us, in accordance with Criminal Procedure, § 2-105 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to provide assistance to, and request assistance from, police agencies in neighboring jurisdictions and to enter into joint law enforcement initiatives to include task forces and regional multi-jurisdictional initiatives. This MOU may be immediately canceled at any time by any one of the Sheriffs of the respective Law Enforcement Agency.

3-162.1 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this section of policy:

- The law enforcement officer who enters the jurisdiction of another party to this Agreement shall be the "Entering Officer";
- The jurisdiction into which a law enforcement officer enters under this agreement shall be the "Entered Jurisdiction";
- The law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction into which a law enforcement officer enters under this Agreement shall be the "Entered Agency".

Exigent Circumstance - Can include such incidents as criminal law violations that occur in the presence of an officer; incidents having an increased potential of health or safety hazard, such as observed actions requiring an emergency evaluation / commitment, reckless endangerment, or a serious traffic violation such as possible DWI; hit and runs or other moving violations which are classified as must appear offenses.

3-162.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

In all exigent circumstance of law enforcement action, peace officer action and judicial officer action, notification shall be made as soon as possible to CCSO Communications, which will immediately notify the "Entered Agency" for said jurisdiction. The Entered Agency shall have the authority to assume command of the incident. The CCSO officer should not complete any type of additional investigation or complete any charging documents until the "Entered Agency" has refused to assume command. In the event the "Entered Agency" does assume command, the CCSO officer shall cooperate fully with the investigation and shall assume the responsibility to appear in any court proceeding. Failing to appear in court may cause a body attachment to be issued by the courts for your immediate appearance. Unless such exigent circumstances dictate otherwise, the following guidelines will be adhered to:



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- The Entering Officer may lawfully go or be sent beyond the boundaries of their own County's jurisdiction and may make arrests, conduct investigations, and otherwise enforce the laws of the State of Maryland without limitations as to jurisdiction and without the presence of a law enforcement officer from the Entered Jurisdiction, provided the Communications Section provides the Entered Jurisdiction:
 - notice when a Charles County officer enters the jurisdiction to conduct police activities;
 - the type and location of law enforcement activity;
 - whether any of the Entering Officers will be in plainclothes; and
 - an opportunity to be present during the law enforcement activity.
- The Entering Officer is authorized to act as a law enforcement officer in the Entered Jurisdiction, if the actions are in accordance with the policies and regulations of the employing agency.

It shall be the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office that officers shall not enforce common, routine traffic violations in other jurisdictions. This policy shall not affect those instances pertaining to vehicle pursuits or the elements of fresh pursuit. In those cases, current Agency policy will be followed.

Parties to this agreement may enter into joint law enforcement initiatives to include task forces and regional multi-jurisdictional initiatives as considered necessary. Each such agreement shall spell out duties and responsibilities for the term of the task force or initiative and be approved by the affective Sheriff or his designee.

3-162.3 RESPONSIBILITIES - COMMUNICATIONS

Upon being contacted by a neighboring jurisdiction requesting assistance under this agreement, Charles County Sheriff's Office Communications Officers will:

- Determine the:
 - nature of the call;
 - number of officers being requested;
 - equipment needed, if any; and
 - name and location of the requesting Agency's supervisor to which CCSO officers will report.
- at once contact the district commander, shift commander or sector supervisor, whichever is immediately available for approval of the request;
- dispatch the needed units and equipment as determined by the appropriate commander / supervisor; and
- relay the response information, including estimated response time to the requesting Agency.

Upon being advised by a sector supervisor or district / shift commander of the need to request assistance from a neighboring jurisdiction, CCSO Communications officers will:

- immediately contact the Communications section of the assisting Agency and provide them with the following information:
 - the nature of the request;
 - the number of officers needed;
 - equipment needed, if any; and
 - the name and location of the CCSO supervisor / commander to which the assisting officers will report; and



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- obtain the estimated response time from the assisting agency.

3-162.4 RESPONSIBILITIES - COMMAND / SUPERVISION

Upon determining the need for assistance from a neighboring jurisdiction, the appropriate commander / supervisor will contact CCSO Communications and direct the approved procedure for such requests be followed.

If the commander / supervisor receives a request for assistance from a neighboring jurisdiction, he will determine the availability of the manpower or equipment needed, and make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the request.

If an unusual or serious incident occurs involving a CCSO officer, the commander, / supervisor, as appropriate will respond to the scene of the incident.

The commander / supervisor will ensure that all necessary reports are completed and distributed as required elsewhere in this policy and Manual, and that all necessary notifications are made.

3-162.5 RESPONSIBILITIES - RESPONDING OFFICERS

In accordance with this policy, officers will only be dispatched into neighboring jurisdictions by command or supervisory authority, and will comply with this and all other CCSO policy and procedure.

Upon being released by the officer in charge, officers will immediately return to Charles County and advise Communications as such.

CCSO officers shall have authority to use deadly force only in defense of an attack that may result in death or serious bodily injury to the officer, other officers present, or innocent bystanders.

Prior to securing from duty, assisting officers will complete a Commanders' Information Report detailing the circumstances of the incident. Officers who are in a neighboring jurisdiction because of this agreement have all the immunities from liability and exemption from laws, ordinances and regulations, and have all pensions, relief, disability, workers' compensation and other benefits enjoyed within the jurisdictional limits of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-163 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR JOINT INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES OF CHILD PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE

For the purpose of determining criminal issues, reducing trauma to victims, and decreasing the potential for physical harm to children, the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), Maryland State Police (MSP), Charles County Department of Social Services (DSS), Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), County Attorney's Office, State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care (MSDE, OCC) have entered into an agreement for conducting joint investigations, as mandated by law, into cases of alleged physical and sexual abuse of children.

The agreement outlines each agency's responsibilities during an investigation:

- The CCSO shall be responsible for all aspects of the criminal investigation.
- Child Protective Service Workers from the Department of Social Services shall be responsible for assessing safety of all children in a home or child care center and provision of needed services to the family.
- The Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care (MSDE, OCC) is responsible for



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assessing the health and safety of children in care and shall determine when a registered family child care home or licensed child care center remains open.

- The Charles County Public Schools shall determine the appropriate personnel action to take with employees. CCPS will also make available a staff member during any interview with a child.
- The State's Attorney's Office shall review cases from a criminal aspect for possible prosecution.

While these are separate responsibilities and perspectives, it is critical to the successful resolution of both the legal and social ramifications of a case that investigations proceed jointly and with total cooperation.

Unique circumstances shall allow for one agency to proceed without the presence of a representative of the other agency. For example, if the alleged victim lives in another state and there are no other potential victims in the home, the CCSO could proceed with their investigation after proper notification to the DSS, Child Protective Services (CPS).

3-163.1 DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined as they may appear in the context of the Memorandum of Agreement and/or within this policy:

Charles County School Personnel or Designee - an individual employed by the Charles County Public School system who acts as a supportive advocate of a child during the interview process.

Child Protective Service Worker - a social worker / case manager employed by the Charles County Department of Social Services and assigned to the Child Protective Services Unit. These social workers / case managers have received specialized training in the issues concerning physically abusing, sexually abusing and/or neglecting families.

Child Abuse Investigator / Detective - a police investigator who has received special training in the field of child abuse. A police officer who is specially assigned to work child abuse cases to the exclusion of other criminal investigations.

Child Care Regional Manager / Child Care Licensing Supervisor / Child Care Licensing Specialist - an individual employed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Office of Child Care, Region 10, who is responsible for the registration and licensing of family child care homes and child care centers respectively, and for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of children in their care.

County Attorney - the office of the County Attorney is responsible for all legal affairs, as required by Maryland Code, of the County Government, including the Department of Social Services and Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Criminal Investigator / Detective - an officer assigned to the criminal investigation division of a law enforcement agency.

Police Officer - a uniformed police officer assigned to general police work.

State's Attorney - an attorney who represents the citizens of Charles County in the circuit and district courts in all aspects of criminal prosecutions and in the collection of child support.



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3-163.2 NOTIFICATIONS

Immediately upon receipt of a report or information concerning a suspected child abuse case, the Charles County Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services Unit shall contact the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The Child Protective Services (CPS) Unit shall attempt to reach the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) by phone and shall also fax a copy of the report to CID. If unable to reach a member of CID by phone, CPS shall telephone the main number of the Sheriff's Office and provide as much of the following information as is available at that time:

- name and age of the abused child;
- street address, directions to the address, and telephone number of the abused child;
- identity of the suspected abuser, street address and directions to the address of the suspected abuser;
- name, street address, directions to the address, and telephone number of the child's parents, guardians or custodians; and
- nature of the suspected abuse.

If the Charles County Sheriff's Office receives a report of suspected child abuse, the Agency shall immediately contact the CPS Unit. During non-business hours, contact will be made by way of a prepared schedule of extended-hour staff provided by the DSS. The Sheriff's Officer making the notification shall provide as much of the following information as is available at that time:

- name and age of the alleged abused child;
- street address, directions to the address, and telephone number of the alleged abused child;
- identity of the suspected abuser, street address and directions to the address of the suspected abuser;
- name, street address, directions to the address, and telephone number of the alleged abused child's parents, guardians or custodians; and
- nature of the suspected abuse.

Additionally, a Child Care Licensing Specialist or Board of Education Liaison shall be included in the notification process as appropriate.

3-163.3 INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES

Once notification procedures have been followed, a detective and the CPS worker shall make arrangements to meet. In all cases of child physical or sexual abuse, CCSO detectives shall be responsible for all aspects of the criminal investigation. The Child Protective Service worker shall not interfere in the criminal investigation. Neither shall the detective interfere in social work matters, such as child placement or removal. The CPS worker shall be responsible for determining risk and safety to the child, family service needs, and/or risk and safety to other children.

The detective and the CPS worker shall agree on a case-by-case basis who should be the primary interviewer. Whenever possible, the interview of an alleged victim shall be conducted in a familiar setting and out of the presence of the alleged abuser. The determination as to the primary interviewer shall be made considering the following factors:

- individual agency representative's skill with a particular age group;
- assessment of the probable criminal aspect of the case based on the referral information; and
- assessment of any probable reoccurrence of allegations based on the referral information.

If there is disparity between the detective and the CPS worker over who should conduct the interview, the detective shall proceed first. However, the CPS worker shall be allowed to be present during the entire interview. If requested by the detective, the CPS worker shall not participate in the questioning during the initial phase of the interview. After the detective completes the initial phase, the CPS worker shall be permitted to ask additional questions. The



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detective shall be present during this follow-up interview.

During the initial interview with the alleged victim, as well as interviews with other children possibly involved, a precursory examination to determine if there are any physical injuries should be conducted.

If both the detective and the CPS worker deem it necessary, either agency's representative may agree to be excluded from an interview. If this occurs, immediately upon completion, the individual who conducted the interview shall inform the other of the substance of all statements made. Because of the need to coordinate investigations, exclusion of an agency's representative should rarely occur.

3-163.4 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES - THE CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

If the interview of an alleged victim occurs at a school, school personnel shall be required to provide a private room in which to conduct interviews. Unless the detective and/or the CPS worker reason that it would be detrimental to the investigation, a school representative will be present during interviews in order to reduce the anxiety of the alleged victim. Only one school representative shall be allowed to be present during the interview. The representative will not take an active role in the investigation unless requested to do so.

If, after the initial investigation, the CPS worker deems it necessary to remove the alleged victim from school, the CPS worker will leave a document with the school administrator that includes the name of the alleged victim being removed, the date, time, and signature of the CPS worker.

Notification to the parent or legal guardian of any alleged victim removed from school shall be made by the CPS worker or the detective by the end of the normal school day.

A Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) designated representative will normally be present during the interview of an alleged victim when the alleged abuser is being accused in his / her professional capacity as a CCPS employee. In cases involving school personnel, the CCPS has a responsibility to provide services to the alleged victim or family separate from the criminal or child in danger determinations. Therefore, the substance of all pertinent information shall be shared with the school representative.

3-163.5 SPECIAL INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES - CHILD CARE HOMES / CENTERS

Unless the alleged victim(s) are in immediate danger or team members (detective, CPS worker and the Child Care Licensing Specialist) are unavailable, when a report involves alleged abuse at a registered family child care home, licensed child care center, or a facility operating with a Letter of Compliance, a meeting of the team or a conference call shall occur prior to any action. If a team meeting or conference call does occur prior to the initial interview, the

team shall determine what information needs to be obtained. As appropriate, other issues to be addressed shall include:

- the process for interviewing other children who are attending or have attended the home / group child care center;
- notification of parents or legal guardians of children who are attending or have attended the home / group child care center;
- notification to the child care licensee that an investigation is underway;
- possible closure of the child care home / center;
- charging of a suspect or suspects;
- response to media; and



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- interviewing of the child care home / center staff (past and present).

If in the course of any visit, the CPS worker or detective perceives that the children are in immediate danger, the CPS worker shall take the necessary actions to protect the children, including their immediate removal. The Office of Child Care, Regional Manager, as the head of the licensing agency, shall be notified of the danger immediately, and shall assist, as necessary, in making arrangements for return of the children to their parents or legal guardians. The day care licensee shall also be notified of any actions being taken to remove the children from danger. The CPS worker, according to the agreement by the team, shall make notifications.

If, as a result of the initial visit, the CPS worker or the detective finds children are not in immediate danger, the Child Care Licensing Supervisor or Regional Manager and the other members of the team shall be advised of that assessment.

If notification of the investigation has not been given to the child care licensee as part of an emergency removal of children, the team shall determine which member of the team will notify the child care licensee and when such notification can be made without interfering with any pending investigation. The parent of any alleged victim(s) may be notified prior to the notification of a licensee.

When the team determines it is necessary, a representative of the MSDE, Office of Child Care shall be permitted to observe the joint interview in an effort to decrease any trauma experienced by the alleged victim. Prior to the ending of an interview session, the interviewer shall allow the MSDE, OCC representative to address any questions not previously covered.

Members, as determined by the team, shall conduct interviews with the parents of the alleged victim, other children attending the child care home / center and child care staff jointly.

When investigators have determined the investigation will not be impeded, appropriate members of the MSDE, OCC licensing staff shall be allowed to make an inspection of the child care home / center to assess policies and actions which may have contributed to the alleged abuse.

The team shall take preventive action as necessary and appropriate. They shall document any violation of licensing regulations observed, prepare a plan to correct any irregularities and address potential disciplinary action. When an emergency suspension is warranted, the Office of Child Care will evoke any emergency section of Maryland Code necessary and subsequently notify the team.

In order to attempt to assess the extent and scope of the alleged abuse, when appropriate, a member of the investigative team will notify the parents of other children in the child care home / center the investigation is underway and may seek their assistance in any way deemed appropriate.

If the team determines the best approach to notifying parents is a general meeting, it shall be conducted and attended by appropriate members of the team. Only parents or legal guardians of children presently enrolled or previously enrolled at the home / center shall be allowed at the meeting. The purpose of a general meeting of parents shall be to:

- seek parental assistance in identifying other children who may have been abused;
- educate parents on the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse;
- explain the procedures for investigating reports of suspected abuse; and
- inform parents of the procedures for contacting the appropriate team member if they believe a child has been abused or wish to provide information regarding the center.

Upon completion of the child abuse investigations and at other appropriate intervals determined by the team members, there shall be a case staff meeting. The participants shall discuss the findings of the investigation, follow-



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up actions to be taken by each of the agencies, and any corrective action to be taken on the part of the licensee.

3-163.6 DISPOSITION

The Charles County Department of Social Services shall promptly provide the State's Attorney for Charles County with one copy of all disposition reports. They shall also forward one copy to the CCSO or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

The CCSO shall provide to the Charles County Department of Social Services a report on all alleged abuse cases within ten (10) hours of its initial investigation, and shall, upon request, provide a copy of all interim and final reports as they are completed.

3-164 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY POLICE

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between the Sheriff of Charles County and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Police. The MOU outlines the authority and responsibilities of each agency regarding the provision of law enforcement services in Charles County Maryland. Nothing in the MOU shall be construed to limit the authority provided to either party under the Maryland Annotated Code or other applicable law.

3-164.1 CALLS FOR SERVICE ON MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PROPERTIES

MDTA Police shall have primary responsibility for all requests for police services, enforcement of traffic laws, investigation of all traffic accidents and investigation of all crimes on all MDTA properties specifically the Harry W. Nice Memorial / Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge, and surrounding areas owned, operated or under control of the Maryland Aviation Administration ("MAA"), the Maryland Port Authority Administration ("MPA"), or MDTA, including any and all facilities and structures thereon.

The MDTA is the primary agency responsible for conducting follow-up investigations of all incidents occurring on MAA, MPA or MDTA Police properties. Members of the Sheriff's Office agree to assist MDTA Police personnel in follow-up investigations upon request to the Sheriff's Office.

3-164.2 CONCURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTION

Under the MOU the MDTA Police are further authorized to exercise concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction in Charles County on all roads and all other property without limitation. In addition, the MDTA Police agree to be responsible for routine patrol and emergency response specifically to:

- the Aqualand Marina and Campground property at 9610 Orland Park Road, Newburg, MD, 20644; and
- the property on which the Charles County Tourist Information Center (Crain Memorial Welcome Center) is located at 12480 Crain Highway, Newburg, Maryland 20644.

Regarding these locations they agree to:

- provide the first response to an incident;
- conduct a preliminary investigation; and
- secure the scene pending the arrival of the Sheriff's Office.



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Understanding that emergencies at the Harry W. Nice Memorial/ Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge take precedence, if the MDTA Police are unable to respond to an incident at the Tourist Center or the Aqualand Marina or Campground, they will immediately contact the Sheriff’s Office which will assume responsibility for the Center, Marina or Campground and will be primary on follow-up investigations.

It is agreed that in the specified areas of concurrent jurisdiction that the first agency at the scene of any incident shall provide the law enforcement services necessary. However, the Sheriff’s Office shall have primary authority to direct, control and coordinate the investigation of the following offenses, specifically:

- homicide;
- rape;
- robbery;
- aggravated assault;
- burglary;
- theft;
- auto theft; and
- arson.

In the areas of concurrent jurisdiction, the MDTA Police will immediately notify the Sheriff’s Office if they are the first summoned to any such crime scene, make any arrest, and will further notify the respective agency of any incident involving suspicion of the existence of a controlled dangerous substance, including any major traffic violation.

This provision does not apply to MDTA property as defined by Maryland Code Annotated, Transportation Article §4-208.

3-164.3 POINTS OF CONTACT

The points of contact between the agencies shall be the Patrol Shift Commander for the Sheriff’s Office and the Commander the Patrol Division for the MDTA Police.

3-165 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - JOINT INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Charles County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO), Charles County Department of Social Services (DSS), the Area Agency on Aging, the Charles County State’s Attorney’s Office (SAO), and the Maryland State Police (MSP), have entered into an agreement for the purpose of enhancing and promoting a professional working relationship between the involved agencies to improve the quality of life of vulnerable adults in Charles County. This policy outlines the expectations and involvement of the Charles County Sheriff’s Office and the Charles County Department of Social Services in accordance with this agreement as the two agencies primarily responsible for these investigations.

3-165.1 DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined as they may appear in the context of this policy:

Abuse - the sustaining of any physical pain or injury by a vulnerable adult as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act by a care giver, a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of a vulnerable adult, or by any household or family member under circumstances that indicate that the vulnerable adult’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened.



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Adult Protective Service Worker - a social worker employed by the Charles County Department of Social Services and assigned to the Adult Service Unit.

Adult - a person eighteen years of age or older.

Care giver - a person under a duty to care for a vulnerable adult.

Crime - any act or omission that is in violation of public law which includes but is not limited to: assault, robbery, rape and related sex offenses, theft and embezzlement.

Criminal Investigator - an officer assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division of a law enforcement agency.

Emergency - conditions which present a substantial risk of death or immediate and serious physical harm to a person (self or others).

Exploitation - any action which involves the misuse of a vulnerable adult's funds, property or person.

Law Enforcement Agency - any state, county or municipal police department, bureau or agency.

Local State's Attorney - means the State's Attorney for the County, either:

- where the vulnerable adult lives; or
- where the abuse is alleged to have taken place.

Neglect - the willful deprivation of adequate food, clothing, essential medical treatment or rehabilitative therapy, shelter or supervision, to a vulnerable adult.

Patrol Officer - a uniformed police officer assigned to general police duties.

Self-neglect - the inability of a vulnerable adult to provide himself the services:

- necessary for his physical and mental health; and
- the absence of which impairs or threatens his well-being.

Vulnerable Adult - an adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for his daily needs.

3-165.2 RESPONSIBILITIES - CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Upon receiving a report that a vulnerable adult has been abused, neglected or exploited, the CCSO will at a minimum, document this on a Charles County Sheriff's Office Offense / Incident Report. Further, the DSS will be contacted by the most expeditious means available and provided with:

- the name, age and home address of the vulnerable adult;
- the name and home address of the person responsible for the care of the vulnerable adult;
- the whereabouts of the vulnerable adult;
- the nature of the vulnerable adult's incapacity;
- the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect or exploitation of the vulnerable adult including any available information regarding previous injuries resulting from abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation; and
- any other information which would be helpful in determining:
 - the cause of the suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation; and



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- the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation;
- the urgency of the situation.

Upon receiving a report from DSS indicating the possibility a crime has been committed against a vulnerable adult, a representative of the CCSO Criminal Investigations Division will promptly notify the DSS worker making the report:

- whether or not a criminal investigation will be conducted; and
- the name and location of the detective who will be conducting the investigation if one is necessary.

Upon receipt of a request from DSS for investigative assistance, the CCSO will provide a uniformed law enforcement presence when:

- there is indication from the initial report to the DSS that conditions are such that the safety and well-being of the DSS representative would be jeopardized if not accompanied by a uniformed police officer;
- the DSS representative believes an emergency exists regarding the condition of a vulnerable adult, and should the officer agree that an emergency exists, he shall ensure the vulnerable adult is transported to an appropriate health care facility;
- during an investigation, the DSS representative is refused entrance into the vulnerable adult's residence or cannot for some other reason enter the residence and there is probable cause to believe the vulnerable adult is in danger as a result of abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation; or
- at any time during the course of an investigation the DSS representative deems it necessary to request investigative assistance or law enforcement presence.

As appropriate, a local or State Area Agency on Aging may assist in the investigation. Adult Evaluation and Review Services (Health Department) shall provide an evaluation for any vulnerable adult at risk for nursing home placement for whom a request is made by Adult Protective Services for a biopsychosocial assessment.

3-165.3 RESPONSIBILITIES - CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Charles County DSS is responsible for providing twenty-four hour coverage for receiving and investigating complaints of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults. Should the DSS investigation indicate the possibility a crime has been committed against the vulnerable adult, immediate notification will be made to the CCSO Criminal Investigations Division. Included in this notification when available will be:

- the date and time the report was received by the DSS;
- name and age of the vulnerable adult;
- address, telephone number and directions to the residence of the vulnerable adult;
- nature, date and location of the crime committed against the vulnerable adult;
- name, address and directions to the residence of any suspect(s);
- names, addresses and telephone numbers of any possible witnesses; and
- any other information deemed relevant to the situation.

The responsibilities of the Charles County DSS do not extend to:

- the abuse of a patient in a mental health facility;
- the abuse of a patient in a facility for persons with intellectual disabilities;
- the abuse of a patient in a nursing home; or
- the abuse of a patient in a hospital.



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The primary responsibility for investigating reports of abuse of adults in such facilities is that of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Licensing and Certification.

3-166 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources establishing concurrent jurisdiction over property adjoining state-owned property which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources. This MOU establishes the authority of persons commissioned as Forest, Park and Wildlife Rangers to enforce Civil and Criminal Laws on all public and private property within Charles County which adjoins the boundaries of:

- Smallwood State Park;
- Mattawoman Natural Resource Management Area;
- Cedarville State Forest;
- Chapel Point State Park;
- Doncaster State Forest;
- Purse State Park; and
- Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area.

This MOU places no additional duties or responsibilities on members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, nor does it in any way diminish or relinquish the law enforcement authority of the Charles County Sheriff.

3-167 INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MARYLAND DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION AND THE SHERIFF OF CHARLES COUNTY

Recognizing that the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation and the Charles County Sheriff's Office have a mutual interest in creating safe communities by sharing information regarding offenders who have been convicted of crimes listed in Criminal Law Article, § 14-101 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (Crimes of Violence), the two Agencies have entered into an agreement in furtherance of that interest. The following policy explains the responsibilities of each Agency pursuant to this agreement.

3-167.1 RESPONSIBILITIES - DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION

The Division of Parole and Probation will provide on a quarterly basis, a listing of all offenders being supervised on parole or probation for crimes of violence in Charles County. The list will contain the:

- offender's name;
- supervising agent's name;
- current case status / level of supervision; and
- personal identifying information of the offender, including:
 - home address;
 - date of birth;
 - sex and race; and
 - FBI and SID numbers.



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3-167.2 RESPONSIBILITIES - CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will provide a camera in good working order and film to allow Division of Parole and Probation personnel to photograph all active violent crime offenders. The photograph will be taken when the offender reports for intake procedures or is transferred to the Charles County office for supervision from another Division of Parole and Probation office. The photograph may be updated if the offender's appearance changes significantly while under supervision.

The offender's photograph will then become part of the Parole and Probation case file, but will be made available (loaned), to the Charles County Sheriff's Office for official criminal investigation purposes.

Both receipt of the offenders' list, and supply of the camera and film will be the responsibility of the Investigations Section, Criminal Investigations Division of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-168 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE STATE OF MARYLAND

In 1996 an agreement was signed between the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and the Governor of the State of Maryland. As a result, concurrent jurisdiction was established over a number of park areas in Maryland which were under the exclusive or proprietary jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and therefore the United States Park Police. Included in these parks were two in Charles County: Piscataway Park and the Thomas Stone National Historic Site. The effect of this agreement is that the Charles County Sheriff's Office now has full authority to enforce all laws, criminal and civil, on these lands just as on any other public or private property within Charles County.

3-169 MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT - PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Recognizing it is in the public interest that law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Maryland cooperate to the greatest extent possible to provide prompt, effective, and professional law enforcement services, this Agency has entered into a mutual aid agreement with the stated county's law enforcement agency. It is considered to be in the best interests of the citizens of the said counties for the counties to assist with emergency calls and provide for the exchange of patrol assistance across county lines for police service in order to enforce the laws and to protect persons and property in the adjoining boundary areas.

3-169.1 CONDITIONS FOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL

When the determination is made by a requesting jurisdiction that there is a need for assistance which cannot be met through use of its own patrol personnel, the requesting jurisdiction may then request patrol personnel from the assisting jurisdiction.

Requests will be exchanged between the respective Communications Sections. The request for assistance shall state:

- The reason and location for the patrol response; and
- The number of patrol officers requested.

All calls for assistance received from Prince George's County shall be cleared by Communications through an on-duty commander prior to any police response. The commander will approve or deny the request based on manpower availability. The commander shall notify the respective shift supervisor upon approval of request. On calls of a serious nature, all efforts will be made to accommodate requests. Approved calls will generally, but not



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exclusively, be limited to the following:

- Signal 13 - officer needs assistance;
- Natural disasters;
- Large fights with weapons involved;
- Hostage / barricades;
- Riots; and
- Other serious calls requiring manpower on a short-term basis.

All officers responding will acknowledge and advise Communications. Approximate response time will be communicated to Prince George's County.

Unless life threatening or other exigent circumstances exist, Charles County Sheriff's officers will attempt to await the arrival of a Prince George's County unit prior to taking action.

The assisting patrol officers shall be used to respond to emergency calls for service as a backup unit for the minimum time necessary to handle the call for service.

Charles County Sheriff's officers shall not assume command of any situation or incident. Whenever possible, they shall be responsible to a single supervisor. If this is not possible, the ranking officer from Prince George's County shall determine how supervision is to be arranged.

The assisting officer(s) shall not become involved in matters other than those pertaining to call for service for which requested.

Assisting officer(s) shall have the use of deadly force only in defense against an attack that may result in death or serious bodily injury to the officer, innocent bystanders or other officers on the scene.

The assisting patrol officer(s) shall serve at the discretion of the requesting jurisdiction. The assisting jurisdiction may unilaterally withdraw its personnel at any time after notifying the requesting jurisdiction of such action.

Should an unusual or major incident involving Charles County Sheriff's officer(s) occur, the shift supervisor shall respond to the scene.

Charles County Sheriff's officers shall return to service immediately upon being released by the officer in charge. Returning officers shall notify Communications when re-entering Charles County.

3-169.2 RESPONSIBILITIES - RESPONDING OFFICERS

Prior to securing from duty, assisting officers will complete a Commanders' Information Report detailing the circumstances of the incident. Officers who are in a neighboring jurisdiction because of this agreement have all the immunities from liability and exemption from laws, ordinances and regulations, and have all pensions, relief, disability, workers' compensation and other benefits enjoyed within the jurisdictional limits of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-170 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

Purpose: To establish procedures for the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to support the Charles County Department of Health (CCDOH) in responding to public health-related phone calls received after regular business



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hours. This policy outlines the responsibilities of the Charles County Sheriff's Office under the Memorandum of Understanding between CCSO and CCDOH, effective October 1, 2025.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office agrees to the following:

1. After-Hours Response: Provide daily after-business-hour phone call response services related to animal bites and noise complaints.
2. Call Triage: Utilize the CCSO computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system to triage incoming calls appropriately.
3. Forward public health-related calls concerning animal bites and noise complaints to the Charles County Department of Health's designated after-hours call number for appropriate follow-up.

CCSO Communications Personnel: Responsible for adhering to this policy and ensuring calls are managed and routed per the outlined procedures.

Supervisors: Ensure all relevant staff are trained on the procedures and the current after-hours contact information for CCDOH.

3-180 BLUE RIBBON PROJECT – BACKPACKS OF LOVE

In an effort to improve the quality of life for children who have been the victims of child neglect and abuse, the Charles County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the La Plata Police Department, the Blue Ribbon Project-Backpacks of Love, the Charles County Department of Social Services, and the Charles County Foster Parents Association to provide needed supplies to children placed in foster care.

3-180.1 NOTIFICATION

When a child is placed in foster care in Charles County, it is the responsibility of the Department of Social Services (DSS) employee to notify Communications of the need for a backpack delivery. The following information will be provided:

- The location of the child.
- The sex and age of the child.
- A callback number.
- The name and a contact number for the DSS employee.

3-180.2 DELIVERY

If the location of the child is within the corporate limits of La Plata, a LPPD officer shall obtain the age appropriate backpack and shall arrange for delivery as soon as practical. If the location of the child is outside the corporate limits of La Plata, a Charles County Sheriff's officer will respond to the LPPD Headquarters and meet with a LPPD employee in order to obtain the age appropriate backpack. The Charles County Sheriff's Officer will then deliver the backpack to the child at the dispatched location.

NOTE: If either agency's workload prevents the timely delivery of the backpack, nothing prohibits the allied partner from delivering the needed items in the other's primary jurisdiction.

3-180.3 STORAGE OF BACKPACKS

It is the responsibility of the La Plata Police Department to store the backpacks and provide access to the backpacks to members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.



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3-180.4 NOTIFICATION OF DELIVERY

When an officer delivers a backpack, a memorandum or email will be forwarded through the chain of command to the La Plata Chief of Police. The notification process is essential not only for replenishment purposes, but to track the success of the program.

3-200 MANAGEMENT OF POLICE RECORDS

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

- A. PURPOSE
- B. RECORDS CONTROL
- C. RECORDS REVIEW
- D. FEE SCHEDULES
- E. RECORDS RETENTION
- F. RECORDS DISSEMINATION
- G. EXPUNGEMENT OF RECORDS

A. PURPOSE

Recorded information protects the Agency and personnel handling police transactions from unwarranted accusations that improper or inadequate police actions were taken.

This policy establishes guidelines for the control, retention, dissemination and expungement of police records. All police records, with the exception of traffic related records, are subject to local, state, and federal privacy laws.

B. RECORDS CONTROL

The Records Management Section shall be the official Central Records Repository for the following Agency records:

1. Crash reports
2. Offense / Incident reports
3. Criminal history records
4. Expungement records
5. Identification records
6. Juvenile records
7. Property records
8. Traffic records

C. RECORDS REVIEW

Personnel assigned to the Records Management Section shall review and process police reports mainly for:

1. Accuracy
2. Completeness
3. Legibility
4. Distribution
5. Accountability
6. Juvenile confidentiality
7. Privacy-security-access
8. Other reporting deficiencies



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D. FEE SCHEDULES

The Deputy Director, Records Management will develop, maintain, and publish a fee schedule for all Agency records. All such fee schedules and any subsequent changes will be directed to the Sheriff, or designee for approval.

E. RECORDS RETENTION

The policy of the Sheriff's Office is to maintain records in a manner which allows the Agency to fulfill its legal duties. Records will be kept at all levels of the organization by adherence to the rules and guidelines contained within this policy, the Agency retention schedule, and the Standard Operating Procedures for individual units. This task may be accomplished by:

1. Creating only those records necessary for the operational and administrative functions of the Agency
2. Storing records in the most economical manner which provides the level of access needed to make the information useful and meet the operational and administrative needs of the Agency
3. Disposing of records which no longer serve a useful function for the Agency, per the retention schedule.

F. RECORDS DISSEMINATION

GENERAL PROCEDURES

All requests from other agencies or citizens wishing to obtain copies of any Agency record must be made through the records request portal located on the Agency website.

The Records Management Section shall process all requests in a timely manner. The average turn around time is 7-10 business days, and all records will be disseminated to the requestor digitally. If for any reason, the fulfillment is projected to take longer than average, the requestor will be notified through the portal between day 8 and day 10 with an estimated completion time.

In general, Agency personnel who are not assigned to the Records Management Section shall not engage in dissemination practices involving law enforcement records.

AUTHORIZED PERSONS / AGENCIES AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Except for portions of reports subject to confidentiality, information contained in police reports may be released to the following "interested" persons:

1. Owners (real / personal property)
2. Complainants (T/A)
3. Victims (real / personal property)
4. Authorized representatives
5. Aggrieved individuals
6. Parents / legal guardians
7. Insurance companies
8. Criminal Justice agencies (local, state, and federal)

Authorized persons and agencies to whom police reports and juvenile records may be released can be found in



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the Records Management Section SOP. Additionally, appeal procedures can be found in the Records Management Section SOP.

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

Criminal history records information will be disseminated to criminal justice Agencies / persons and/or authorized agencies for:

1. Criminal justice investigations;
2. Criminal justice Agency employment investigations.

When requesting criminal history records information in person, the requestor must establish his identity by a valid driver's license with a photograph or an identification card. If uncertainty exists concerning the identity of the requestor, fingerprints or some other means of identification may be required.

The following police documents may be disseminated to authorized Agencies / persons for law enforcement purposes only:

1. Arrest reports
2. Criminal photographs (mugs)
3. Fingerprints
4. Latent fingerprints
5. Body worn camera footage
6. In car camera footage

JUVENILE RECORDS

The following juvenile related records may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies / persons for investigative purposes:

1. Juvenile Field Reports
2. Arrest Reports
3. Photographs
4. Fingerprints
5. Civil Offense Citations
6. Incident Reports
7. Juvenile Citations

Juvenile History Records Information (JHRI) is releasable to criminal justice agencies / persons for specified purposes:

1. Criminal Investigations
2. Court Orders
3. Arrest Information
4. Contact Information (FIR)
5. Traffic Violations

The following are authorized to receive arrest and non-arrest juvenile information:

1. Department of Juvenile Services
2. Law enforcement agencies
3. Persons or organizations authorized by court order



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Juvenile offenders may review their records if authorized by court order.

Requests for juvenile disposition information will be referred to the Department of Juvenile Services, located in the Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Improper dissemination of juvenile information to unauthorized agencies or persons may result in:

1. Agency administrative disciplinary action
2. Civil suits

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES - DISSEMINATION OF RECORDS BY OTHER AGENCY PERSONNEL

In general, Agency personnel who are not assigned to the Records Management Section shall not engage in dissemination practices involving law enforcement records. Law enforcement record dissemination will originate from the Records Management Section, except in the following circumstances:

1. Investigative information sharing to other law enforcement agencies by personnel assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division and/or Office of Professional Responsibility.
2. Law enforcement records provided to the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division as required by Maryland Law by investigators assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division and/or Office of Professional Responsibility.
3. Office of Professional Responsibility internal affairs investigative records submitted to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee and/or the State's Attorney's Office.
4. Juvenile arrest records provided to the Department of Juvenile Services upon the arrest and detention of a juvenile offender.
5. Litigation-related or other records associated to Agency legal affairs by personnel assigned to the Office of General Counsel.

All other law enforcement record requests will be forwarded to the Records Management Section for disposition.

INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SHARING DISSEMINATION PROCEDURE

Investigative information shared to other law enforcement agencies for criminal investigations (other than the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division) is not to be considered a certified official copy of law enforcement records. Official certified copies can only be obtained through the Records Management Section. When disseminating unofficial investigative information, the investigator will complete the following:

1. A disclaimer, utilizing Agency Form #94, stating the records are unofficial copies and contact information for the Records Management Section, instructing the procedure for obtaining certified official copies will be attached as the first page of the documents.
2. The Agency investigator (CCSO) will complete an entry in the Records Management Section records request portal on the Agency's website. The entry will include the following information:
 - a) The name of the outside agency receiving the information.
 - b) The requesting investigator's name and contact information.
 - c) A copy of the information which was disseminated.



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- d) A statement in the notes section that the request was completed and the name of the Agency investigator who completed the request.

G. EXPUNGEMENT OF RECORDS

Employees receiving requests for expungement procedure information shall refer the requestor to the Clerk of the appropriate court of jurisdiction (District or Circuit), where the requestor may file a petition / application for the expungement of records.

The following are subject to expungement rules and procedures:

1. Arrest name indices;
2. Arrest reports, including paper copies and microfilm;
3. Criminal identification indices;
4. Criminal Photographs (prints, negatives, digital files);
5. All fingerprints and handwriting samples;
6. Property logs;
7. Body worn camera footage
8. In car camera footage
9. Records of detention or confinement.

EXPUNGEMENT PROCEDURES

Criminal records are subject to state expungement regulations. When court-ordered expungement procedures are initiated, records are physically removed from the storage location.

When expungement orders are received from the court, police records are then sealed in envelopes and stored in locked file cabinets, inaccessible to the law enforcement body. The digital files and corresponding information are processed for required redaction, when necessary the documents are shielded and a warning sheet is uploaded in its place.

CHRI recipients and petitioners are notified in writing of the expungement order, and compliance thereof. In the matter of auto expungements, all correspondence to the involved party is handled directly by the court system.

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section Records Supervisor shall:

1. Prepare Agency's responses to inquiries;
2. Execute the provisions of expungement orders served on the Agency;
3. Inform the Sheriff of any such actions.

EXPUNGEMENT ACCESS GUIDELINES

Expunged records cannot be disclosed, released, disseminated, reviewed, inspected, accessed, or copied without an order from the court of original jurisdiction.

EXPUNGEMENT COMPLIANCE REQUIRED

Expungement compliance shall be acknowledged to the appropriate court and petitioner with a "Certification of Compliance" within thirty (30) days of notification by the Deputy Director, Records Management Section Records Supervisor.

SANCTIONS FOR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES



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The law prohibits the unauthorized disclosure of expunged records. Any employee releasing expunged information is subject to the following penalties:

1. Criminal charges;
2. Administrative disciplinary action;
3. Civil suits.

3-221 PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION / EVIDENCE

Photographs of the scene of an event can provide the opportunity for persons not present during the event occurrence to view the scene as it exists shortly after the event occurrence. Photographs can also show evidence as it was found in relationship to the rest of the scene, and before it suffered degradation as a result of time passage. Photographs can help show the view which complainants, victims, witnesses, and investigators had at the time of, or a specific time after the event occurred. Some photographs may even show the event happening, if the picture capturing equipment was set up and running during the event.

Because of these possibilities, photographs may be the best possible evidence to allow valid judgments to be made about all aspects of an event. Given this assumption, it falls to any public safety / law enforcement agency to obtain or create the best possible photographs. These can be invaluable in determining cause, identifying perpetrators, locating witnesses, finding victims, and otherwise establishing those things which people can know as a result of seeing something as it existed.

Keeping this in mind, it becomes the duty of those who make or gather photographs to show subject matter in the most real and unaltered manner possible. Once a picture is made or obtained, it must be protected, like any evidence, so that it is not lost, changed, or destroyed before it may accomplish all possible legitimate uses.

3-221.1 DIGITAL FORMATS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is equipped with various types of digital format cameras. These cameras utilize the capture of data in pixel format instead of the traditional negative print film. Advantages of digital photography include the ability to immediately review photographic information, as well as the reduction of logistical storage through utilization of digital images. The cameras used throughout the Sheriff's Office will utilize secure digital SD cards, each supplying various medium capacity.

All evidentiary photographs taken will remain the property of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. No photos will be taken, printed, downloaded, or distributed for any officer's personal use and/or beyond the scope of an officer's official capacity or duty assignment.

Personnel shall not use personally-owned electronic equipment to capture or record audio, video or photographic evidence unless exigent circumstances exist. In the rare case when an employee captures evidence on a personally-owned device while operating in an official capacity, the employee shall document this use by means of a written memorandum to their Division Commander through their chain of command. Employees capturing evidence or images on personal devices shall transfer these images to the custody of the Charles County Sheriff's Office using the same evidence procedures as those governing submission of digital evidence captured on Agency-owned devices. Supervisors and Commanders will ensure that these images are transferred into Agency custody. Employees shall not display, share or disseminate any evidentiary images to unauthorized recipients without authorization.

3-221.2 DIGITAL AND NEGATIVE PRINT FILM IMAGE INTEGRITY

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is absolutely committed to ensuring the integrity of all photographic information



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captured in a digital format. There will be no manipulation or deletion of the photographs, either by the officer who took the photograph or by any member of this Agency.

Each employee who is issued a digital camera will be issued two SD cards. Additional SD cards will be supplied to supervisors. The SD card provides the storage medium to be used to store photographs taken by employees with the digital camera.

The SD cards utilized by each camera will be downloaded at a Digital Image Management System (DIMS) terminal located at each district station and CID. Upon completion of the DIMS download, all recorded images on the SD card will be deleted and the SD card will become available for re-use. The preferred method of downloading is using the DIMS; however, SD cards may be sent directly to the FSS via Agency mail. Those mailed SD cards must be placed in a sealed evidence bag and placed in the photo envelope for delivery. Each SD card will contain the officer's ID number. At no time will evidentiary photographs be altered. All evidentiary photos will be forwarded to the FSS on the medium used to create the image, to be logged and stored. As with all evidence, photos will only be allowed to be distributed outside of the Agency in accordance with current Agency policy.

The Agency authorizes member access to varying types of digital format cameras. Digital cameras aid the department in several different functions. However, only those images that are assigned an Agency Incident Report Number and are classified as evidence will be forwarded and maintained by the FSS. Any storage and/or printing of digital evidence photographs on any computers and/or printers other than the (DIMS) is prohibited.

Storage of negative print film will follow the same basic steps as with digital images. The negative print film will remain on file at the FSS, and print requests of the negatives must be made. In the event it becomes necessary to digitize the negative print film, the storage and control of the images will follow the same procedures as digital images.

No Agency employees, except those assigned to the FSS, will be authorized to store and/or duplicate any photographic digital information that is classified as evidence on any Agency or personal computer / computer system without express written permission from the Sheriff or his designee. Additionally, no digital photographs classified as evidence will be stored by and/or transmitted to other individuals. No digital photographs will be posted on the Internet without the express consent of the Sheriff or his designee. Utilization of any method other than the DIMS terminals for transferring digital photographic data (downloading) electronically is also prohibited. The only exception will be the existing procedures and/or future electronic advancements which allow the FSS to transmit data to and from appropriate entities.

3-221.3 USE OF DIGITAL CAMERAS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING CRIME SCENES

When conducting investigations for minor offenses and/or limited crime scenes that do not warrant the FSS response, adherence to the following procedure is necessary:

1. The digital camera should be set on the Automatic mode for exposure, focus, flash, and the pixel setting should be set at the highest possible quality. The officer will additionally utilize the viewer to review the images and determine the necessity for additional photographs, as needed.
2. Photographs should include general crime scene shots to document the location of the incident as well as documenting the appearance of the scene at the time the officer initiated his investigation. Depending upon the nature of the investigation, photographs should be taken of points of entry and exit, other evidence indicating violence, or the presence of physical evidence, etc. When photographing physical evidence requiring close-up range, the officer will stand at a 90-degree angle to the item and place a ruler next to the item to be photographed. This will aid in the ability to print such photographs in the proper size ratios.



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3. All photographs will automatically store on the camera SD card. No photographs shall be taken unless an SD card is in the camera; otherwise the images will be stored on internal memory which is prohibited. As previously stated, two SD cards will be issued with each camera. Additionally, supervisors will have a supply of SD cards for temporary use by those employees who may need them. If an employee uses both SD cards assigned for a particular camera and has not been able to download them, that employee will obtain another card for immediate use. Under no circumstances will any photos be deleted from the SD cards; all photos will be retained, including those determined to be photographically faulty. Photographically faulted images include, but are not limited to, those that are out of focus, reflect flash detonation failure, display objects blocking the lens, inadvertent pressing of the exposure button, or are blurred due to the movement of the subject or camera.
4. All photographs will be downloaded into the DIMS System before the end of the shift. In the event the download is not completed before the end of the shift, a supervisor will be notified and the photographs will be downloaded on the next scheduled work day.
5. Information regarding photographs taken at crime scenes shall be recorded in the Incident or Supplement Report. When the digital photographs are downloaded to the DIMS system the I.R. number and officer's ID number will be entered.

3-221.4 FSS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMAGE INTEGRITY

The members assigned to the FSS are ultimately responsible for the storage of photographic information captured and stored as evidence within the Charles County Sheriff's Office, with the exception of mug shots and DMVRs.

An FSS member will receive all envelopes which contain SD cards or film taken by other members of the Agency. The FSS member will open the photo envelope and remove the sealed bag containing the SD card and record the information. A digital image storage software program will then record the information and store the digital images until required for additional investigation or court appearances.

The images will remain unaltered and documentation will be maintained reflecting the viewing of such photographs or enhancements performed by the FSS member. In the event that the FSS member or investigating personnel determine that enhancement techniques are necessary to adequately present the photograph, documentation of such techniques will be noted to ensure that similar enhancements can be duplicated in court.

When a print request is forwarded to the FSS, an FSS technician will utilize the appropriate file management software to locate the images filed under the requested incident report number. Print requests to the FSS should be made two weeks prior to the date the photographs are needed. However, immediate need will be considered on an individual basis. The contents of these images will be printed and/or placed on a compact disc, and will be forwarded to the requesting officer or State's Attorney's Office. In the event that the images require adjustment for color balance, brightness, or contrast, those adjustments will be noted by the technician.

Once the technician has stored the digital images on the storage software program, the SD card will be erased and returned to the submitting officer.

3-221.5 CRASH PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographic negatives are maintained by the Forensic Science Section. Photographs will be printed only upon request. Crash photographs containing grotesque scenes of victims shall not be printed for public distribution.

3-221.6 NON-EVIDENTIARY PHOTOGRAPHS



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In addition to using photographs to document evidence that is collected, photographs are also used for the identification of people or property and to document certain arrests. Depending upon the purpose of the photograph, there are different applications which allow digital photographs to be uploaded into Agency databases.

3-221.6.1 IDENTIFICATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are often taken of people or of property for identification purposes. During the conduct of a field interview, in addition to documenting the contact by way of an FIR (field interview report), the officer can document the stop by photographing the person(s), vehicle(s) or any property on the scene. The photographs can then be attached to the electronic FIR in the mobile data software and submitted to the Records Management System. This will allow the photographs to immediately be viewed by other officers and can become an invaluable investigative tool.

3-221.6.2 DIGITAL ARREST PHOTOGRAPHS

During normal processing procedures, photographs known as Mug shots, are taken of people charged with criminal violations. When an arrest is processed at central booking in the Charles County Detention Center, the established procedures for that facility are followed to take the person's Mug shot.

When an arrest is made or a subject is charged with a crime and the person will not be taken to the Detention Center for processing, a digital photograph will be taken and uploaded into the system through a link created for this purpose on the internal Intranet site. Instances when this method would be used would include:

1. processing of juveniles;
2. serving a criminal summons; or
3. certain traffic charges.

3-225 GRANT PROCESS

Any development of programs or requests for funding will be coordinated from the start with those components of the Agency which will be affected by such funding.

All programs and requests to be funded outside the Agency budget will be fully developed as would any budget request. It is imperative that the Grant Coordinator operate in a support role, and that individual management personnel take the lead role in administration of any grant program.

The Planning and Accreditation Section is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the programmatic grant process, to include submission of all grant applications and acceptance of grant awards. The Accounting and Budgeting sections are responsible for monitoring and tracking the financials, establishing budgets/budget transfers, and all other financial requirements for all grants awarded to the Sheriff's Office. The Grant Coordinator and the Deputy Director, Accounting work closely together to coordinate these efforts, especially during the grant reporting process throughout the life of the grant.

During the life of the grant, the Grant Coordinator as well as the Deputy Director, Accounting will maintain separate grant files. The Grant Coordinator will keep all original grant application and award documents as well as any grant adjustments and programmatic report documents. The Deputy Director, Accounting will keep all financial related documents as well as financial report documents. The information from both files will be coordinated upon any site monitoring or audits. The Grant Coordinator will send all pertinent programmatic information to the Deputy Director, Accounting to be maintained in the Agency's master file, along with all financial information relating to a particular grant award. A complete file must be maintained by the Accounting Section in order to meet audit and record retention requirements.



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A Grant Request Form #960 has been developed to assist the Grant Coordinator in an effort to search for available funding sources. Whenever an employee is seeking grant funding, a Grant Request Form #960 will be completed and forwarded through the chain of command to the Grant Coordinator.

This form will assist in keeping an updated list of items for which the Agency will be requesting grant funds, and will enable the Agency to have project proposals ready when a grant solicitation opens. The form will be kept on file by the Grant Coordinator until the funding is no longer needed.

3-225.1 DEVELOPMENT OF GRANT APPLICATION

A grant application may be the result of an approved Grant Request Form #960 or a request from the Sheriff, Chief of Staff or Assistant Sheriffs, directing the Grant Coordinator to seek a source of funding. A grant application may also be the result of the Grant Coordinator finding funding opportunities. In any case, the first step in the process will be outlining the following, if possible:

1. the source of funding;
2. the anticipated benefit to the Agency;
3. any liabilities associated with acceptance of the grant;
4. the time line for the grant process;
5. all special conditions;
6. allowable and unallowable costs.

The Grant Coordinator will send this outline through the chain of command to the affected Assistant Sheriff for review. A decision will be made to pursue or abandon the grant. The Grant Coordinator and the affected division commander will be notified of the decision.

If approved to move forward with applying for a grant, the Grant Coordinator will notify the Deputy Directors of Budgeting and Accounting of the Agency's intention to apply. The Deputy Directors of Budgeting and Accounting will advise the Grant Coordinator of any potential supplanting issues or any other conflicts prior to completion of the application process.

A Project Director and point of contact to manage the grant program will be identified within the Agency. Typically, the affected Division Commander / Director is the named Project Director and the point of contact is an employee within that division. However, each grant is structured differently; the Project Director and point of contact may be the same employee. It is best practice for a single Agency employee to be assigned as the point of contact for each grant program.

With the input of the identified Agency Project Director / point of contact, the Grant Coordinator will complete the grant application process. In addition, the Grant Coordinator will forward a Grant Application Processing Form (County Government controlled form) through the chain of command for the Sheriff's signature. Any application over \$5,000 must also be signed by the Charles County Commissioners. The Grant Coordinator will facilitate this signature process.

The development of any budget and matching funds to be provided by the Agency budget or other County funds will be coordinated through the Budgeting Section. The Deputy Director, Budgeting will also assist with facilitating Commissioner approval of any new positions the Agency is proposing to fund through a grant.

3-225.2 GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES

When a grant is awarded, the Grant Coordinator will facilitate the official acceptance of the award and notify all affected Agency members, to include the Deputy Directors of Budgeting and Accounting.



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The Grant Coordinator will forward a Grant Award Processing Form (County Government controlled form) through the chain of command for the Sheriff's signature, as well as review by the Office of General Counsel. Any application over \$5,000 must also be signed by the Charles County Commissioners. The Grant Coordinator will facilitate this signature process.

The Deputy Director, Budgeting will complete any necessary budget transfers.

3-225.3 GRANT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

The Agency point of contact is responsible for managing/carrying out the grant program, staying within the parameters of the grant award. The Grant Coordinator will provide guidance and assist Agency members with any grant program related issues or questions that may arise during the life of the grant. The Deputy Directors of Budgeting and Accounting will provide guidance to Agency members on financial requirements, procurement procedures and other budgeting/accounting related processes.

The Grant Coordinator will identify all reports necessary for the administration of the grant program and work with the Agency point of contact to develop a timeline for submission. The Project Director / point of contact will be responsible for completion of all programmatic grant reports. The programmatic reports will be submitted to the funding agency through the Grant Coordinator who will be responsible for the adequacy of all programmatic reports.

The Deputy Director, Accounting will record grant program expenditures and coordinate all financial reports and financial requirements of the grant in conjunction with the Agency Project Director / point of contact for the grant. The financial reports will be submitted to the funding agency through the Deputy Director, Accounting who will be responsible for the adequacy of all financial reports.

During the life of the grant, the Agency point of contact for the grant will be responsible for maintaining a monthly record of all grant-funded expenditures by utilizing the Grant Activity Log, Form #05. A new Grant Activity Log will be completed each month and a copy of the log will be emailed to the Deputy Director, Accounting and Grant Coordinator by the 5th of each month. This will ensure expenditures are tracked when they are initiated at the division level as well as when they are reconciled in the Accounting Section.

The Grant Coordinator will facilitate any needed grant modifications with the funding agency during the life of the grant.

3-225.4 COMPLETION OF GRANTS

At the completion of any grant period, the Grant Coordinator will be responsible for seeing that all programmatic requirements of the grant have been met. A final report will be completed with input from the Agency Project Director / point of contact in order for the grant to be successfully closed out by the funding agency.

The Deputy Director, Accounting will see that all financial requirements have been completed and any accounts associated with the grant have been reconciled as needed.

3-230 AGENCY COMPUTER SYSTEMS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS
- C. COORDINATION OF EFFORT
- D. SYSTEM PURCHASE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, ETC.



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- E. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE
- F. SPECIFICS OF HANDLING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE
- G. MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)
- H. REQUESTING ITD ASSISTANCE
- I. COMPUTER / SOFTWARE ENHANCEMENTS AND CHANGES

A. PURPOSE

The CCSO Information Technology Division maintains computers and related equipment throughout the Agency.

The data stored on CCSO computer systems and CCSO computer media is the property of the CCSO. Employees of the CCSO do not have an individual right to privacy in such data and should be aware that their Agency computer system, data, and media are subject to inspection by the Sheriff or designee. Any questions regarding the authority of an individual to inspect an employee's computer system, media, or data should be directed to the Sheriff through the employee's Chain of Command.

Unauthorized use, removal, or intentional destruction of such data may be considered theft and/or destruction of property. Computer programs developed by the Information Technology Division are the property of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The unauthorized use, removal, or intentional destruction of such programs is theft and/or destruction of property. Persons committing such thefts / destructions are subject to disciplinary and/or criminal sanctions.

B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Each employee of the Agency shall guard against the loss of data stored within the various computers and computer systems operated or accessed by the CCSO. Employees shall take necessary steps to ensure that the computer equipment is properly handled and maintained. The management responsibility for Agency computers, computer systems, data control, and peripheral devices is delegated to the Director, Information Technology Division. The Director shall ensure Agency computers and computer systems meet Agency needs. He shall coordinate the purchase and use of computers in a manner to provide the Agency with the best possible management and processing of information for the resources expended in that regard.

The Director, Information Technology Division is responsible for the provision of documentation and training concerning all computer hardware and software used by personnel of the Agency. The Director, Information Technology Division shall provide, or arrange for the provision of, initial training for each new hardware device or software program installed within the Office of the Sheriff.

C. COORDINATION OF EFFORT

The Director, Information Technology Division shall review the budget requests of the various components of the Agency regarding computer equipment and systems. He shall provide information to the various component commanders, directors, and managers to facilitate the acquisition of computer components and sub-systems which are compatible with and enhance the entire Agency system.

D. SYSTEM PURCHASE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, ETC.

The Director, Information Technology Division shall coordinate all activities involving computer equipment and computer systems. This includes, but is not limited to, purchasing, installing, training, operation, maintenance, storage, moving, and reconfiguration. It includes both the computer hardware and software. No employee shall engage in these activities without the approval of the Director, Information Technology Division or his designee.



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The Director shall have the responsibility to coordinate repair services with any vendors outside of the Agency. In this regard, employees shall not contact vendors directly, unless approval to do so is obtained from the Director, Information Technology Division or his designee. The Director shall develop working relationships or contractual arrangements with vendors in order to minimize any down time of equipment due to malfunction or failure.

E. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE

The Director, Information Technology Division shall maintain a 24-hour, 7-day / week availability of service, in order to deal with the needs of Agency personnel in these areas of responsibility.

F. SPECIFICS OF HANDLING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

No employee shall, without the permission of the Director, Information Technology Division or his designee:

1. Install any computer or associated equipment.
2. Install any software program.
3. Connect or disconnect any computer or associated equipment, except to unplug it from a power source in the event of an emergency.
4. Move any computer or computer equipment from its place of installation.
5. Modify any equipment or software, except to the degree that such modification is a normal user function.

Software licenses shall be kept and filed by the Director, Information Technology Division, who shall ensure that all such licenses are registered and / or issued in the name of the CCSO, when the software is purchased with Agency funds. If the software is the property of an individual employee and the employee has been allowed to use the software in conjunction with Agency equipment, a copy of the license, in the employee's name, shall be kept on file by the Director, Information Technology Division.

Any employee in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or held liable for reparations.

G. MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

To enhance the security of Charles County Sheriff's Office systems and data, all users must use multi-factor authentication (MFA) when accessing agency systems and applications. This policy establishes the mandatory use of the MFA system designated by the Director, Information Technology Division.

This policy applies to:

1. All employees, contractors, vendors, and third-party users
2. All systems, applications, and services that support or require authentication, whether cloud-based or on-premises
3. Both on-site and remote access

The Information Technology Division will manage deployment of the service, provide user support, and monitor compliance. Users are responsible for maintaining their MFA device and promptly report any security concerns.

All users are required to enroll in the MFA service within seven days of being granted access to any agency system. Agency personnel who have not completed enrollment will be denied access to agency systems.

Supported authentication methods include:

1. Push notification to the Mobile App (preferred)
2. Passcode via the Mobile App



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3. USB hardware token (subject to approval)

Users must keep their MFA device (e.g., smartphone) secure. Lost, stolen, or compromised devices must be reported to the Information Technology Division within 24 hours of discovery so deactivation can be completed and prevent unauthorized access. The Information Technology Division may require periodic re-validation of devices used for authentication.

Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Information Technology Division. Temporary exemptions may be granted for special cases, such as accessibility needs or service disruptions.

USB MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA) DRIVE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for the secure use, management, and replacement of USB-based multi-factor authentication (MFA) drives. These devices are critical for securing access to sensitive systems, data, and applications. This policy applies to all personnel who are issued a USB MFA drive by Charles County Sheriff's Office Information Technology Division as part of their authentication requirements.

The USB MFA drive must be used solely for access to Charles County Sheriff's Office systems and applications as directed by the Information Technology Division. When not in use, the USB MFA drive must be stored securely to prevent loss or unauthorized access. MFA drives are assigned to individual agency personnel and must not be shared under any circumstances. Any suspicion of compromise or unauthorized use must be reported to the Information Technology Division immediately.

Agency personnel must report a lost, stolen, or damaged USB MFA drive to the Information Technology Division within 24 hours of discovery. Upon notification, the lost or stolen MFA drive will be immediately deactivated to prevent unauthorized access.

If a USB MFA drive is lost, stolen, or damaged the situation will be reviewed through the administrative process outlined in the Loss or Damage to Property policy.

H. REQUESTING ITD ASSISTANCE

When there is a problem which prevents a computer or computer system from functioning properly, the problem shall be reported to the Helpdesk at helpdesk@ccso.us or by calling 301-609-5951. If the issue occurs after normal working hours, notification should be made to the on-call personnel via the Intranet.

Whenever a request is made for assistance, concerning Agency computers or computer equipment, a work order will be created in the Web Helpdesk software system containing the requestor information, requests, and any additional information.

I. COMPUTER / SOFTWARE ENHANCEMENTS AND CHANGES

If at any time an employee believes there is a need to change or enhance a particular computer, computer equipment, computer system or software, the employee shall first receive permission to request the change/enhancement through their chain of command unless the request has been discussed and approved by a committee working on a particular project. All requests should be sent to the IT Help Desk via email noting the equipment, system or software involved, the specific changes being requested, as well as a timeline for implementation. Attach any associated documentation to the email (screenshots, forms, specs, etc.). The approving supervisor and/or committee members, if applicable, should be copied on the email. The Director of ITD, or designee, will be the primary point of contact and project manager for all IT projects.



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3-231 OPERATOR CERTIFICATION AND LOGIN ID APPLICATION

Any employee who must access the Agency computer system in a manner which requires an Agency LOGIN ID number shall review the updated CJIS Criminal History Record Information Security Awareness Training via the agency's document management system. All users connected to the CCSO network need to review and sign off on this document. This is a mandatory training required by the State. Employees are directed to METERS / NCIC functions and the applicable Agency policy. Some employees may not need METERS / NCIC access, but will still need a LOGIN ID number to access certain records and CAD information.

3-232 AGENCY ELECTRONIC MAIL (EMAIL), VOICE MAIL AND INTERNET USAGE - GENERALLY

- A. PURPOSE
- B. INTERNET USAGE
- C. PROCEDURES FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS USE
- D. INTRANET BULLETIN BOARD

A. PURPOSE

This policy applies to all Agency-provided systems, devices, networks, and services, whether accessed on-site, remotely, or through any personal device connected to Agency resources.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office provides employees with access to email, voicemail, Internet services, and other communication tools for official purposes only. All such systems are the property of the Agency and may be accessed, monitored, inspected, or searched at any time, with or without notice, for any legitimate business, operational, security, or legal purpose. Employees have no right or expectation of privacy when using these systems.

All equipment, software, files, storage devices or media, communications, messages, recordings, programs, information, or data—of any kind—created, stored, transmitted, or received on any Agency-provided system or storage device are, and shall remain, the exclusive property of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The Agency reserves the right to access, retrieve, read, and disclose any message, communication, or file on its systems, and to inspect any storage device or media located on Agency premises or connected to Agency systems.

Use of Agency-provided systems is restricted to Agency-related business. Voicemail, email, and Internet access shall not be used for personal business. Access to these resources is a privilege subject to suspension or revocation at the Agency's discretion. All personnel are required to comply with this policy unless an exigent circumstance prevents it, in which case the employee must promptly notify the Director of the Information Technology Division and provide details of the nature and reasons for non-compliance. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, and may be subject to criminal or civil penalties as applicable.

Personnel must exercise professional judgment in the preparation and transmission of all electronic correspondence. Email and voicemail communications shall be composed, transmitted, and handled with the same care and formality as official written correspondence. Due to the Agency's responsibilities and the nature of law enforcement activities, all Agency-related communications should be treated as confidential and intended solely for authorized recipients. Unauthorized disclosure of such information could adversely affect Agency operations, ongoing investigations, or internal personnel matters.

Possession of passwords, personal accounts, or personal storage devices does not create any right or expectation of privacy when using Agency systems. Deleting or erasing material from any system does not



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prevent the Agency from retrieving it.

Employees must remain aware that any electronic or voice communication may be monitored, intercepted, or retrieved. When in doubt about whether content should be transmitted, employees shall err on the side of caution and refrain from sending it without proper authorization.

B. INTERNET USAGE

Internet access is a privilege provided primarily for Agency-related activities. Employees shall use the Internet responsibly; abuse of this privilege, including accessing inappropriate websites or downloading unauthorized content, may result in suspension of access and/or disciplinary action. All websites visited and files downloaded are subject to monitoring and tracking by the Agency. Employees must ensure their use does not interfere with system performance or the access needs of other users, including when using email distribution lists, file sharing services, streaming media, or other network resources.

C. PROCEDURES FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS USE

This section applies to all personnel, regardless of rank, position, or assignment.

1. **Confidentiality:** No confidential or privileged information shall be transmitted electronically unless there is a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
2. **Professional Communication:** Employees shall exercise professional communication standards in all email and voicemail correspondence.
3. **Internet Use:** Internet access shall be limited to approved, legitimate Agency-related activities. Accessing adult-oriented websites is strictly prohibited, except as necessary for authorized investigations.
4. **Software Installation:** All downloaded software applications or executable files must be approved and installed only by the Director of the Information Technology Division or their designee.
5. **Automated Services and Subscriptions:** Subscription to continuous online services, email distribution lists, or automated feeds are strictly prohibited unless approved in writing by the Sheriff or their designee. Transactions that could incur costs must receive prior written approval.
6. **Privacy and Interception:** Interception of other employees' electronic or voicemail communications is prohibited, except as authorized by Agency policy or command-level authority.
7. **Prohibited Content:** Downloading, printing, copying, or retransmitting defamatory, harassing, offensive, discriminatory, slanderous, libelous, or otherwise inappropriate material is strictly prohibited.
8. **Legal Compliance:** Employees shall not use Agency computer or electronic equipment in violation of federal or state law, Agency policy, or the intellectual property rights of others, including copyright, trademark, or trade secrets.
9. **Access Restriction:** Access to Agency computer and electronic systems is restricted to authorized personnel. Email and voicemail use shall be limited to Agency-related communications; personal use is prohibited. Employees will not share their log-on or password information for other employees to utilize their credentials.



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Email Responsibility: All employees shall check their email at the beginning and end of each scheduled shift and promptly address any pressing communications. Employees should also recognize that email provides vital operational and administrative information on a daily basis and therefore should be monitored as frequently as practical throughout the shift.

Employees shall not engage in, download, transmit, or retransmit any of the following using Agency systems:

1. Chain or hoax emails.
2. Illegal, malicious, or harmful communications.
3. Political campaigning or solicitations.
4. Games.
5. Chat rooms, instant messaging, or social networking platforms.
6. Jokes, pranks, or other non-professional content.
7. Personal online transactions or e-commerce activities, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Stocks or securities trading.
 - b) Online auctions.
 - c) Travel arrangements or reservations.

A violation of any part of this policy will subject the employee to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

D. INTRANET BULLETIN BOARD

The CCSO Bulletin Board is available for employees who wish to share general announcements with the Agency. Employees may create a posting by accessing the Intranet site and submitting an announcement. Announcements will remain on the site for thirty (30) days before being automatically removed. After that period, the author may choose to repost the announcement. Only IT Division personnel or the original author may modify or delete a posting.

The Bulletin Board is provided as a resource for employees and shall not be used for personal or political agendas or for posting obscene or inappropriate content. Each posting is reviewed by the Director of the IT Division or a designee and may be removed if deemed inappropriate. Employees must post announcements using their own Agency "Log On" account and must not use another employee's credentials. Every announcement must include the author's name and ID for accountability.

3-233 SOCIAL MEDIA

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. AGENCY SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
- D. PERSONAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for the professional and responsible use of social media by employees and when managing Agency social media accounts. The use of social media tools such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X, can be very useful to the Agency as a means of communicating with the public forum. These tools can provide the public with convenient and timely access to information, such as:

1. awareness of crime within the community;
2. assistance in ongoing investigations;



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3. identifying and locating fugitives;
4. recent and upcoming Agency activities;
5. recruitment and employment opportunities.

B. DEFINITIONS

Social Media - Describes websites and applications which focus on the creation, sharing, and/or exchange of communication, community-based input, interaction, content-sharing, and information exchange in virtual communities and networks.

C. AGENCY SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Agency social media accounts are established and supported by ITD staff. The Media Relations Office will have primary responsibility for the management of the content contained on or distributed through social media sites.

Media Relations will rely heavily on personnel in Human Resources, Judicial Services, CID, and other sections to contribute information in a timely manner to facilitate the distribution of information while it is still current. This may require postings to be made within minutes of an incident occurring, such as for ongoing dangers within the community, critical missing persons, or major traffic disruptions.

Designated personnel within the Media Relations Office will have primary responsibility for reviewing the content of information posted or contributed by the public in an attempt to ensure the information is not inappropriate or offensive to other readers.

AUTHORIZATION OF POSTINGS

The Media Relations staff will have overall authority of what is posted and distributed through the social media sites and will determine what information is posted and the duration the postings will remain on the sites. That authority shall only be superseded by the Commander, Executive Services, the Assistant Sheriffs, the Chief of Staff or the Sheriff.

REMOVAL OF SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ASSOCIATIONS

As a networking tool, social media accounts have the tremendous benefit of being able to provide feedback from the community. This ability provides for not only positive, but also negative feedback.

As the manager of the accounts, Media Relations shall review social media posts or remarks made by citizens as well as the people associating themselves with the Agency. Media Relations will ensure the feedback posted by the community reflects the values of the Agency and ensure there is no offensive language or other inappropriate content which would reflect negatively on the Agency.

Media Relations will also review the associations made, commonly referred to as "followers" or "friends," to ensure these associations do not bring discredit to the Agency.

If offensive material or posts are discovered, they shall be immediately removed by Media Relations. If an association is made or attempted which would bring discredit to the Agency, Media Relations will take steps to remove the association.

Media Relations will provide the public with disclaimers making them aware that the Agency does not condone any offensive postings made by the public and reserves the right to remove any posts or associations.



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D. PERSONAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that employees do not surrender their First Amendment rights solely because of the nature of their employment. On the other hand, like all government agencies, the Sheriff's Office also has an interest in providing effective and efficient services to the public. The community must have confidence in the Sheriff's Office, and the Sheriff's Office must always strive to preserve dignity and professionalism in its relations with the community. It is not the intention of the Sheriff's Office to hinder or restrict an employee's pride in their profession. However, it is imperative employees be mindful of posting pictures, video, or commentary that would or could be perceived as having a negative impact on the credibility or reputation of the Sheriff's Office.

The interplay between a government employee's right to free expression and a government agency's right to promote the efficiency of its services is a complex one and has been the subject of dozens, if not hundreds, of court cases for over half of a century. In general, the law can be summarized as follows:

1. The more an employee's expression is related to matters of "public concern," the greater protection it has.
2. Conversely, expression that is purely personal may not receive any protection at all.
 - a) For example: If an employee speaks out on a lack of officer staffing because it can impact response time, this is a matter of public concern. However, if the employee speaks on an adverse personnel issue within the Sheriff's Office, this may be seen as purely personal.
3. The more the employee's expression is separated from the employee's duties with the government agency, the greater protection it has. Conversely, expression that could be reasonably construed as "job-related" has much less protection. (This does not mean that an employee may not speak in public about the operation of the Sheriff's Office; to the contrary, employees have a unique ability to provide meaningful input to discussions about law enforcement in general and Charles County in particular. However, such expression receives greatest protection when done off-duty, not in uniform, and where the circumstances are clear that the expressions are the speaker's own, and not the Sheriff's Office's.)
 - a) To simplify, if the expressions are that of your own, make that clear in your statement or post. However, an employee of the Sheriff's Office should be mindful of the fact their views on social media can easily be associated with being an employee of the Sheriff's Office, despite them not posting or advertising their role as a police officer.

Social media sites such as Facebook or Instagram are powerful platforms that allow each of us to forge and maintain connections with large numbers of people with very little effort. Social media sites are also easily abused, and a careless, thoughtless, or rash posting can have great, unintended negative consequences. Social networking sites include, but are not limited to, such interactive services as Facebook, X, Instagram, Youtube, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, and include blogs, and photo and video sharing services.

All employees must use sound judgment when interacting with others on social media sites. Nothing is ever truly private on the internet. Employees should avoid posting or "liking" content that they would not be comfortable sharing with their coworkers or family members. Employees should also be mindful that sharing, endorsing, or "liking" someone else's post is functionally the same as posting the content directly. Employees must also remember that their social media postings may be intercepted or viewed by unintended people and could be used to impeach the employee in court. Postings could also be converted by others and used on anti-police websites or other platforms to embarrass, harm, or endanger the employee or others.

Providing a comprehensive list of expressions that are either protected or subject to discipline is difficult in the legal sense and impossible in the practical sense. However, employees are expected, at a minimum, to adhere to the following policies:

1. Employees are not to access social media sites excessively, for personal use, where it impacts the



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performance of their duties. It is encouraged that employees refrain from posting during duty hours. It is understood social media can be utilized for communication and legitimate law enforcement investigations and purposes.

2. Photos or videos taken while on duty at crime scenes or on police-related calls for service are the property of the Sheriff's Office and shall not be posted on social media sites. No photos or videos will be taken, printed, downloaded, or distributed for any employee's personal use and/or beyond the scope of an employee's official capacity or duty assignment.
3. Employees shall not purposefully or negligently disclose any information that is confidential or law enforcement sensitive. This includes information or details concerning:
 - a) Criminal or traffic investigations.
 - b) Administrative investigations or actions.
 - c) Calls for service, traffic stops, vehicle crashes, and other contacts with citizens.
 - d) Adverse personnel issues, including disciplinary actions, transfers, etc.
 - e) Training, which is highlighted as confidential or law enforcement sensitive.
4. Employees may discuss or comment on matters already released to the public, such as press releases or court cases, but may not disclose information that has not already been made public.
5. Employees shall not post or publish content that might be reasonably interpreted as harassing, defamatory, racially, ethnically, or sexually derogatory, or sexually violent.
6. Employees shall not post or publish content that violates federal or Maryland law, including copyright laws.
7. Employees must honor the privacy rights of other employees and citizens and seek permission before posting or publishing content that could reasonably be considered a breach of the employee or citizen's privacy or confidentiality.

Failure to comply with these policies and/or engaging in social media behavior that interferes with or impairs the operation and mission of the Sheriff's Office may result in disciplinary action to include termination.

3-234 MOBILE DATA TERMINALS (MDTs)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. MDT USER RESPONSIBILITIES
- C. GENERAL MDT USAGE
- D. SOFTWARE/ HARDWARE MAINTENANCE

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will use wireless communication technologies through Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) to enhance the operations and security of the Agency. Employees assigned, or who have access to, a Mobile Data Terminal shall use the system in conformance with the rules and procedures outlined in this policy.

The MDT is designed to enhance the officers' ability to utilize the information found in the Agency CAD and RMS systems, utilize computerized reporting, and have access to MVA, METERS, and NCIC information in a mobile environment.

It shall be the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to use the MDT system to support the Agency's



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operations and activities. It is the responsibility of each employee to ensure that this technology is used for proper business purposes and in a manner that does not compromise confidential, protected, restricted, or other sensitive information.

The Director, Information Technology Division, is responsible for the support and operation of the MDT Program, to include training, maintenance and repair of all equipment. This will also include communication and interaction between federal, state, and local agencies that support the MDT Program.

MDT usage is restricted to those Agency employees who have been trained in the proper use of the equipment and who have been certified to access the systems available.

The Director, ITD will be responsible for the daily administration of the MDT Program. Additionally, they will conduct random administrative security checks of the MDT system to ensure that all necessary security procedures are being followed.

B. MDT USER RESPONSIBILITIES

MDT users shall attend all scheduled MDT related training, when notified. Should a conflict exist between scheduled training and another assignment, the MDT user shall inform his supervisor of the conflict. The supervisor shall ensure the officer's commander and the ITD Helpdesk are contacted and the conflict is resolved.

MDT users are responsible for maintaining all certifications, which allow access to CJIS/ NCIC and other databases retrievable by an MDT. Problems with access to these systems will be reported immediately to the Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC), ITD, and the ITD Helpdesk.

Any officer with NCIC access will notify the ITD Helpdesk and the officer's supervisor of any lapse in the officer's CJIS/ NCIC certification.

Users' passwords to access the MDT system, CAD, EMAIL, CJIS/ NCIC, or any other law enforcement sensitive program, application, or website shall not be shared or made known to any other individual. Users who have reason to believe that their password has been compromised shall immediately notify the ITD Helpdesk and change their password utilizing the procedures outlined during MDT training. Attempts by any member to utilize an MDT or gain access to CJIS/ NCIC with another member's password are strictly prohibited.

Responses from inquiries to CJIS/ NCIC are protected information. Officers are not permitted to use these systems for their own use, and information received through these computer systems may only be used for official criminal justice purposes. Officers will not initiate any inquiry outside those purposes necessary to complete an Agency objective. Officers will ensure that unauthorized persons, to include passengers or offenders located in the vehicle, do not view responses from these systems.

For officer safety, the MDT should always be secured in the vehicle mount designed for that vehicle and installed by CCSO or an Agency approved contractor.

C. GENERAL MDT USAGE

Safe operation of vehicles equipped with an MDT is paramount. Common sense and safe driving practices dictate that the officers will focus their attention on safe operation of the vehicle and will utilize the MDT only when safe to do so.

Officers assigned an MDT will log into the Police Mobile computer system at the beginning of each shift. The MDT will remain on and logged into Police Mobile as a CAD user at all times while the officer is on duty. The officer will



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also have mapping software and other Agency records systems available for use through the MDT.

Officers utilizing the MDT as a CAD user will be dispatched to calls for service both by voice and with CAD messages through the MDT. Officers will acknowledge receiving the call by using the radio system. The officer will then use the MDT to place themselves en-route to the call once they actually begin to respond to the call. If the nature of the response does not allow the officer to use the MDT, the officer should use the radio system to notify Communications they are en-route to the call.

Once an officer arrives at the scene of a call, they will use the arrive function of the MDT to place themselves on the scene. If the officer feels it would be safer to voice their arrival or if they are on a call with a non-MDT user, they should also use the radio to make notification of their arrival.

While handling incidents, the officers will have the ability to update their event sheets with information they consider necessary for documentation. Officers may clear a call through Communications or they can clear the call using their MDT.

Officers may generate their own calls for service with the MDT. This should be done only for routine incidents that allow the officers to divert their attention away from the incident to enter the information needed into the MDT. For all other incidents, the officers should use their radio to notify Communications of the incident.

By their nature, traffic stops require a high level of attention by the officer(s) conducting the stop. Because of that, the MDT will not be used to generate a traffic stop. While on the stop, the officer may use the MDT to perform records checks through various computer systems if they feel doing so does not create a risk to the officer.

Nothing in these procedures shall prevent an officer from choosing voice communication over MDT transmissions when:

1. The nature of the call or its location has a safety concern to the officer.
2. The officer is unable to use the MDT to determine the location or nature of the call.
3. The officer is unable to respond with the MDT or there is an equipment malfunction.
4. Changes in location cannot safely be updated by using the MDT.
5. When en-route to a call, the officer is diverted by a serious incident requiring their immediate attention.
6. Any other situation in which the officer believes using voice transmission creates a safer environment.

Officers must remember that a positive response through the MDT is no different than any other computerized system. All HITS must be confirmed with the entering agency before any property can be seized or any person can be arrested. All hit confirmations will be performed through Communications in accordance with CJIS training.

D. SOFTWARE/ HARDWARE MAINTENANCE

All MDTs, data, and software maintained or used by the CCSO are for official use only. No employee will use or cause to be used any MDT for personal gain or benefit of any kind. Only software purchased or acquired by the Sheriff's Office will be installed on an MDT. All software and hardware installation, modification, or deletion shall be done by authorized ITD personnel or an ITD approved contractor. Users are not permitted to download or install software (i.e., games, music, screensavers, wallpaper, etc.) without the written approval of the Director, Information Technology Division.

If any equipment needs to be serviced, repaired, or reprogrammed, a request will be sent to the ITD Helpdesk via email or by calling the Helpdesk. All MDT repairs shall be done by authorized ITD personnel or ITD approved contractors.

MDT users shall report all system related problems to their supervisor prior to the end of their shift. The supervisor



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shall determine if the problem is isolated to that MDT or is system-wide. Supervisors shall report all system-wide problems to the ITD Helpdesk or the on-call ITD person as soon as the problem is discovered. For isolated MDT problems, the officer shall submit a request to the ITD Helpdesk prior to the end of their shift.

If a vehicle is taken out of service due to a collision or prolonged maintenance, the MDT must be removed from the vehicle and maintained by the employee or turned into the Director, Information Technology Division.

The investigating officer shall notify the Director, Information Technology Division when an Agency vehicle equipped with an MDT has been involved in a serious collision. The MDT will be examined by ITD to check for damage. If the MDT is damaged, ITD will complete all necessary repairs and re-issue it back to the employee.

Certain software in the MDT will be automatically updated, while others may require the user to manually perform the update. For the manual updates to the computer's software, the user will comply with instructions provided by ITD personnel and perform updates when and how instructed. This will ensure the most up-to-date software is operating in the MDT.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

The MDT will be securely locked into place on the docking station while the computer is in a vehicle. The key for the locking system will not be left in the station but will be kept with the vehicle operator. The MDT will be removed from the vehicle during times the officer is scheduled for extended periods of leave greater than three or more days. Although the terminal is a rugged model, care must still be used in handling the computer. Avoid exposing the computer to moisture, including rain and snow, as well as beverages. If spillage does occur:

1. log off all active sessions and shut down the MDT as quickly as possible;
2. clean the affected area; and
3. notify the ITD Helpdesk or a designee as soon as practical to inspect the unit.

The MDT is capable of operating in extreme temperatures; however, it may not function properly until it returns to an ideal operating range. In extreme cold, the computer may not function until the unit warms up. In the extreme heat of summer, the unit may not work properly until the ambient temperature of the vehicle has cooled.

Care should be used in cleaning the screen of an MDT. An anti-static cleaning cloth should be used to clean the screen. Another cleaning method is the use of a soft cotton cloth lightly moistened with water. No cleaning solution should ever be used to clean the screen or computer housing.

For MDTs that have a touch-screen system option, an operator will use only a fingertip or the stylus pen that was provided with the terminal. Under no circumstances will an ink pen be used on the screen. The use of an ink pen will cause damage to the screen.

MOBILE PRINTING

Officers using MDTs will have the ability to print from their MDT. Any printout of sensitive information should be guarded and not provided to anyone without a legitimate law enforcement purpose. All printouts made from the MDT shall be disposed of properly to safeguard the information.

The Agency will provide mobile printers to each officer assigned an MDT. Printers shall be mounted in an approved printer mount designed for that vehicle. Officers should use care when using the mobile printer so that the printer and any connecting cables do not become a hazard to the operation of the vehicle.

Supplies such as paper will be available at each district station. Officers are to obtain supplies for their printers as needed.



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In addition to the mobile printers, the MDTs may be connected to printers on the Agency network. When using a network printer, the officer must ensure the material printed will not be compromised by the location of the printer.

OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR WIRELESS MOBILE COMPUTING DEVICES

MDT users will be mindful of regulations governing the use of the device. The user will deactivate the device in areas where radio devices are forbidden, or when it may cause interference or danger. Any restrictions on use pertaining to cell phones and CCSO two-way radios will apply to an MDT (e.g., transmitting within 200 yards of a blasting operation). Similar to departmental radio transmissions, special attention should be used in the following areas: fuel depots, chemical plants, blasting operations, and other areas where radio transmissions are restricted.

Wireless mobile computing devices may interfere with the function of inadequately protected medical devices, including pacemakers.

AUTOMATIC VEHICLE LOCATION (AVL) / THIRD PARTY GPS

As a part of the MDT project, certain vehicles or computers are equipped with Automatic Vehicle Location systems (AVL) and/or third party GPS. AVL is a GPS-based locating system which will provide the location of a police vehicle as well as the status of the unit assigned to the vehicle. The mapping system utilized with the AVL will also plot the location of active calls for service throughout the county. The AVL and GPS software / hardware systems are designed with the purpose of increasing officer safety while providing officers a tool that allows for easy unit and call-for-service orientation.

The information provided by the AVL and GPS systems are not designed to be used as a disciplinary tool; however, the data may be used to support investigations of Agency violations as well as criminal violations. In those instances, the data may be used only with the prior approval of an Assistant Sheriff or above. In any case, AVL and GPS data will not be used as the sole source of information in any disciplinary case.

Regardless of a person's assignment, any employee with a vehicle-mounted MDT will log on to their MDT at the beginning of their tour of duty. This will include logging into the Police Mobile system, which will automatically activate the AVL system.

The GPS system is activated when the equipped vehicle is started. All vehicles with the GPS system will be displayed in the system software.

Off-duty units will not be displayed on the AVL system unless they are placed in an on-duty status by Communications and then logged into the Police Mobile system as CAD users.

Employees are prohibited from intentionally manipulating the system's software or hardware in any way to prevent the proper use of the AVL or GPS systems. The only exception to the required operation of AVL will be upon the specific authorization by the employee's division commander.

3-240 LICENSE PLATE READER PROGRAM

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures regarding the access and use of the License Plate Reader (LPR) systems and data.

3-240.1 DEFINITIONS

Hits: The dates, times, characters appearing on a license plate, photographs, global positioning system coordinates, and any other data collected by or derived from an LPR.



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Hot List: List of license plates associated with vehicles of interest compiled from several databases. Vehicles of interest include, but are not limited to: stolen tags or vehicles, missing or wanted persons and vehicles flagged by the Motor Vehicle Administration. The Hot List is automatically downloaded from the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) servers through a secure connection. MCAC maintains the most current version of the Hot List on its servers. It is downloaded and updated daily.

Legitimate Law Enforcement Purpose: The investigation, detection, or analysis of a crime or a violation of a crime or a violation of the Maryland vehicle laws or the operation of a terrorist or missing or endangered person searches or alerts.

LPR: License Plate Reader. The LPR system consists of high-speed cameras, mounted either at a fixed location or on a vehicle, and computer to convert data from electronic images of vehicle license plates into a readable format, and then to compare the information against specified databases of license plates.

LPR Administrator: Assigned by the Director of Information Technology Division, the LPR Administrator will serve as a liaison between the Department and the system manufacturers, the Maryland State Police, and the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), and any other law enforcement or compliance agency regarding License Plate Readers and LPR data. The Administrator has the ability to generate reports, audits logs and authorized user lists for administrative purposes, for the Office of Professional Responsibility as requested or required. The Administrator will be responsible for coordinating or facilitating training for all authorized users of the LPR System or LPR server(s). The Administrator will control access of the LPR system through user names, permission levels and scope of access. Permission levels and scope of access will be determined by the LPR Administrator. Any problems experienced by a system user will be directed to the LPR Program Administrator immediately.

LPR Operator: Only properly trained Agency personnel will utilize the License Plate Reader (LPR) / equipment. This will only occur after mandatory attendance of a training course conducted by a certified mobile LPR trainer.

Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC): MCAC is Maryland's Fusion Center which coordinates the efforts of federal, state and local agencies to gather, analyze, and share information with law enforcement, public health, and emergency management personnel. MCAC houses the LPR Operations Center and is the central repository for captured plate data.

3-240.3 LPR DATA

All LPR System will transmit data to / from MCAC via an encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) as prescribed by the MCAC Standard Operating Procedure manual.

The LPR Hot List data is generated by the MCAC LPR Operations Center, it is not real time and may contain flawed or incorrect data. Any information received from a mobile LPR system that is recognized as a positive hit against the Hot List, must be verified before any action is taken. Verification will be conducted through a live database such as MVA, Meters, and/or NCIC.

All LPR data will be held in accordance with Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center policies and state law.

No outside agency is able to access the Sheriff's Office LPR data. The Sheriff's Office does not control any access to data provided by MCAC.

3-240.4 QUERIES & SEARCHES OF THE LPR DATABASE

LPR data is stored locally and on MCAC servers for a specified period of time. Queries of historical data may be



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performed for legitimate law enforcement purposes. Only agency personnel who have been trained on the LPR system may query captured plate data. All queries will be sufficiently documented on the ELSAG Search Log with; Report / Incident number, date and time of request, purpose of the request, identity of agency requesting query, has the request been validated through the requesters agency, finding (accurate, inaccurate, unable to locate), name of user, requesting agency, information released. LPR data may be used during an administrative investigation when the investigation includes the investigation, detection, or an analysis of a crime or traffic violation.

3-240.5 AUDIT

On a yearly basis, the Director, Information Technology Division will conduct an audit of the data collected / shared by the LPR program. On or before March 1 of each year, the Director, Information Technology Division, shall report to the Maryland State Police the information required by Md. Code Ann. Public Safety §3-509.

3-250 MOBILE FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (FIS)

The Mobile Fingerprint Identification System (FIS) consists of a handheld fingerprint scanner designed to capture images of the index fingers of the right and left hands. The unit will maintain the images only until it is connected to the laptop and sent for search.

3-250.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines related to the use of the Mobile Fingerprint Identification System (FIS). The use of the mobile scanner is intended to provide law enforcement personnel with an automated method of identifying persons who cannot provide other means of identification or to provide a verification of the presented identification documents. The search is conducted against a criminal database.

3-250.2 POLICY

The use of the mobile fingerprint scanner shall be for law enforcement purposes only and done in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal laws. Only those officers who have special credentials established with CJIS will operate the scanners.

3-250.3 CONSENT PRIOR TO SCANNING

If the individual stopped is not under arrest, consent to scan their fingerprints must be obtained. This consent can be verbal or in writing. A person can revoke their consent at any time during the scanning process. If the person refuses to allow their fingerprints to be scanned, no scanning will be conducted unless probable cause for a custodial arrest is present or a search warrant is obtained. Individuals who are deceased, unconscious, or unable to give consent, but who are in need of assistance, may be scanned for identification purposes only.

3-250.4 PROCEDURE

When using a mobile fingerprint scanner in the field, it is recommended that two or more officers be present at the stop before the unit is utilized. This is to ensure the safe handling and control of the individual during the fingerprint scanning process.

The system will search the fingerprint images against the databases (MAFIS, CJIS, FBI). If the individual has been previously processed, a positive notification should be returned. The return will consist of the basic demographic information that is available. In some cases, the system may return an identification number only. If no match is



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found, the return message will indicate that there is no record on file.

A positive return is only summary in nature and is an indication of prior police contact and NOT considered probable cause (PC) for an arrest. Verification and/or additional information (i.e., local records checks) should be completed to fully verify the identification. Within 5 minutes of a FBI hit there is the possibility of a call from the FBI to Communications concerning the person fingerprinted. It should be understood that a FBI hit means the person should be detained until cleared by the FBI. Depending on the return, the officer may need to contact Communications for either confirmation of the FBI hit or to request back-up.

Images can be deleted from the system manually, or the images will be permanently deleted from the system when the handheld device is turned off, or the software on the laptop interface is closed.

Under no circumstances shall officers share FIS data with any non-law enforcement agency. Division commanders will ensure this equipment is maintained per Agency policy.

3-280 FISCAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The CCSO utilizes an accounting and budgeting computer software system to manage fiscal records, including payroll, purchasing, account activity, etc. The system is also utilized by Charles County Government, allowing information to be shared between the two departments.

Permission for access to the system will be limited. Access may be granted by the Deputy Director, Budgeting. This will include members of the Executive Command Staff, to include the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs and Commander / Director, Administrative Services.

The system can generate fiscal status reports, as needed, showing account activity for any particular time period (weekly, monthly, etc.), and including the following information:

1. Initial appropriation for each account or program;
2. Balances at the commencement of the period;
3. Expenditures and encumbrances made during the period; and
4. Unencumbered balance.

3-290 AGENCY CASH FUNDS

A. PURPOSE

B. AUTHORIZED AGENCY ACCOUNTS

C. PROCEDURES FOR REPLENISHING CERTAIN AUTHORIZED AGENCY ACCOUNTS

A. PURPOSE

This policy shall govern the maintenance of all cash funds or accounts where Agency personnel are permitted to receive, maintain, or disburse cash. Division / section commanders and the Office of Professional Responsibility are responsible for overseeing the maintenance of Agency cash funds and accounts.

The Office of Professional Responsibility shall be responsible for conducting a quarterly audit of Agency cash fund activities. Any discrepancies will be reported immediately through the chain of command to the Sheriff. Annually, the Commander, OPR shall forward a written report of the results of all quarterly audits through the chain of command to the Sheriff. The establishment of an Agency cash fund maintained by any component of the Agency requires approval from the Sheriff. In addition, each such fund will meet the following standards:



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1. A balance sheet, ledger, or other system that identifies initial balance, credits, debits, and the balance on hand will be maintained.
2. Receipts or documentation for cash received will be created.
3. Authorization requirements for cash disbursements up to \$2,000 shall be determined by the commander responsible for the fund (or his designee) and detailed in the respective SOP.
4. Authorization for cash disbursements above \$2,000 will be made only upon the authorization of the Sheriff, Chief of Staff or an Assistant Sheriff.
5. Records, documentation, or an invoice is required for cash expenditures.
6. Only those persons who are assigned to a specific task requiring the handling of cash and their supervisor / manager are authorized to disburse or accept cash.
7. Each commander will require a quarterly accounting of any cash fund under that commander's control (this accounting may be accomplished by OPR).

B. AUTHORIZED AGENCY ACCOUNTS

The following are the only cash fund accounts authorized and maintained within the Agency:

Criminal Investigations Division, Investigative Funds - The Sheriff has approved a cash fund of \$2,000 to be utilized for investigations. These funds are maintained and disbursed by the Commander, Persons Crimes Section, who is the custodian of the account.

Homeland Security & Intelligence Section, Investigative Funds - The Sheriff has approved a cash fund of \$5,000 to be utilized for Homeland Security and Intelligence investigations. These funds are maintained and disbursed by the Commander, Homeland Security & Intelligence, who is the custodian of the account.

Narcotics Enforcement Section, Investigative Funds - The Sheriff has approved a cash fund of \$10,000 to be utilized for narcotics / vice investigations. These funds are maintained and disbursed by the Commander, Narcotics Enforcement Section, who is the custodian of the account.

Judicial Services Section, Extradition Funds - These funds are maintained and disbursed by the Commander, Judicial Services Section. The Sheriff has approved a cash fund of \$2,000 to be utilized for extraditions.

Quartermaster, Badge Sales Funds - These funds are collected and recorded by the Agency Quartermaster. Agency employees purchasing badges may pay by check or money order. For each transaction a three-part receipt is completed by a Quartermaster employee. One copy is issued to the employee, one copy goes to file and one copy is kept with the payment and placed in the Quartermaster's safe. The payment and one copy of the receipt is prepared and sent to the Accounting Section on Friday of each week.

Property Auctions, Non-Recurring Revenue Account Fund - Public auctions of property are conducted via online auction sites, Propertyroom.com and GovDeals.com, throughout the year and are handled by the Property Management Section of the Special Services Division.

The Property Custodian is responsible for coordinating the sale of items on Propertyroom.com and GovDeals.com. Proceeds from GovDeals.com sales are directly deposited to the Charles County Treasurer's Office account. The Property Custodian forwards the associated documentation of the sales to the Accounting Section who requests the proceeds be deposited from the Charles County Treasurer's Office account into the appropriate account within



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the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Funds from Propertyroom.com are sent via check to the Property Custodian / designated employee. Once received, the funds are sent to Accounting for deposit into the appropriate account.

A copy of all records relating to the auctions and proceeds shall be maintained by the Property Custodian.

Sheriff's Office Awards and Special Events Account Fund - The Sheriff's Office Awards and Special Events checking account is maintained by the Accounting Section. The Assistant Sheriff, Field & Support Bureau and the Deputy Director, Accounting Section have signature authority on the account. This account is established to provide funds to cover expenses related to expressions of sentiment in the name of the Agency, and other special events as authorized by the Sheriff. Funds for this account are received from donations received and designated for the Awards fund.

All funds received are to be deposited on a weekly basis by the Accounting Section. Deposit slips shall be held in the checkbook until the monthly bank reconciliation report has been completed by the Accounting Section.

The reconciliation report will cover all transactions relating to the period of time covered by the bank statement. A copy of the monthly reconciliation report will be forwarded to the County Government's Accounting Office, and, for Agency accounting purposes, a copy will be maintained in the Accounting Section.

Fingerprinting Service Fund - This program is the responsibility of the Community Relations Section, and the service is under the supervision of the Community Relations Commander. The fees for this service are collected in the form of either a money order, cash or credit card.

All funds collected are recorded in the Agency records management system, with a payment receipt given to the client and copies of the transmittals for cash, credit or On Account, as well as the CJIS receipts, are scanned into online document imaging. All cash funds received are counted by the Electronic Fingerprint Technicians. The cash funds are placed in a CCSO envelope. The breakdown of funds collected is recorded on the envelope, verified and sealed by the Fingerprint Technician. This envelope is put in the office safe and then hand delivered to the Charles County Government Waldorf Treasurer's Office weekly by the Electronic Fingerprint Supervisor.

Once the deposit is accepted by the Charles County Government Treasurer's Office, a copy of the transmittal form, along with the receipts, is sent to the Accounting Section to be filed in the Accounting Section master file. A periodic audit of receipts versus deposit amounts will be performed by the Accounting Section to ensure that funds received and deposited match.

VICS (Volunteers in Community Service) Fund - When a client comes into the VICS office, one of the VICS Specialists will register the client by taking the payment of credit card or money order. No personal checks will be accepted. The client's schedule and fees are entered into the VICS computer system.

The payment is stapled to the VICS copy of the court paper, immediately placed into the drop safe, and is reconciled at the end of each day when the official deposit is made. At the end of each business day, one of the VICS Specialists will run a computer-generated report which is used to determine the amount of funds received for that particular day. This report is placed into the VICS safe and used when the funds are reconciled by the VICS Supervisor.

The VICS Supervisor runs another computer-generated report and uses the report to verify the funds and information received. The credit card reports are printed from the Velocity Payment System and also verify the total amount of payments received.

A transmittal form is prepared and sent to the Treasurer's Office with the actual deposit. The transmittal form is



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broken down into two types of payments received: credit card and money order amounts, and total deposit. The deposit is placed into a locked money bag and carried the next morning to the Charles County Government Treasurer's Office by a CCSO Correctional Officer. The stamped transmittal form and money bag is returned to the VICS office.

The transmittal forms are kept by the VICS office for three fiscal years.

At the end of each week and each month, the VICS Supervisor reconciles the report to ensure that all total funding amounts are in balance. A monthly report is then forwarded to the Commander of Judicial Services.

Firearms Training Detail / LEOSA Fund – The fee for LEOSA Range use is \$50 for all non-Agency retired personnel. This program is held on the second Tuesday of each month. Each person is required to sign in. Payment is made either by cash or check. At the end of each session, funds are counted and then delivered to the Accounting Section, along with an email detailing which participants paid the fee. Records for all dates/ times this program was held are maintained by the Firearms Training Detail as required.

Alcohol Investigative Fund – This fund has been established through funding from the Board of License Commissioners and is in the amount of \$100. When replenishment is needed, a request is submitted via memorandum to the Board of License Commissioners for the appropriate reimbursement of funds. A quarterly report will be sent to OPR for accounting purposes.

Tobacco Investigative Fund – This fund is established through CCSO, and is in the amount of \$100. When replenishment is needed, a request is submitted to Budgeting. A report is sent quarterly to OPR.

Brass Fund – Brass shell casings are collected at the firing range by members of the Training Division; these are periodically turned in to Waldorf Metals for cash to purchase items for the firing range. OPR receives a report on this account quarterly.

Public Safety Cadets Fund – Funds are received by those working with the Public Safety Cadets and given to Accounting for record keeping and deposit into the bank account. A spreadsheet is maintained of funds received and payments issued, upon approval of the section commander. This account is reconciled monthly by Accounting.

C. PROCEDURES FOR REPLENISHING CERTAIN AUTHORIZED AGENCY ACCOUNTS

To request replenishment for the funds listed below, the Commander in charge of these specific funds will submit a check request following the Agency's purchasing procedures.

The Accounting Section will process the check requests for replenishment of funds through the County Treasurer's Office. When funds are available, the requestor will pick up the funds and sign a receipt for the cash. A record of all approved cash fund check requests, accompanied by the requisitions, will be kept on file in the Accounting Section.

These procedures apply to the authorized Agency accounts listed below:

1. Criminal Investigations Division, Investigative Funds;
2. Homeland Security & Intelligence Section, Investigative Funds;
3. Narcotics Enforcement Section, Investigative Funds;
4. Judicial Services Section, Extradition Funds.

3-300 SUPPLIES AND MAINTENANCE

It is the responsibility of all division commanders and directors to plan for the appropriate use of resources. During



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each fiscal year, the use of resources should be monitored to ensure their use is as planned. Commanders / Directors should factor current shortages and surpluses, and any known change of operations that will impact resource use into each budget preparation cycle.

3-301 PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. AGENCY CREDIT CARDS
- E. REGULAR REQUISITION PROCESS (PREFERRED METHOD)
- F. REQUISITIONS FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASES, REIMBURSEMENTS OR TO REQUEST A COUNTY CHECK

A. PURPOSE

The Agency has developed procedures to conduct the purchasing and procurement of items, resources, services and other commodities utilized for day-to-day operations. These procedures align with Federal, State and Local laws and adhere to Charles County Code. The Charles County Sheriff's Office maintains a separate Purchasing and Procurement Procedures document which governs all purchases conducted by the Agency. The following policy summarizes / supplements the procedures detailed in the document and provides guidance to Agency employees regarding their role and responsibilities in the process.

B. DEFINITIONS

Blanket Purchase Order- An open purchase order for items or services to be purchased multiple times over the course of a fiscal year.

Cooperative Purchasing- also known as "piggybacking," this is when you use an existing contract to acquire the same commodities or services at the same or lower price from another public entity contract. These vehicles provide a framework with pre-negotiated terms, pricing, and conditions, allowing agencies to bypass lengthy bidding processes and acquire necessary items more efficiently.

Purchase Order- A legally binding document issued by a buyer to a seller, specifying requested products or services at a mutually agreed upon price.

Recurring Purchase- an agreement where a subscription or service is automatically renewed at the end of a set period (monthly, annually, etc.). Examples include software renewals, professional organization dues, subscriptions and service contracts.

Request for Proposal (RFP)- a formal document issued by an organization to solicit bids from vendors for a specific project or service. It details the project's goals, requirements, budget, and evaluation criteria to ensure a transparent and competitive bidding process, allowing the organization to choose the best supplier. This is required for purchases over \$50,000.

Sole Source- a purchasing method employed when there is no viable alternative, such as with proprietary technology or when a specific vendor is the only one with the necessary specialized knowledge or compatibility with existing systems.

Unsecured Liability- a financial obligation the Agency owes to a supplier or vendor with no purchase order in place. This can be, but is not limited to, credit card transactions, invoices for repairs and services and



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reimbursements. Unsecured liability purchases should be rare.

C. PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These procedures cover all purchases and procurement for all materials, equipment, supplies, and services over which the Sheriff has expenditure control and responsibility, excluding contracts for professional services and architectural and engineering services, which are set forth in other provisions relating to Charles County. All Agency purchases require the completion of the requisition process.

The Quartermaster's Office is responsible for interacting with the division commanders / directors or their respective designees to assist with following these procedures.

Employees are responsible for following the requisition process detailed elsewhere in this policy for purchasing and procuring assets for the Agency.

The Procurement Specialist, located in the Quartermaster's Office, is responsible for communicating with vendors, contractors, and consulting firms regarding bids, requests for proposals (RFP's), equipment, supplies, and services required by the Agency. At the discretion of the Quartermaster, this step may be delegated from the Procurement Specialist to an individual in another division (for example Information Technology Division, Corrections Division, etc.) for that division's purchases.

Whenever practical, it shall be the policy of the Sheriff's Office to secure adequate competition to assure that the purchase or procurement is made at the lowest possible cost consistent with the quality and delivery requirement of the requesting division.

The procurement process will be broken down into the following monetary categories:

1. Under \$5,000 - One quote may be utilized for purchase.
2. \$5,000 to \$50,000 - Competitive pricing shall be obtained, with at least three (3) price quotes or, if a sole source vendor, with a completed Request to Sole Source Form #203.
3. Over \$50,000 - The formal bid process will be utilized for these purchases. Sole source may be utilized in limited capacities above this threshold.

There are procurement methods that may be utilized in place of the above, such as cooperative purchasing agreements. Further information can be found in the Property Management SOP.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Purchasing and Procurement Procedures document details procedures in reference to purchases made through Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) and Minority Business Enterprises (MBE).

Records pertaining to the purchasing and procurement process will be maintained by the Quartermaster's Office as dictated in the Agency Records Retention Schedule.

D. AGENCY CREDIT CARDS

The Accounting Section of the Administrative Services Division is responsible for the management and issuance of all Agency credit cards and accounts. Agency employees issued a credit card will abide by this policy and policies established by the Charles County Government Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services.

The Agency manages and issues credit cards to employees who have an operational need for them. All



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employees the rank of captain / director and above are issued a credit card, as well as various identified positions throughout the Agency. If an Executive Command Staff member determines a subordinate has an operational need for an Agency credit card, they may make a request, in writing, to the Accounting Section, which will be reviewed and granted on a case-by-case basis.

As a governmental entity, the Agency is exempt from Maryland sales tax for most purchases. A sales and use tax exemption certificate is issued to each credit card holder.

The issuance of a credit card is not intended as permission to circumvent the requisition process. Agency employees should continue to prioritize completion of the regular requisition process prior to purchase for most situations. The credit card should only be used in emergency circumstances or situations where completing the requisition process prior to purchase is impractical.

CARDHOLDER / AUTHORIZED USER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All Agency credit cards are issued to a specific Agency employee. However, that person may grant authorized use, for business purposes only, to other Agency employees.
2. The cardholder on record is responsible for all charges made.
3. The card cannot be used for personal purchases.
4. The user is responsible for providing the issued sales tax-exempt certificate to the vendor upon purchasing of goods.
5. Failure to abide by Agency policy and procedures, including the personal use, misuse, improper use, or fraudulent use of the credit card will result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
6. The user is responsible for all charges resulting from failure to abide by Agency credit card use policy and procedures.
7. Within ten (10) days of the use of an Agency credit card, the employee will submit a Requisition Request Form #302 with a receipt/invoice. The credit card requisition process located elsewhere in this policy will be utilized for the submission.

ELIGIBLE USES OF THE CREDIT CARD

1. Use of an Agency credit card will be limited to emergency circumstances or situations where the completion of a requisition prior to purchase is impractical.
2. Training/Travel related expenses- Tips of 20% or less for meals or other items for which a tip is generally provided.
3. In rare circumstances, a credit card may be used for payment of a recurring purchase, with the approval of an Assistant Sheriff for each specific occurrence.
4. Other eligible uses outlined in the Charles County Government Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services manuals.
5. When there is a question whether or not a purchase by credit card is an eligible use, the Deputy Director, Accounting Section will be contacted for consultation.

PROHIBITED USES OF THE CREDIT CARD

The following list is not all inclusive. Employees must use good judgement and have Agency related justification for all credit card uses.

1. Personal purchases- These are defined as purchases that are not at the request of or benefit for the Agency. Some examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Gasoline for any personal vehicle.
 - b) Settling personal debts.
 - c) Personal property.



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- d) Conference registration, lodging, or travel expenses for non-Agency employees.
2. Cash Advances.
3. Alcoholic Beverages.
4. Gift cards / Pre-paid phone cards.
5. Purchases of goods and/or services in violation of a grant agreement.
6. Purchases of gifts, unless specifically approved by the Sheriff. Purchases must be in accordance with Charles County Government policy.
7. Purchases of cards, food, or beverages related to personal celebrations for employees, former employees, contract employees, or vendors such as birthdays, weddings, retirements, etc., unless specifically approved by the Sheriff.
8. Purchases by non-employees.
9. Any other prohibited uses outlined in the Charles County Government Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services manuals.

SECURITY AND CARD CANCELLATION, TERMINATION

1. All cards shall be kept and maintained in a secure manner.
2. Lost / Stolen Cards:
 - a) The Accounting Section will be immediately notified of the lost / stolen Agency credit card.
 - b) Within 24 hours of discovering the card is missing, the employee will submit a memorandum through their chain of command to the Assistant Sheriff, Administrative Services Bureau, explaining the circumstances surrounding the loss of the credit card.
 - c) After review, the Assistant Sheriff, Administrative Services Bureau, will determine if another credit card will be issued to the employee and if there will be any limitations/restrictions placed on the card holder.
3. Transfer / Termination: Upon termination of employment, or in the case of transfer to a position not deemed to have an operational need, the credit card will be returned to the Accounting Section.

E. REGULAR REQUISITION PROCESS (PREFERRED METHOD)

The preferred method to purchase a new item, initiate a new contract service or subscription, etc., is to complete the regular requisition process prior to making the purchase or obtaining services. This allows the Quartermaster's Office to research vendors and obtain competitive pricing and for a purchase order to be generated prior to purchase.

Completion of the regular requisition process is also the preferred method to request payment for a recurring purchase with a known due date. In these cases, the requisition should be submitted as soon as possible before the invoice is due to be paid.

For these and the majority of purchasing situations, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Complete a Requisition Request Form #302. Each request must include a description, quantity, and estimated cost. The request may include a suggested vendor and supporting documentation for the purchase.
2. Submit Requisition Request Form #302 through the requestor's chain of command to the Division Commander / Director for review and preliminary approval.
 - a) For large purchases or Agency facility renovations, the Division Commander / Director will consult with the Budgeting Section prior to their preliminary approval to ensure there is estimated funding for the project.



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3. Once preliminarily approved, the Division Commander / Director will forward the Requisition Request Form #302 to the Quartermaster's Office / Procurement Specialist through email at **purchasing@ccso.us**.
4. The Quartermaster's Office / Procurement Specialist will utilize the procurement process to determine a suitable product, vendor and final cost. This final information will be updated on the Requisition Request Form #302.
5. The Quartermaster's Office will determine the method of payment (credit card purchase, invoice, etc.).
6. The Procurement Specialist will enter the final purchase information in the County Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for routing to the appropriate Division Commander / Director for approval.
7. The Division Commander / Director will review the final purchase information in the ERP system.
8. Once approved, the system will route the final purchase information to the Budgeting Section to determine the appropriate budget account number and the availability of funds for the purchase.
9. Within the ERP system, the appropriate Assistant Sheriff will review the request and send the approved purchase order to the Quartermaster's Office / Procurement for purchase and receiving.
10. The Accounting Section will complete the payment/billing services.
11. If at any time during the requisition process the purchase is denied, the requestor will be notified and the process will terminate.

NOTE: At the discretion of the Quartermaster, certain steps of this process may be delegated from the Procurement Specialist to an individual in another division (for example, Information Technology Division, Corrections Division, etc.) for that division's purchases.

BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS

A blanket purchase order (BPO) may be issued by the Quartermaster's Office when items or services will be purchased multiple times over the course of a fiscal year, without completing a new requisition or purchase order for each individual acquisition.

1. A BPO will be specific to a single vender.
2. The employee requesting a BPO will complete a requisition through the regular requisition process and include a memo with justification for the request, including an estimated yearly cost, for review by the Division Commander / Director and Quartermaster's Office.
3. Approval for a BPO will follow the regular requisition process.
4. The BPO will be closed at the end of the fiscal year. A new requisition and justification memo will be submitted for review and approval, if the items or services will be needed in the new fiscal year.
5. Payment invoices for items or services received through a BPO will be submitted directly to the Accounting Section via email at ccsoap@ccso.us.
 - a) If the invoice will be submitted by the receiving employee, the affected Division Commander / Director must sign and indicate approval to pay on the invoice prior to being submitted to the



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- Accounting Section.
- b) If the invoice is submitted directly from the vendor to the Accounting Section, the Accounting Section will forward a copy to the affected Division Commander / Director for review and approval to pay.
6. The Quartermaster's Office and Budgeting Section will monitor and review all current BPO's monthly for funding and usage.

REQUEST FOR SOLE SOURCE VENDOR

In cases when there is only one vendor that can provide the item or service requested, the employee will complete a Request to Sole Source Form #203. If the amount of purchase is under \$25,000, the request must be approved by a Division Commander / Director. If the amount is over \$25,000, the Assistant Sheriff of Administration must approve the request. Once approved, the Form #203 will be attached to the requisition.

F. REQUISITIONS FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASES, REIMBURSEMENTS OR TO REQUEST A COUNTY CHECK

In limited and emergency circumstances described elsewhere in this policy, an employee may have a need to make an "unsecured liability" purchase, such as a purchase on an Agency credit card, or to request a reimbursement. Unsecured liability purchases should be rare. Employees may also have the need to provide payment to a vendor or individual by check. In these cases, the employee will complete the requisition process described below.

1. Complete a Requisition Request Form #302.
 - a) Each requisition must include a description, quantity, vendor and total cost.
 - b) For Agency credit card purchases, the requisition must be submitted within ten (10) days of purchase, with receipts/invoices attached. The name of the cardholder and the last four digits of the credit card number will be included under the "Vendor" column.
 - c) To request a County check, an invoice/receipt and the name of the vendor – or the individual recipient – must be included and verified for accuracy to avoid any issues with processing of the check.
 - d) All reimbursements must include a receipt detailing the transaction and have prior Division Commander / Director approval.
2. Submit Requisition Request Form #302 through the employee's chain of command to the Division Commander / Director for review and preliminary approval.
3. The Division Commander / Director will forward the Requisition Request Form #302 to the Quartermaster's Office / Procurement Specialist through email at **purchasing@ccso.us**.
4. The Quartermaster's Office will review and forward to the Budgeting Section for budget account assignment.
5. For purchases under five-thousand dollars (\$5,000), the Captain / Director, Administrative Services Division will review the request for approval and payment.
6. For purchases over five-thousand dollars (\$5,000), the appropriate Assistant Sheriff will review the request for approval and payment.
7. The Accounting Section will complete the payment / billing services.



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3-304 EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Prior to any equipment being repaired (except vehicles covered under another section of this Manual), for which a service contract is not already in place, a Requisition Form #302A shall be submitted to the Quartermaster. The form shall contain on the justification line, if known:

- the problem with the item;
- when the item was purchased;
- cost when purchased; and
- estimated cost to repair.

This data will be used to make a determination whether it is cost effective to have the item repaired or replaced. In the description section of the item line, the Sheriff's Office ID number shall be copied from the tag affixed to the item and placed on the Form #302A.

Nothing in this procedure shall prevent a commander from authorizing repairs or replacement in an emergency or when exigent circumstances exist. In these cases, the commander shall cause a requisition to be completed "after the fact" and forward it with the receipts to the Deputy Director, Budgeting.

3-305 CAPITAL AND FIXED AGENCY ASSETS

The CCSO has in resources capital and fixed assets. These assets are assigned to components within the Agency for official Sheriff's Office use. Assets obtained by the Agency will be inventoried by the affected Division Commander / Manager and tracked by the Accounting Section. Items listed as assets include, but are not limited to, specialized furniture (not General Office Furniture), specialized office equipment (not including general office equipment such as staplers, folders, writing materials, paper, etc.) specialized surveillance equipment, video/photography equipment, and other general or special equipment used to perform Agency functions. Vehicle equipment permanently mounted on a vehicle is excluded. All items with a purchase cost of \$1,000 or more and a useful life of one year or more are required to be inventoried. Those asset items with a cost of less than \$1,000 but having a useful life of one year or more may also be inventoried in order to accurately reflect Agency assets. This would include all items that add intrinsic value to the agency mission and need to be accounted for. This also includes all items that are donated or purchased via special funding such as grants or lease purchase agreements.

DEFINITIONS

Capital Equipment- means any equipment item having a useful life in excess of one year and a procurement cost of \$5000 or more per unit.

Fixed Assets- are tangible items such as specialized equipment with a useful life of one year or more.

Specialized Equipment- items such as GPS units, Digital Cameras and / or Lens, External Hard Drives, Night vision binoculars, surveillance equipment, metal detectors, gym equipment, ballistic shields, bicycles, etc.

Any property meeting these guidelines acquired by Agency personnel will be documented on an Asset / Property Form #766, and a copy will be forwarded to the Accounting Section, which is responsible to account for all Agency property.

The Quartermaster will prepare a Transfer / Disposal of Assets / Property Form #768 for all items ordered through the Quartermaster's Unit. Fleet Services will prepare Form #768 for all items ordered through Fleet Services. The Corrections Division will prepare Form #768 for all items ordered through their Division. ITD will prepare Form #768 for all items ordered through ITD.

**Administrative and Operational Manual****April 1, 2026****3-306 INVENTORY AND CONTROL OF AGENCY PROPERTY**

The inventory and control of property assigned to an individual employee will be maintained by the issuing authority. All other property designated as capital or fixed assets will be inventoried and controlled in an asset log maintained by the commander / director of each division. A list of capital and fixed assets, excluding vehicles, firearms, office furniture and computers, may be obtained from the Deputy Director, Accounting Section. The log will be broken down by components of the division and include the following:

1. Agency assigned tracking number (if assigned);
2. Manufacturer, model and description;
3. Serial number (if available);
4. Date received by division or component;
5. Specific Division, Section (if applicable), Unit (if applicable) and location of item (building, floor, room number).

The commander / director of each division will conduct an annual inventory of his assigned division's assets, computers, and firearms. During the inventory, the commander or a designee shall compare the list of capital and fixed assets provided by Deputy Director, Accounting Section, a list of firearms provided by the Chief Firearms Instructor, and a list of computers provided by the Director, ITD with the assets in custody. Commanders will list additional, missing or transferred assets, and correct the inventory sheets to reflect changes in location, condition, or usage of the asset. Annually, the commander of each division will prepare a report of his findings and submit it to the Deputy Director, Accounting. The Deputy Director, Accounting will complete an Assets Report, which will be forwarded to the Sheriff. Audits of a division's assets will be conducted by the Accounting Section and Office of Professional Responsibility as described elsewhere in policy.

A commander / director, when assuming command of a division, shall inventory the entire division and accept responsibility for all he finds at his disposal within 30 days of a change of command. In a like manner, a commander / director turning over a command, shall inventory his division and formally give an accounting of that which is to be turned over. Discrepancies will be documented immediately and forwarded to the Deputy Director, Accounting. The Deputy Director, Accounting will attempt to resolve the discrepancies. If unable, he shall contact the Assistant Sheriff of Administration.

3-307 TRANSFER OF AGENCY PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Agency property and equipment can be transferred between divisions or components with authorization from the division commanders of both the component to which the property is assigned and to which it will be received. Transfer of computers and computer related equipment between divisions / components will be made only under the authority of the Director, Information Technology Division. The transfer of vehicles and weapons will be made only under the authority of the Commander, Special Services Division.

Transfer of equipment other than computers, firearms, and vehicles will be documented on the Transfer / Disposal of Assets / Property Form #768. A copy will be forwarded to the Deputy Director, Accounting, who is responsible to account for all Agency property and equipment, as a part of the County inventory control process. Any transfer of equipment / property within or out of a component from where it was assigned, will be documented on the division's asset log. In the same manner, any property received by a division will be documented in the division's asset log where it will be assigned.

3-308 TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT ASSIGNED TO PERSONNEL

Equipment assigned to an individual shall not be transferred to another person. The equipment shall be returned



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to the controlling person, generally the Quartermaster, Commander, Special Services, or Director, ITD, who will record the necessary changes on the equipment custody sheet and return the item to inventory.

3-309 DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT, AGENCY PROPERTY, OR ASSETS

On occasion, Agency property or equipment becomes obsolete or unserviceable and not cost effective to repair for a number of reasons.

In these cases, the appropriate division commander or a designee will complete an Asset / Property Form #768 for any asset to be disposed of from the assigned division. Unless disposal can be immediately determined by the Procurement Specialist, the item will be sent to the Quartermaster's Unit for disposal. The person disposing of the property will be responsible for transporting it to the Quartermaster's Unit. The item will be logged out of the asset log for the respective component of the division where the property was assigned.

The Quartermaster will then store the property until the Procurement Specialist makes a determination as to the final disposition.

The Procurement Specialist shall periodically submit, through the Quartermaster, to the Accounting Section, a listing of any supplies and equipment which are no longer used or which have become obsolete or worn out. The listing should include a full description and how, when, and where the item(s) were disposed. The Quartermaster shall cause the Procurement Specialist to consider any value of property to determine the possible use of any surplus by another agency. Proper disposal method will be decided and coordinated within the Quartermaster's Unit.

Section 203-4 of the Charles County Code, which addresses the policies for disposition of surplus property, states the Sheriff is responsible for the disposition of surplus, obsolete, or scrap supplies or equipment under the Sheriff's control. Disposition may be made in any of the following ways:

7. request the vendor to substitute for other materials;
8. return to supplier for credit;
9. outright sale via advertised bid or auction;
10. trade-in; or
11. scrapping.

No assets, regardless of original or remaining scrap value, may be disposed of without the approval of the Procurement Specialist and Quartermaster, regardless of the method of disposal.

Once the Quartermaster has received written approval to dispose of the asset / property, the item may be disposed of and the Quartermaster's Unit will complete the submitted Form #768. The completed form and the disposal documentation will be forwarded to the Accounting Section. The Accounting Section will remove the record of the property from the Sheriff's Office asset data base.

3-500 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Agency provides uniforms to some employees to use in the performance of their duties. All personnel have at their disposal at least a limited amount of Charles County Sheriff's Office property to be used for, or to facilitate, the performance of their duties. All of these uniforms, equipment, and other CCSO property, must be used and accounted for in the manner prescribed in this Manual, and in supplemental documents and instructions issued by the Agency and its supervisory personnel.

3-501 PERSONALLY OWNED EQUIPMENT

The rules promulgated for the control of uniforms, equipment, and property, apply equally to items owned by the employee, and allowed or required, by the Agency, to be used in the performance of the employee's duties. In this



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regard, the use is controlled and not the property. The Agency does not intend to infringe upon any property right of the employee, but instead, to regulate the performance of the employee regarding his job while using individually owned property.

3-501.1 LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

The Agency may provide some compensation for the loss or damage of personally owned property, if that loss or damage occurred as a result of the performance of the employee's duties. The Agency does not guarantee compensation. However, if the requirements of this section are met, some compensation may be awarded. In order to qualify for compensation, the following conditions must be met.

- The loss must be directly related to the particular employee's specific duties; or
- The employee must be performing some function related to an urgent situation which may not be directly related to the employee's duties, but is a responsibility or expectation of the Agency in general.

Example: If an officer was attacked by a person in a district station, and the police station technician, in coming to the aid of the officer, had a pair of glasses broken, the broken glasses would qualify for compensation. Even though the restraint of a person is not within the job description of a police station technician, there is clearly an expectation of assistance to another employee in need of help performing the other employee's duties.

- An employee must also have taken reasonable care to avoid placing valuable personal property in harm's way, in order to qualify for reimbursement.

Examples: Employees who work in an environment where they are exposed to dirt, chemicals, body fluids and the like, should wear protective clothing; or

Employees should not wear expensive watches, necklaces or other adornments, given the risk of confrontational situations associated with Sheriff's Office duties.

In all cases, an evaluation will be made, as in the case of Agency property, concerning any employee negligence which may have contributed to the loss. If it is determined that employee negligence was the cause of the loss, no reimbursement will be provided.

3-501.1.1 DEFINITIONS: LOST AND DAMAGED

Lost - a personal item will be considered lost and the employee may apply for reimbursement if:

- a reasonable attempt was made to locate the item, or
- the item is damaged and cannot be repaired, or
- the repair cost of the item is greater than the maximum available reimbursement.

Damage - an item will be considered damaged if the item can be repaired for less than the available reimbursement.

3-501.1.2 REPAIR / REPLACEMENT LIMITS

The following repair / replacement limits apply to all cases where a claim is made for reimbursement of a case of personal property lost or damaged in the course of an employee's duties.

- In no event will an employee be reimbursed more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the repair or



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replacement of any personal property item.

- Employees will not be provided compensation for an item for which an insurance claim is satisfied from any source.
- Items which the employee chooses to carry in place of an issued item are specifically excluded from reimbursement. However, supplemental items personally owned by the employee such as handcuffs, cold weather gear, extra flashlights or similar items will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Items which an employee chooses to carry which have no application to the employee's employment tasks are specifically excluded from reimbursement.

3-501.1.3 PROCEDURE FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Employees who wish to document lost or damaged personal property covered under this section shall complete CCSO Form #310A Report of Lost/Damaged Personal Property. The employee must specifically request reimbursement by checking the appropriate block on the form. The completed form will be submitted to the Division Commander through the chain of command.

3-502 DUTY TO CARE FOR AGENCY EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

All Agency property / equipment including weapons shall be maintained in a state of operational readiness by the person or unit to which the property is assigned. Employees are responsible for the care, security, and proper maintenance of all Agency equipment or property that is issued to them. This equipment will not be used in a negligent manner. Employees who are assigned items requiring scheduled maintenance will ensure compliance with such schedules. Operational readiness of equipment / property will be checked during regularly established Agency inspections.

An employee may be held responsible for the uniforms, motor vehicles, equipment, or other property, which is issued to, or is used or controlled by the employee as a result of employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Where it is established that this property is lost or damaged through negligence, the employee concerned may be obligated to replace it at his own expense. Every employee of the Agency shall assume a personal responsibility for all property issued to him, or placed in service for his use or convenience.

3-503 LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

The procedures and reports required by this section apply to all cases of loss or damage to equipment or other Charles County Sheriff's Office property, except damage to an Agency vehicle. Any damage to an agency vehicle shall be reported using the established procedures in the Documenting Damage to Agency Vehicles policy.

RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

Any employee who has knowledge of the occurrence of loss or damage to Charles County Sheriff's Office property shall report that occurrence to a supervisor. Any employee charged with the custody of Agency property which becomes lost or damaged is responsible to make an official report using either CCSO Form #310 Report of Lost or Damaged Agency Property or, for an Agency vehicle, CCSO Form #843 Report of Agency Vehicle Damage immediately upon learning of the occurrence. Supervisors who learn of any loss or damage to Charles County Sheriff's Office property shall notify the employee who is responsible for the property and ensure the completion of either the CCSO Form #310 or CCSO Form #843.

FORM COMPLETION



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The employee responsible for the property, or in the case of an employee who is incapable of completing the report, the employee's supervisor, will complete the appropriate sections of the CCSO Form #310 in the case of lost property. In the case of a damaged Agency vehicle, the employee's supervisor or assigned investigator will complete the CCSO Form #843. An employee submitting a CCSO Form #310 will, in most cases, then submit the form to his supervisor. In those cases where there was an on-scene investigation by someone other than the employee's supervisor, the form will be submitted to the on-scene investigator to the Division Commander through the chain of command.

The supervisor of the employee responsible for the property shall complete the second section (Supervisor Investigation and Conclusion) on the back of the Form #310. The supervisor is required, in this section, to make a judgment, based upon his review of the information contained in the report, and any statement made by the employee, concerning negligence and loss/damage preventability.

The division commander / director of the responsible employee shall review the Form #310 and acknowledge their review by signing the form. Nothing in this policy section prohibits the division commander / director from initiating immediate corrective, remedial, or other action as the commander / director, in his discretion, deems appropriate.

The division commander responsible for the management of the loss or damage shall arrange for an immediate replacement / repair and will note on the Form #310 replacement / repair disposition. Should the item(s) require payment to the employee for replacement, the division commander will ensure a Form #302 is submitted with attached documentation showing how the payment amount was calculated along with a copy of the completed Form #310.

3-504 QUARTERMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency Quartermaster is charged with the procurement, warehousing, and disbursement of Agency uniform and equipment items. He is also charged with the keeping of files establishing the proper flow of items which come into his keeping as a result of his duties. In that regard, the Quartermaster will establish individual files for every eligible employee. Whenever an employee completes any transaction with the Quartermaster under this system, a record of that transaction will be made in the employee's Quartermaster file. In the event a transaction cannot be completed (e.g., when an item is not in stock), a record of the partial transaction will be kept in a suspense or pending file. When the transaction is complete, the record will be made in the Quartermaster's permanent file.

If an item needed by an employee for replacement of an unserviceable item is not in stock, the employee may still turn in the unserviceable item. The Quartermaster will then notify the employee when the replacement item is in stock in order that the employee may pick up the item.

3-505 REPLACEMENT OF ITEMS WHICH BECOME UNSERVICEABLE THROUGH NORMAL USE

An item is considered unserviceable when the item(s):

- is damaged;
- is not working as designed or intended;
- is sized incorrectly;
- continued use would pose a health risk to the employee or public;
- continued use of the item would reflect poorly upon the image of the Agency;
- is soiled to the degree normal cleaning is insufficient.

If an employee believes an issued item has become unserviceable, the employee shall respond to the



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Quartermaster's Office for replacement. The employee shall present the unserviceable item to the Quartermaster's Office for replacement. The Quartermaster shall make a determination as to whether the item is unserviceable. If the item is deemed unserviceable, the Quartermaster shall replace the item. If the Quartermaster determines the item is serviceable and there is a disagreement regarding the item's status, the Commander, Property Management shall make the final determination of the item's serviceability.

The Quartermaster shall pay particular attention to items that are presented for replacement within two years of issuance.

3-505.1 REPLACEMENT OF LOST, STOLEN OR EMPLOYEE DAMAGED ISSUED ITEMS

As stated above in 3-505, an employee must turn in an unserviceable item to receive another like item (one for one trade). If the employee lost the item, the item was stolen or the item was damaged through negligence of the employee, the employee shall present a completed form #310 to the Quartermaster for replacement of the lost, stolen or damaged item.

3-505.2 REPLACEMENT OF EXPENDABLE ITEMS

An expendable item is:

- crime scene tape
- CPR mask
- fingerprint dust
- emergency blanket
- expectorant shield
- personal protective kit
- gloves
- tourniquet
- surgical mask

An officer in need of replacement of an expendable item need not exchange an unserviceable item or complete a form #310 to receive a replacement item.

3-510 WEAR AND DISPLAY OF UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be worn in their entirety and in intended fashion. Uniforms shall be clean and serviceable, and shall not display excessive wear. All buttons on uniforms shall be buttoned, except that the collar button on shirts shall be unbuttoned when the tie is not worn. Brass items are polished, with lettering blackened; snaps and buttons are fastened where intended.

Commissioned officers may optionally wear the duty firearm on the Garrison belt, in lieu of wearing the Sam Browne belt. Other items normally worn on the Sam Browne belt may be worn, as needed, on the Garrison belt, when the Sam Browne belt is not worn.

Uniform articles shall not be worn with civilian clothing articles, except for incidents where an authorized identification item is used, or at the range.

Employees will wear, use, and display only uniform or equipment items that are authorized by regulations. Uniform and/or equipment items approved for temporary use by a division commander, for specific assignments, will also be permitted. Division commanders shall not permit use of items prohibited by this Manual or other Agency directives, except in extreme exigent circumstances. The commander shall, in those instances, report such



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approval to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration, in writing, within 24 hours of such approval being granted.

3-511 UNIFORM CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE

All employees who are issued uniforms and personally assigned equipment by the Agency, for use in performing their duties, shall clean and maintain those items. Some employees are provided funds for that purpose according to the following schedule (employees covered by a formal MOU dealing with this item will refer to the MOU for exact details, as this section pertains only to those not so covered):

1. court security officers compensation will match that of sworn officers (\$300) per quarter (\$1200 annually)
2. cadets and civilian forensic science technicians shall receive fifty dollars (\$50.00) each year (July).

These funds are provided each quarter, in advance, based upon which of the above listed categories the employee falls within on the first working day of the quarter. The actual distribution of funds occurs during the first two weeks of the quarter, dependent upon how the current pay period ends. Quarters begin January, April, July, and October each year.

It is important to note that funds distribution is based upon actual work assignment. For example, new sworn officers who are wearing an Academy uniform instead of the sworn officer's uniform are not entitled to the sworn uniform maintenance and cleaning expense payment. Also, an employee who has not been in a duty status, for fifty percent or more of the preceding quarter, is not entitled to the uniform maintenance and cleaning expense for the following quarter.

Any cleaning and maintenance necessary, which exceeds the amount provided for in this section, shall be at the employee's own expense, unless covered by another Agency policy.

3-512 EXCHANGE AND REPLACEMENT OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT ITEMS

New employees who are required to wear uniforms in the performance of their duties, receive an original uniform issue at the Agency's expense. Items which must be replaced due to an Agency required change in rank or assignment are issued at the Agency's expense. If an employee, because of a change in weight or size, can no longer wear a particular uniform item, that item may be exchanged with the Quartermaster for another. Nothing in this policy shall require the Quartermaster to issue or replace items as new. Any serviceable item may be issued, by the Quartermaster, for use by employees.

When an employee who has been issued clothing and equipment by the Agency, leaves employment with the Agency, that employee shall return the clothing and property issued.

3-513 DISPOSAL OF UNSERVICEABLE UNIFORM ITEMS

Agency issued items which become unserviceable must be returned to the Quartermaster for disposal.

3-520 ORIGINAL ISSUE – UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Each employee who is required to wear a uniform shall be issued a set of uniforms and equipment. This set of uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with the lists in the Uniform and Equipment Usage SOP for the employee's position. This list, referred to as "original issue," shall be maintained in serviceable condition at all times. The original issue shall be turned in to the Quartermaster when the employee is about to leave employment with the Agency. Employees can return unworn items at any time, and are encouraged to return unused, ill-fitting



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and obsolete items they may have prior to separation or retirement. A full list of items to be returned can be requested from the Quartermaster Office prior to separation.

3-520.1 ORIGINAL ISSUE – CADETS

In order to clearly distinguish cadets from sworn or correctional officers, cadets are authorized to wear uniforms only as described.

Cadet patches shall be worn on all uniform items displaying the Agency shoulder patch. The Cadet patch shall be worn centered 1/4 inch below the Agency shoulder patch.

3-520.2 ORIGINAL ISSUE - COURTHOUSE SECURITY AIDES

Courthouse Security Aides, when on-duty, will wear the original Agency issued attire in its entirety. Additionally, Courthouse Security Aides will provide and wear a light colored, plain dress shirt and black, business / dress type shoes.

3-521 SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE OF UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

When personnel are assigned to duties which require the use of specialized uniforms and equipment, they will receive a supplemental issue as outlined in the Uniform and Equipment Usage SOP. These uniform and equipment items are to be maintained in addition to, and not in place of, other issued uniform and equipment items. **Unless authorized elsewhere in policy, supplemental issue uniforms and equipment shall be returned to the Quartermaster when the employee leaves the assignment for which they were issued.** No employee shall wear any of the supplemental uniforms or equipment unless that employee has been issued them as a result of the employee's work assignment. Supplemental uniforms and equipment shall only be worn or used in accordance with Agency policies. They shall be of a manufacturer, make, model, or style, and color as authorized by an Assistant Sheriff and approved by the Sheriff. The Quartermaster's authorization to issue supplemental uniforms shall require a confirmation of assignment.

No employee will receive duplicate items as directed by a supplemental issue if the employee has previously received the authorized items via an original or other supplemental issue.

TRAINING ACADEMY RECRUITS

New recruit officers who are scheduled to attend the Corrections / Police Academy are required by SMCJA to purchase specific personal items needed for training. Police Academy recruits will receive a \$700 allowance and Corrections Academy recruits will receive a \$550 allowance to obtain those required items for training. The CCSO training officer assigned to the Academy will complete a Requisition Form #302 – County Check Request for each recruit. The requisition will be forwarded up the chain of command and submitted according to the purchasing guidelines.

3-530 SPECIFIC UNIFORM RULES

The basic daily uniforms and dress uniform will be detailed in this section. Descriptions and specific rules regarding various uniform and equipment pieces are detailed in the Uniform and Equipment usage SOP.

3-590 BASIC UNIFORMS DESCRIBED

The following sections describe the basic general uniforms of the Agency and how they are to be worn.



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3-590.1 CLASS A DRESS UNIFORM - SWORN NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The issued Class A Uniform shall be worn upon direction of the senior officer attending any ceremony, banquet, funeral or other special events or at the direction of the Sheriff.

The Dress Uniform consists of:

- Long sleeved brown dress shirt for non-commissioned officers or long sleeved white dress shirt for commissioned officers,
 - collar brass,
 - tie, and
 - tie tack;
- blouse with:
 - shoulder patches,
 - appropriate braid on each sleeve,
 - cloth chevrons,
 - marksmanship badge,
 - breast badge in holder,
 - collar brass (triangle pins for non-commissioned, state seal for commissioned),
 - nameplate,
 - special unit insignia,
 - U. S. Flag ribbon,
 - CALEA pins, and
 - award ribbons or medals,
- taupe trousers with brown stripe,
- uniform shoes,
- black socks,
- authorized Sam Browne belt (sworn only, excluding Command Staff) with:
 - brass buckle,
 - authorized firearm and holster,
 - magazine holder and magazine(s),
 - authorized handcuff case with handcuffs,
 - cross strap, and
 - felt Stetson hat.

3-590.2 CLASS B DRESS UNIFORM WITHOUT BLOUSE - SWORN AND CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The issued Class B uniform will be worn by the commissioned officers as the Daily Work Uniform. The Class B uniform will be worn by non-commissioned officers upon direction of the senior officer attending any ceremony, banquet, funeral or other special event or at the direction of the Sheriff.

The Class B uniform consists of the same items as the Class A with exception of Blouse and Felt or Straw Hat:

- Long sleeved brown dress shirt for non-commissioned officers or long sleeved white dress shirt for commissioned officers with all required accoutrements,



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- collar brass (rank insignia),
 - tie, and
 - tie tack;
12. taupe trousers with brown stripe,
13. uniform shoes,
14. black socks,
15. Garrison belt with:
16. authorized buckle, and
17. authorized firearm and holster (sworn).

3-590.3 CLASS C - BASIC WORK UNIFORM (NON-COMMISSIONED)

The issued Class C uniform is the basic daily work uniform to be worn for non-commissioned officers.

Operational commissioned officers are permitted to wear the Class C daily work uniform based on an operational need. Any officer who prefers to wear Class B uniform is permitted to wear without prior permission.

The Class C uniform consists of:

- long or short sleeve shirt with:
 - shoulder patches,
 - cloth badge,
 - collar rank insignia,
 - cloth nametape.

The Class C uniform can be worn either with the outer ballistic vest carrier or without the outer ballistic vest carrier, providing the ballistic vest be worn under the shirt. If the outer ballistic carrier is worn, it shall consist of:

- Cloth nametape,
 - Cloth badge.
- Garrison belt with authorized weapon and holster,
 - Sam Browne belt (non-commissioned officers), without cross strap, but with:
 - authorized firearm and holster,
 - handcuffs and handcuff case,
 - OC spray and OC spray holder,
 - collapsible baton and holder,
 - fully loaded ammunition magazines and holder,
 - portable radio carrier (issued case or clip),
 - belt keepers,
 - key ring holder (optional),
- flashlight and holder,
 - brown trousers,
 - uniform shoes or other authorized footwear, and
 - baseball cap or black knit hat.

3-591 ISSUED BODY ARMOR



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- 6-point adjustable carrier;
- Ballistic panels (interchangeable for use in either carrier);
- 5" x 8" sternum plate.

3-591.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES

All sworn officers are issued body armor and are strongly encouraged to wear it at all times while performing their duties. Wearing of the body armor is mandatory for all uniformed officers engaged in patrol, enforcement operations, security assignments and while working at the Charles County Courthouse.

A supervisor can order the wearing of body armor under any circumstances he determines appropriate, such as potentially high-risk situations. Consequently, this equipment shall be immediately available for INSTANT USE to all personnel within this Agency, who have received an initial issue. Under exigent circumstances, body armor can be worn, either on- or off-duty, over the uniform or civilian attire, in order to provide for some measure of protection. Body armor shall become an item of inspection during the monthly vehicle inspections.

3-591.2 EXTERNAL BODY ARMOR CARRIER

The panels of the Agency issued body armor may be worn in an external body armor carrier, under the following conditions:

18. the external carrier must be in the Agency's uniform shirt brown color;
19. officers wearing the carrier on day work must wear the same items on the carrier that are worn on the issued and approved uniform shirt;
20. The external carrier shall display a nametape and cloth badge.
21. the carrier is not a tactical vest and is not to be used as one; the only items to be carried in the pockets of this carrier are those items which would normally be carried in the pockets of the issued uniform shirt. Examples of items NOT to be carried in the pockets of the body armor carrier include:
 22. radios,
 23. flashlights,
 24. chemical sprays,
 25. oversized notebooks.

The employee will maintain the carrier in a clean and presentable condition.

A carrier which becomes unserviceable because of wear or damage will be disposed of through the Quartermaster.

3-591.3 TACTICAL VEST CARRIER

The tactical vest carrier is authorized for wear under certain circumstances. All authorized users will wear the same style and color vest, which will have "Sheriff" on both the front and back. The Agency badge will be cloth or metal and worn on the front of the carrier. The tactical vest carrier will be worn only during police operations and is not authorized for court, meetings, other similar events, or generally while out in public. Approval for issue will be by the authority of any Assistant Sheriff.

3-592 CLASS C BASIC CORRECTIONS WORK UNIFORM

This uniform consists of:

- brown short or long sleeve shirt with:



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- shoulder patches,
- cloth badge,
- collar brass,
- cloth nametape,
- black outer vest carrier with CORRECTIONS in grey with nametape and cloth badge,
- Garrison belt,
- brown trousers,
- uniform shoes or other authorized footwear,
- black socks, and
- Agency ball cap.

3-593 ALTERNATE UNIFORM DESCRIPTIONS

Refer to the Uniform and Equipment Usage SOP for detailed descriptions of alternate uniform descriptions.

3-594 AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS OF THE DAY

The dress uniform may be worn the entire year. On April 1 of each year, the uniform of the day will change from winter uniforms to summer uniforms. Per the MOU, from March 16 through March 31, it is within the discretion of the individual officer whether to wear short sleeves or long sleeves. On November 1 of each year, the uniform of the day will change from summer uniforms to winter uniforms. From November 1 through November 15, it is within the discretion of the individual officer whether to wear short sleeves or long sleeves.

Police Station Technicians at the various district stations will be notified by the Patrol operations commanders or designees, of any exceptions to this policy. This notification shall be made at least one hour before the beginning of the particular shift. It is the responsibility of all uniformed personnel to check with a police station technicians to determine the proper uniform to wear for each shift.

The EST uniform may be worn by EST members at the beginning of their tour of duty if an assignment is scheduled to begin within two hours of the beginning of their regularly scheduled shift. EST members may also remain in the EST uniform until the end of their tour of duty when an assignment concludes within two hours of the end of that officer's regularly scheduled shift. For plain clothes assignments, this will be at the discretion of the officer's commanders.

The Assistant Sheriffs have the authority to change the uniform of the day or to make additional changes to this policy.

3-595 GROOMING STANDARDS

3-595.1 ALL AGENCY EMPLOYEES

3-595.1.1 TATTOOS

It is not the Agency's intention to infringe upon any employee's personal freedoms; however, it is within the Sheriff's prerogative to govern the actions and appearance of his employees insofar as they impact the efficient operations of the Agency. A significant part of the Agency's mission is accomplished by instilling confidence in the general public, and in doing so, employees should strive to avoid shocking or otherwise making citizens uncomfortable in their presence.

In general, displaying tattoos / body art depicting the following is prohibited at any time if visible to the general



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public during the normal performance of the employee's duties:

- racism;
- sexism;
- obscenity; or
- profanity.

The Sheriff or his designee shall render final judgment in these matters.

3-595.1.2 UNCONVENTIONAL BODY PIERCING

All Agency employees while on duty, representing the Agency or displaying any official Agency logo, are prohibited from displaying unconventional body piercing jewelry including, but not limited to, on or in:

- the tongue;
- the nose;
- the cheek;
- the eyebrow; and
- the lip.

Prohibitions also include, but are not limited to: foreign objects inserted under the skin; pierced, split or forked tongues; and/or stretched-out holes in the ears, gauges, and hole plugs.

Any exceptions to these provisions shall be approved in advance by the Sheriff or his designee.

3-595.1.3 DENTAL ORNAMENTATION

Visible dental ornamentation, such as fillings, gold / silver fillings or appliques are prohibited unless deemed medically necessary.

3-595.2 UNIFORMED SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONS MEMBERS

3-595.2.1 HAIR REGULATIONS

Uniformed sworn police and corrections members shall adhere to the following hair regulations:

- Hair shall be neat, clean, properly trimmed, and well-groomed while members are on-duty. The coloring, style, or cut shall not detract from or degrade the intent of the uniform or position.
- Only natural hair colors are permitted (i.e. no pink, blue, green, etc.).
- Hairstyles shall be professional in appearance. Extreme or fad hairstyles are prohibited, including but not limited to those that incorporate designs or sculptures using the hair and/or cut into the hair, and any style that presents an unprofessional or disheveled appearance.
- The bulk or length of the hair should not interfere with the normal wearing of the uniform hat and no hair shall show under the front brim of the uniform hat.
- For male uniformed members, the hair on the top of the head shall be neatly trimmed and the sides shall not fall over the ear. The sides and back of the hair shall be neatly trimmed and tapered. The hair on the



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sides and back of the head shall not protrude from the bottom edge of the uniform hat in such a manner that the hair appears to bulge outward.

- Female uniformed members' hair may touch the shirt collar, but shall not fall below the collar's lowest edge to the rear.
- Any hairstyle that is bound, such as braids, and meets the above requirements must be worn close to the head and present a professional appearance.
- Hairpieces or wigs, if worn on duty, shall present a natural appearance, shall not interfere with the proper performance of duty, and shall not present a safety hazard. If worn while in uniform, the hairpiece or wig shall comply with the provisions of this section.
- Objects worn in the hair shall be for the sole purpose of holding the hair in place and shall be similar in color to the individual's hair color or be solid navy blue or black. No object should interfere with the wearing of the uniform hat. Any item that can be used as a weapon against the officer is prohibited.

3-595.2.2 FACIAL HAIR

DEFINITIONS

- **Shaving** – Shaving is defined in this policy to mean the cutting of facial hair with a blade or other device which is designed to cut the facial hair even with the skin.
- **Trimming** – Trimming is defined in this policy to mean the cutting of facial hair with a trimming device which is designed to cut facial hair closely to the skin, but not even with the skin.

Uniformed sworn police and corrections members shall adhere to the following facial hair regulations:

- Sideburns shall be neatly trimmed. They shall not extend below mid-ear; they shall be of even width (not flared) and end with a clean-shaven horizontal line.
- A neatly trimmed mustache is permissible. Mustache hair shall not extend more than 1/4" below or beyond the line of the employee's upper lip.
- Facial hair is generally not permitted. Employees should shave regularly to ensure they are adhering to this policy. However, exceptions may be made for good cause, as detailed below.

SHAVING WAIVERS

An employee being treated for a facial skin disorder or other medical condition which is aggravated by shaving may request an exception by submitting a Shaving Waiver Form #353 completed by their physician or dermatologist. Under normal circumstances, the Form #353 will be sufficient documentation for a waiver. If the physician / dermatologist does not believe the employee can comply with the standards stated on the form, the request will likely be denied. The request will be submitted to the Sheriff through the chain of command. Employees should receive a reply within five business days of receipt by their immediate supervisor. In cases where the requesting employee does not receive a reply within five days, the employee may consider the request approved until hearing otherwise. If a waiver is granted, the employee must maintain a close and neatly trimmed appearance with maximum facial hair length of approximately 1/8 inch. Goatees and other styling of the facial hair are not permitted. Authorization shall be for a six-month period; updated requests are required for any extended periods in increments of six months, using the Form #353.



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Supervisors will not attempt to actually measure an employee's facial hair, but will use their best judgment and discretion to ensure the employee maintains a professional appearance. Accepting that the supervisor is acting on good faith, employees will comply with a supervisor's order to alter their facial hair to meet policy.

Human Resources will maintain a current list of employees who have been granted a shaving waiver due to their condition. Supervisors / commanders may contact HR to verify if a particular employee is on the list. HR will also provide division commanders with information about employees who have a valid shaving waiver on file. The affected officer shall maintain, and make available, a copy of his most current shaving waiver to supervisory / command authority.

Employees who are unable to conform to the Agency's grooming standards shall be placed on leave until they are able to comply or they receive a valid waiver. Employees who do not qualify for a waiver and refuse to comply with the Agency's grooming standards may be subject to disciplinary action.

The following photos are provided as examples to be used by supervisors and employees of acceptable facial hair length for those who have been granted a shaving waiver. Hair length of approximately 1/8 inch and of an even length all over is permitted.



The following photos are provided as examples to be used by supervisors and employees of unacceptable facial hair length and style for those permitted facial hair due to a shaving waiver. Hair length of more than approximately 1/8 inch and of a shaped and stylized form is not permitted.



3-595.2.3 MAKEUP AND JEWELRY

Uniformed sworn police and corrections members shall adhere to the following makeup and jewelry regulations:

- Makeup may be worn if it is natural in color and does not detract from or degrade the intent of the uniform or position.
- Necklaces, medals, etc., may be worn if they are not visible. Visible medical bracelets are permitted.
- Female uniformed members may wear fingernail polish, provided the polish is clear, there are no adornments, and nails are kept at a length that does not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties.
- Female uniformed members are permitted to wear one stud-type earring per ear while on duty.



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- Male uniformed members shall not wear earrings or other visible piercings while on duty, outside of covert operations.
- Loop, wrap, or dangle style earrings are prohibited.

Any exceptions to these provisions shall be approved in advance by the Sheriff or his designee.

3-595.2.4 EYE WEAR

The following are prohibited when wearing eyeglasses or sunglasses in uniform:

- Straps, except plain black straps, which maintain the glasses and should be a breakaway style;
- Eccentric or faddish styles or frames;
- Mirrored lenses; and
- Unnaturally colored contact lenses.

3-595.3 CIVILIAN MEMBERS GROOMING STANDARDS

To achieve and maintain the highest standard of professional excellence is a primary objective of the Agency. One of the qualities that marks a professional organization is the exemplary appearance of all of its personnel. The Agency is often judged by the appearance of a single employee; the dress and grooming of all civilian members must establish and maintain the credibility and professional standards of the Agency.

The Sheriff reserves the right to determine appropriate attire for civilian employees. In the event an employee is uncertain about policy compliance, other attire should be worn until specific permission is obtained.

All members must dress in a neat, clean, and professional manner, including on casual days.

Hair or hairpieces shall be neat, clean, and groomed in such a fashion as not to interfere with the employee's duties.

Beards, goatees and mustaches shall be neat, trimmed, and shall not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties.

Fingernails may be polished provided there are no adornments and nails are kept at a length that does not interfere with the employee's duties.

Makeup may be worn if it is natural in color and does not detract from or degrade the intent of the position.

Jewelry that detracts from a professional appearance or that could be offensive or disturbing to others shall not be worn. Jewelry shall not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties.

3-596 RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE

The dedication, loyalty and contributions of time and effort by employees who remain in the service of the Office of the Sheriff for a number of years, are valuable resources, which deserve recognition. The Sheriff has, therefore, established a Service Recognition Program, which includes the components described in the following subsections.

Years of service are defined as those years of employment, from date of hire, in any capacity, as a full-time, full-time reduced-hours or part time employee. Any break in service shall not be credited, except for those required by active duty service, in the United States Military Services, during time of war or conflict.

3-596.1 SERVICE MEDALS FOR UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES



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Each employee who wears a uniform in the course of the employee's Agency duties shall be presented a medal to display upon the employee's uniform. The service medal will be displayed in the manner described in this Manual for the display of all medals. The medals shall be issued at the intervals and in the form which follows:

- 2 years - a black ribbon with three strips at each end, the outermost strips red, the middle strips blue and the innermost strips gold;
- 5 years - the two-year ribbon with a gold star in the center;
- 10 years - the two-year ribbon with two gold stars centered vertically, having the same space between the stars horizontally as is between the stars and the end strips;
- 15 years - the two-year ribbon with three gold stars centered vertically, having an equal space horizontally between the stars and the end strips;
- 20 years - the two-year ribbon with four gold stars centered vertically, having an equal space horizontally between the stars and the end strips;
- 25 years - the two-year ribbon with a circular cluster of five stars centered vertically and horizontally; and
- 30 years - the two-year ribbon with a circular cluster of six stars centered vertically and horizontally.

3-596.2 CIVILIAN ATTIRE SERVICE AWARD

All personnel shall be presented a Service Award which may be worn with civilian attire, both at, and away from, work. The wearing of this Award is at the employee's discretion. Employees who may have an operational need to be unnoticed or undetected as employees of the CCSO, shall not wear this Award in any manner which would compromise that operational need.

The Award consists of a small replica of the Agency Flag with a rectangular pad below which is inscribed with a number equal to the years' service as described for service medals in the preceding section.

3-596.3 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Service Awards will be presented on a monthly basis to those employees who have completed the appropriate number of years of service during the preceding month. Service Awards for 2 and 5 years shall be presented by the employee's supervisor. Those for 10 and 15 years shall be presented by the employee's division commander / director. The awards for 20, 25, and 30 years may be presented by the Sheriff. All awards will be accompanied by a certificate of appreciation. The Human Resources Section will administer the Agency Service Awards.

All initial issues of awards will be at the expense of the Agency. Lost or damaged awards may be replaced in accordance with current policy for the particular employee. Replacement awards may be purchased by the employee from the Human Resources Section, if one is not replaced by policy, at the Agency's expense. When a Service Award is replaced by a subsequent one for a greater number of years, the employee may retain the replaced award as a memento. However, only the most recently received Service Award may be worn.



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3-600 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing equal employment opportunities for all of its employees as well as for those who apply for Agency jobs. No employee or applicant will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity), age, military status, disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to all personnel because of disability, sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice, or pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. Requests for accommodation must be made, in writing, directly to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division. The Commander / Director will notify the employee of the disposition of the request or seek further information from the employee. If an accommodation is approved, the Commander / Director will facilitate the implementation of the accommodation in coordination with the affected Division Commander / Director. No employee may be retaliated against for requesting an accommodation.

Personnel of the Charles County Sheriff's Office will at all times and in all places conduct themselves in a manner which respects the basic dignity and worth of all persons. This consideration applies to dealing with clients and associates of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and it also applies to the personnel within the Agency, as they deal with each other.

Arbitrary discrimination and harassment are wrongful activities which have no place in a professional law enforcement Agency. In most cases, such activities are illegal, and in all cases they are detrimental to the function and purpose of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. These activities and actions are therefore prohibited for all personnel.

It is essential that the Sheriff's Office maintain a working environment in which all employees are provided fair and courteous treatment, and the opportunity to perform their duties free of arbitrary discrimination and harassment. Arbitrary discrimination and harassment undermine the integrity of employee relationships, lower employee morale, interfere with the efficiency and effectiveness of Agency operations, and may result in civil rights violation suits.

3-600.1 AGENCY POLICY

The personnel of this Agency shall conduct their affairs, responsibilities, and obligations in a manner which keeps them free from arbitrary discrimination and sexual harassment in accordance with the laws of the United States and the State of Maryland. Sheriff's Office personnel will provide fair and equal treatment to employees and citizens regardless of the person's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ethnic group, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military status, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

Arbitrary discrimination, sexual harassment, or any other form of harassment by a specific act, inference, or omission, by or against any employee or against a citizen, will not be permitted or condoned by the Sheriff.

3-600.2 DEFINITIONS

Discrimination - is an action or activity that unlawfully or unjustly results in unequal treatment of persons or groups based on age, color, national origin, race, gender identity, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, ethnic group, religion, or disability. Discrimination can occur overtly, covertly by an act or by an omission, and can exist in the following formats:



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1. **Disparaging Terms** - words used to degrade or infer negative connotations pertaining to age, color, national origin, race, ethnic group, religion, gender identity, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or disability. Such terms may include slurs, symbols, posters, or insignia.
2. **Other Verbal or Physical Conduct** - based upon an individual's age, color, national origin, race, ethnic group, religion, gender identity, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or disability.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Coordinator - That individual within the Agency who has been assigned the responsibility to administer the provisions of this section. The EEO Coordinator is responsible to ensure that EEO law is fully and successfully implemented within the Agency. The EEO Coordinator is responsible for resolving complaints of discrimination and harassment wherever they may occur throughout the Agency. The person holding the position of Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division, is designated and assigned the responsibility as EEO Coordinator. The Deputy Director, Human Resources, is designated and assigned the responsibility as Assistant EEO Coordinator and will assist the EEO Coordinator in fulfilling the assigned duties and responsibilities.

Harassment - is intentional conduct which troubles, worries, or torments another person, providing that conduct is abnormal within the workplace. Conduct shall be presumed to be intentional if the offending employee has received previously documented counseling by supervisory authority concerning the undesirable nature of such conduct. Conduct will be presumed to trouble, worry, or torment, if it is documented that the offending person has been previously told the conduct was unwelcome, or perceived by the complainant as harassment. Conduct is considered not normal to the workplace if any supervisory authority has previously defined it as such in writing, or if the conduct is in violation of any policy of the Agency, or if the conduct is a violation of law.

Prejudice - is any set of rigid and / or unfavorable attitudes toward a particular group or groups which is formed with disregard for facts, i.e., an unsupported judgment, usually accompanied by disapproval.

Racism - is the incorrect assumption that a race determines specific cultural and psychological traits, with the belief that one race is superior to another. This belief of racial superiority allows discrimination to exist when dealing with other races believed to be inferior.

Sexual Harassment - is a form of sexual discrimination that involves the utilization of sexually explicit language or gestures; the presence of sexually suggestive or explicit pictures or drawings; unusual, unsolicited, or unwanted touching or closeness by another employee; or related conduct, activities, actions, mannerisms, or suggestions with sexual innuendos or overtones. Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute harassment when:

1. The conduct is unwelcome and the employee does not solicit it, and the employee regards the conduct as undesirable or offensive. It may include these forms:
 - a) **Verbal** - innuendos, suggestive comments, slurs, jokes, propositions, or threats; and/or
 - b) **Non Verbal** - suggestive objects, pictures, suggestive or insulting sounds, whistling, or obscene gestures; and/or
 - c) **Physical** - includes touching, pinching, brushing the body, or assault.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made as a term or condition of a person's job, pay, career, or employment decision.
3. The conduct has the purpose of or effect of interfering with an individual's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.



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Stereotyping - is a preconceived or oversimplified generalization involving negative beliefs about a particular group or class of people. Negative stereotypes are frequently the basis for prejudicial attitudes and beliefs. Stereotyping overlooks people as individuals and categorizes them as members of a group that all think, act, and behave in the same manner and fashion.

3-600.3 GENERAL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of all persons in a supervisory or management position to at all times guard against harassment and arbitrary discrimination in the workplace.

Supervisors will take action to address any violations of policy they personally observe or that have been brought to their attention by utilizing the appropriate procedure(s) noted in the following sub-sections. All supervisors are reminded conduct prohibited by this section will generally diminish or disappear from the Agency when it is clear to employees such conduct will not be tolerated. All supervisors play a vital role in conveying this message by modeling appropriate behavior and addressing inappropriate behavior in a timely manner.

3-600.4 COMPLAINT HANDLING

The following procedures apply only to informal complaints. Because of restraints imposed by Police Accountability and Discipline Act and the Charles County Correctional Officer's Bill of Rights, formal complaints against sworn officers must be handled consistent with the formal complaint procedures. Likewise, formally filed complaints against civilian employees will be handled in the manner of all formal complaints. It is the purpose of the procedures in this section to handle informal complaints in a more expeditious manner, with the main objective to quickly create a work environment which is free of harassment and arbitrary discrimination.

External complaints will be referred to a commissioned officer and handled in the manner outlined in the complaint policy elsewhere in this Manual. In addition to any action required of the commissioned officer, that officer shall, in all cases of alleged harassment or arbitrary discrimination, complete a Report of Discrimination / Harassment Form #58. This report will be forwarded to the Agency's EEO Coordinator. If a commissioned officer is not immediately available to talk with the complainant, the person receiving the complaint will document the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of the incident which generated the complaint. The Report of Discrimination / Harassment will be used. If the name of the employee who is the subject of the complaint is known, this name will be noted.

The person receiving the complaint will assure the complainant that a commissioned officer will contact them. The Report of Discrimination / Harassment will be forwarded to the EEO Coordinator. The EEO Coordinator will, in consultation with the affected commander / director and the Commander, OPR, decide the best avenue of investigation for each such complaint. Available avenues would include:

1. the supervisor of the employee against whom the complaint is filed; or
2. other supervisory personnel; or
3. criminal investigative personnel; or
4. Internal Affairs personnel.

It is important that the immediate supervisor of the object employee be apprised of the complaint, unless that supervisor is a part of the complaint or there is an investigative purpose for withholding the information.

The initial inquiry and report will be completed within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the complaint. At a minimum, the complainant will have been contacted and any available witness interviewed. If the inquiry is not completed in seven (7) days, an initial report will be submitted outlining the circumstances of the incident and progress of the inquiry to date. A final report will be due at the end of a second seven (7) calendar day period.



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unless written approval for an extension is granted by the Sheriff.

The inquiry report should, as a minimum, relate the details of the incident and recommendations for corrective action, including disciplinary action recommendations as may be appropriate. This report will be directed to the Sheriff for review and approval and will be returned to the EEO Coordinator for filing and/or disposition.

Internal complaints may be made by an employee to the employee's own supervisor, the supervisor of the offending employee, or any supervisor in either chain of command with whom the employee feels comfortable discussing the matter. Additionally, the employee may directly approach the EEO Coordinator or Assistant EEO Coordinator. In matters of equal opportunity, discrimination or harassment, these two officials may be consulted at any time without regard for the normal chain of command.

Supervisors and management personnel should be continually mindful of their responsibility to provide a workplace free from harassment and arbitrary discrimination. No complaint is needed to take action to rectify problems coming to their attention in this regard. Problems which continue after the supervisor or director is aware of the problem, or should have been aware of the problem, can provide vicarious liability for the supervisor, director, and the Agency. Equally important is the fact that such problems negatively affect morale and thereby degrade the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency.

All personnel of the Charles County Sheriff's Office have a responsibility to avoid and/or correct situations involving discrimination or harassment. Any person who observes discrimination or harassment, which goes unresolved, will report the facts to his supervisor, someone else in his chain of command, or the EEO Coordinator or Assistant EEO Coordinator. Even though this policy places specific responsibilities for resolving cases of discrimination and harassment, it is every employee's responsibility to do whatever they are able to do, in order to promote a more equitable work environment for all persons.

3-600.5 COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Individuals should make others aware of events, circumstances, and remarks which are offensive to them personally and request their understanding. Many times people will be unaware that their actions and/or remarks are offensive. Given the insight that they are perceived as offensive, they will likely endeavor to prevent offending others.

In cases where individual action is ineffective, or where the behavior of the offending person is such that the complainant is uncomfortable approaching that person, the complaint may be taken to any level as outlined in Section 3-600.4. The objective is to educate and develop better interpersonal skills within the employees of the Agency. There is initially no requirement to discipline individuals who are the subject of such complaints if the matter is not criminal or a serious violation of rules of this Agency.

First line supervisors have the authority to resolve incidents of discrimination and harassment either observed or otherwise brought to their attention. If an incident requires immediate attention, the supervisor shall notify their Division Commander or Director of the incident, its nature and the parties involved, as soon as practical after handling the incident. If an incident does not require immediate attention, the supervisor shall notify their Division Commander or Director prior to taking action.

Upon being notified of a complaint, the Commander or Director will notify the EEO Coordinator. Contacting the EEO Coordinator allows the Agency to make the most accurate determination as to whether or not the complaint requires a formal investigation. If the parties involved are from different Divisions, then both Commanders or Directors of the parties involved will meet with the EEO Coordinator. Together they will discuss any prior history the offending employee might have related to harassment / discrimination policy violations and implement a plan of action to investigate the complaint. The reporting supervisor will be notified of the plan of action. Once the investigation is complete, a resolution will be decided upon with input from the EEO Coordinator and the Commander(s) or Director(s) before being implemented. The resolution decided upon will be implemented by the



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offender's Commander/Director.

Once implemented, the EEO Coordinator will follow up with the complainant as noted in this policy. The EEO Coordinator will use this information to establish a general knowledge of the Agency's performance in dealing with complaints of discrimination and harassment.

The EEO Coordinator will consult the complainant in all arbitrary discrimination and harassment cases after the case has been successfully resolved. The EEO Coordinator will apprise the complainant, at that time, of the Agency's intentions to keep the workplace free from arbitrary discrimination and harassment. The complainant will be invited to keep the EEO Coordinator informed concerning the effectiveness of the action taken to correct any discrimination or harassment which may have occurred. The EEO Coordinator will inform the complainant that there will be follow-up inquiries in order to continue the monitoring of the effectiveness of the Agency's actions. The EEO Coordinator will make follow-up checks at least twice during the year beginning at the completion of complaint resolution. The EEO Coordinator will document these follow-up conversations with the complainant and appropriate supervisory personnel.

The EEO Coordinator will keep statistical information concerning complaints and resolution of complaints. The EEO Coordinator will use this information to design training programs to remedy any areas which appear to be problematic within the Agency. The EEO Coordinator and the director of the Academy will collaborate in developing programs aimed at creating and maintaining a workplace free from discrimination or harassment, within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. It is anticipated that there will be, within all entry level training, a block of instruction concerning this subject.

No part of this policy is intended to abridge any right an employee or person may have to pursue complaints of discrimination or harassment through other avenues available. It is believed, however, that because this Agency is committed to a harassment and discrimination free workplace, the quickest and most effective way of dealing with these problems, should they arise, is within the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-600.6 REPRISALS

There shall be no reprisals or adverse action taken against an employee because that employee makes a harassment or discrimination complaint. Likewise, any person who participates in such complaint as a witness or reporting person, or who gives testimony in any proceeding regarding harassment or discrimination, is to be free of reprisal. In order to keep harassment and arbitrary discrimination from the workplace, all persons must feel comfortable in confronting these issues. The Sheriff is committed to providing a work environment which has that comfort.

3-600.7 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Unresolved or gross misconduct in the area of harassment or arbitrary discrimination is considered a serious breach of organizational discipline. Those persons found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action including dismissal. Should it become necessary to carry an action further than is covered by this section, the formal discipline policy will be used. In those cases, formal charges will be placed against the employee(s) who has / have demonstrated the offensive conduct and the case will be investigated in the manner of all formally charged cases. The Commander, OPR will be contacted for guidance in these cases. Criminal and civil sanctions are also possible under the laws of the United States and the State of Maryland.

3-600.8 DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT TRAINING

Discrimination and Harassment Training will be provided periodically to all employees. The Commander, Training Division will establish the curriculum and timing of such training. The Discrimination and Harassment policy will be



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reviewed with each employee by their supervisor, during their annual performance evaluation, as described in policy 3-653 Annual Harassment and Beneficiary Review.

New employees are informed during their new hire orientation the Agency has a zero tolerance policy for sexual harassment and discrimination of any type.

3-601 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to the prevention and elimination of domestic violence. It seeks to create a supportive workplace environment in which employees feel comfortable discussing domestic violence and seeking assistance for domestic violence. The CCSO has a zero tolerance policy for domestic violence at the workplace and will take appropriate disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution against any employee or non-employee who commits an act of domestic violence in CCSO offices, facilities, work sites, vehicles, or while conducting any CCSO business.

3-601.1 DEFINITIONS

Domestic Violence - Abusive behavior whereby a person intends to establish and maintain power and control over a person with whom he or she has, or has had, a significant personal relationship. Power and control are exerted through physical, sexual, psychological, and/or economic means. Examples of domestic violence include, but are not limited to:

1. intimidation;
2. threats to cause harm;
3. verbal harassment;
4. disorderly conduct;
5. crimes against property;
6. violation of an ex parte or protective order;
7. display or discussion of weapons;
8. homicide;
9. assault and battery;
10. rape; and
11. stalking.

Perpetrator - An individual who commits an act of domestic violence.

Victim - An individual who is subject to an act of domestic violence.

3-601.2 CONFIDENTIALITY

In order to ensure the safety of all employees who comply with the law (including the Public Information Act), any information related to domestic violence or the Agency's response to specific domestic violence cases will only be disclosed on a need-to-know basis.

3-601.3 WORK ENVIRONMENT

All employees should be sensitive and nonjudgmental when supporting victims of domestic violence.

An employee shall not be disciplined or penalized in the workplace for being a victim of domestic violence.

When an employee subject to discipline confides that the job performance or conduct problem is caused by



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domestic violence, the employee shall be referred to the County's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The employee's participation in the County Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is voluntary.

3-601.4 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO COMMIT ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

An employee who is found to commit an act of domestic violence in the workplace may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

An employee who is found using any Agency resources such as work time, workplace phones, facsimile machines, mail, electronic mail, or other means to commit an act of domestic violence may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

3-601.5 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

All employees shall:

1. attend Domestic Violence and the Workplace Training;
2. immediately report to Agency sworn personnel any threats or acts of domestic violence in the workplace that may be experienced or witnessed (sworn personnel will take appropriate action as required in any incident of domestic violence); and
3. notify a member of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

3-601.6 VICTIM RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSISTANCE OPTIONS

Employees who are victims of domestic violence shall:

1. notify their supervisor of the possible need to be absent and discuss possible leave options;
2. discuss with their supervisor plans to return to work and the appropriate reporting procedures;
3. if necessary and available, make alternate arrangements to receive a paycheck;
4. work with supervisor to ensure that adequate safety measures are in place; and
5. contact the County's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for confidential consultation and resources.

3-601.7 PERPETRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees who are perpetrators of domestic violence shall:

1. contact the County's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) office for confidential consultation and resources; and
2. contact an abuser's intervention program.

3-601.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors shall:

1. ensure that each employee is provided with a copy of this Domestic Violence Policy;
2. participate in Domestic Violence and the Workplace Training;



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3. immediately refer any employee, known to be the victim or the perpetrator of domestic violence, to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP);
4. report any instance of an employee perpetrator to the Office of Professional Responsibility; and
5. maintain the confidentiality of all information related to an employee's involvement in a situation relating to domestic violence.

Supervisors shall post or convey to employees any materials regarding this subject, which are forwarded to them by the Agency for this purpose.

3-601.9 AGENCY EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinator (Commander / Director, Administrative Services) shall:

1. participate in Domestic Violence and the Workplace Training;
2. maintain up-to-date referral resources on domestic violence hotlines, advocacy groups, shelters, counseling services and legal services (pro bono legal assistance and domestic violence / family court information);
3. maintain up-to-date resources for perpetrators, including abuser's intervention programs; and
4. maintain the confidentiality of all information related to an employee's involvement in a situation relating to domestic violence.

3-601.10 SAFETY

Commanders of each component of the Agency shall make reasonable efforts to maximize safety of all employees. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. escort services;
2. improved lighting;
3. working closely with Criminal Investigations Division;
4. relocation of employee's work station;
5. installation of security cameras or silent alarms; and
6. strict enforcement of current security procedures.

3-602 CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CLASSIFICATION POLICY

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. ADMINISTRATION
- D. PROCEDURES
- E. ENTRY LEVEL SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL POSITIONS
- F. PROBATIONARY PERIODS
- G. OBTAINING PERMANENT STATUS
- H. DUTY STATUS
- I. DESCRIPTION OF SWORN / CORRECTIONAL OFFICER CLASSES



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- J. APPOINTED POSITIONS
- K. LATERAL POSITIONS
- L. SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENTS

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office has established a classification plan, job analysis system, and assignment policies to provide equitable and adequate grades and wages for all Agency positions. The Charles County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing a fair, impartial, and validated hiring and promotion system. The Agency is responsible for testing, hiring, discharging, and promoting all personnel employed.

The position classification system has been established to identify and define those positions necessary to meet the goals of the Sheriff's Office as set forth in Chapter 1 of this Manual.

B. DEFINITIONS

Class - A group of jobs for which duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and conditions of employment are sufficiently alike to justify the same treatment with respect to personnel practices. A class may be identified by rank for police and correctional officers and by grade and title for civilian employees.

Job - One or more positions with duties and responsibilities that are identical in all significant respects so that a single descriptive title can be used to identify the work done by those assigned.

Job Description - An official written document setting forth the duties and responsibilities of a job and the skills, educational requirements, and abilities required along with a basic explanation of the work environment.

Lateral Entry Officer - An officer hired with previous work experience as a sworn police or correctional officer in another law enforcement agency or detention facility.

Lateral Positions - Full-time, regularly established positions to be filled by a sworn or correctional officer that are beyond the regular entry level positions. On-the-job and/or formal training may be provided as it becomes available, but does not preclude officers from selection for these positions prior to receiving training.

Position - The duties and responsibilities assigned to one employee. For purposes of comparison, a patrol officer assigned as a court security officer would occupy a position. Patrol officer would be the job. A position may have functional responsibility for a single task or over several tasks.

Segment - A group of job classes of various ranks and/or grades combined based on similar, overall job functions and duties. For purposes of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, employees are segmented into sworn, corrections, and civilian categories.

Specialized Assignments - Positions that are part-time or intermittent functions performed in addition to regular duties and that require specialized experience, training, or certification prior to assuming the duties associated with the assignment.

C. ADMINISTRATION

The Human Resources Section has the responsibility of developing and maintaining job specifications for each position classification. Human Resources will maintain records of all actions taken affecting positions and pay grades, provide for regular reviews to ensure all positions are properly classified, and recommend amendments to the classification system as necessary. These job specifications are updated as needed or when a position is being



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created.

Job specifications are outlined in each position's job description. All job descriptions are approved by and are on file within the Human Resources Section. Job descriptions are available to all Agency personnel through Human Resources upon request. Amendments to the classification system require the approval of the Sheriff.

D. PROCEDURES

Classification Plan- The Classification Plan consolidates positions with similar duties, responsibilities, required knowledge, skills, and training into job classes. Class specifications include job, position, and rank titles.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office groups positions into classifications for salary and benefits purposes. The Agency also establishes:

1. entry level salary amounts;
2. salary differential ranges within ranks;
3. salary differential ranges between ranks;
4. compensatory time, holiday leave, and overtime policies; and
5. other salary augmentation, if any.

Job Descriptions and Review Cycles- Every position in the Agency has a written job description which contains the following sections: the job summary, essential job functions, position qualifications, physical demands and work environment. The Human Resources Section is responsible for ensuring job descriptions are developed for any new positions created and will modify and revise those which need to be changed. Each employee of the Agency is provided a copy of his job description at the time of hire, during the performance evaluation review, and when significant changes of duties and responsibilities necessitate a revision of the job description.

Positions will be routinely evaluated every three years. One of the three segments (sworn, correctional, or civilian) will be reviewed each year. During this process, the employee and their supervisor(s) will thoroughly review their job description to make sure the following areas are correct:

1. Job summary
2. Essential job functions, position qualifications and the required knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's)
3. Duties, responsibilities, functions, and tasks
4. Physical demands and work environment

Job descriptions will be updated to reflect any changes recommended and approved by a Commander / Director.

Job Description Review / Desk Audit- Any employee who believes his position is improperly classified may request a job description review, also known as a desk audit, by sending a memorandum to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division through the chain of command. Any Commander / Director who believes there has been a dramatic change in duties and / or responsibilities of an employee's job description may submit a request for a desk audit. In these cases, the Commander / Director will determine, based on these changes, if a desk audit should be conducted. If so, the Commander / Director will submit a memorandum to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division, requesting a desk audit be performed by providing appropriate justification as noted later in this section. If the Commander / Director of Administrative Services determines a desk audit is appropriate, they will forward the request to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration for approval or denial. If approved, a copy of the approval documentation and justification will be forwarded to the Human Resources Generalist who will coordinate the completion of the desk audit process. If denied, the aforementioned process will take place and the documentation will be kept on file with the job description.



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An increased volume of the duties and responsibilities already established in the job description will not be considered justifiable to initiate a job description review / desk audit. An increased volume of duties and responsibilities may be justification for a Commander / Director to request additional personnel during the SMP process. The request must contain sufficient information to validate the request by outlining new or increased duties, increased areas of responsibility, and / or any additional supervisory responsibilities. In no instance will any position be submitted for a job description review / desk audit more than once in a 12-month period unless specific areas of the job have changed substantially since the previous submission.

If a job description review / desk audit is authorized by the Assistant Sheriff of Administration, a Job Information Questionnaire (JIQ) will be sent from Human Resources to the requester for completion within fifteen (15) days by the employee and their supervisor. Once Human Resources has compiled the information from the completed desk audit, it will be forwarded to the Commander / Director of Administrative Services Division for review. Once reviewed, it will be forwarded to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration and / or the Chief of Staff for final approval or disapproval to move forward in completing the job description review / desk audit process as described below.

1. Position reclassification requests received and approved **before** November 1st will be submitted in the upcoming budget cycle / year. Requests received after November 1st will not be considered until the following budget cycle / year.
2. Example: approvals **before** November 1, 2023, will be considered for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025) and those approved on or **after** November 1, 2023, will be considered for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

Request for New Position- Requests to establish new positions will include not only a Job Information Questionnaire, but also a draft job description outlining the essential duties, qualifications, education, and training skills needed, and the projected work environment under which the employee will be expected to perform.

Requests for new positions should be submitted to the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services Division no later than October 1 of each year in advance of the budget preparation. Requests for new positions will also be presented and substantiated by the requesting division commander/ director during the annual Strategic Management Program meeting.

Position Evaluation / Job Description Review- New or existing positions to be evaluated will be reviewed by a Position Evaluation Committee comprised of the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services Division; and two (2) Agency staff members selected by the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division. Tentative results will be discussed with the executive staff and more information gathered, if necessary. Results of the position review, along with a fiscal note, will be forwarded to the Sheriff for his approval before final notification is made to the respective division. Implementation of the results may be rejected or deferred based on the availability of budgetary funds.

Positions will be classified in the proper grade on the basis of the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required as evaluated in terms of factors common to most jobs. The Position Evaluation System is a point factor system that evaluates each factor separately and assigns to each a numerical value according to how strongly that factor is represented. Factors are aspects of a job such as supervision received or exercised, skills and abilities required, complexity of work, impact of decisions made, internal and external contacts, mental demands, and hazards in the workplace or area.

E. ENTRY LEVEL SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL POSITIONS

All police and correctional officer new hires will, upon their date of hire, hold the position of Police Officer I (PO I)/ Correctional Officer I (CO I). The positions of PO I and CO I are entry-level, probationary positions.



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F. PROBATIONARY PERIODS

ENTRANCE LEVEL PROBATION- All full-time and full-time-reduced-hour employees will serve an entrance level probation period when newly hired or rehired by the Agency. The following probationary periods apply:

1. Sworn Police Officers, Court Security Officers, Automated Enforcement Unit Officers and Correctional Officers - from date of hire to one year after completion of formal entry level training needed to work as a solo officer. Formal entry level training includes the Academy or Comparative Compliance Training and Field Training Program (FTO).
2. Civilian employees - one year from date of hire.

All entry level probationary employees will be made aware of the fact that their initial time interval in a position is probationary, and they will be informed of the intended length of the probation. This notification will be documented during an employee's initial Agency orientation. A copy of this notification, signed by the employee, will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

PROBATION AFTER PROMOTION- An employee who is promoted to the next rank/ grade in the classification system will be required to serve in a probationary status for a period of one (1) year from the date of promotion. This probationary period will determine if the employee is able to perform at the new level and retain the new rank/ grade at the end of the period. Probation after promotion does not apply to the rank of POII.

At the end of the probationary period, the Sheriff may:

1. grant permanent status; or
2. extend the employee's probation to allow for an interim rating process to gauge whether or not sufficient progress has been made to warrant permanent status; or
3. demote the employee to his previous rank / grade.

If an employee is unable to successfully complete the probationary period following a promotion and is demoted to his previous rank/ grade, he will not be required to serve a probationary period in the previous rank/ grade.

PROBATION AFTER TRANSFER TO POSITION OF SWORN POLICE OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER- Any employee who transfers from any other position in the Agency to the position of sworn police officer or correctional officer will serve an Entrance Level Probation period as defined above, beginning with the date of transfer. This date is now their date of employment for purposes of rank and promotion.

PROBATION AFTER TRANSFER TO NEW CIVILIAN POSITION- A civilian employee who receives a new position in a pay grade above, below, or equivalent to his current position within the Agency, will serve an Entrance Level Probation period as defined above, beginning with the date of transfer.

UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE OF PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES- When a Division Commander / Director determines that a probationary employee has failed to meet performance standards, no investigation is required. When any employee is unable to perform in an entry level capacity or after transferring to a new position, their employment will normally be terminated. If, however, there is reason to believe the employment and training expenses justify the offer of another position within the Agency, that avenue may be explored. Only vacant positions within the Agency may be considered for this option. If the employee accepts the position, the employee will revert to the status and pay of this new position and in these cases, will lose all title, pay, and privileges associated with the former position. When termination is deemed to be appropriate, refer to the Separating from Employment policy for guidance. Probationary employees have no right to appeal through the employee grievance process.

EXTENSIONS OF PROBATIONARY PERIODS- Probationary period extensions will be initiated by the



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employee's division commander. The division commander will forward a written request with justification to the Sheriff and/or the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for disposition. Upon approval, the division commander will notify the employee in writing of any extension made to their probationary period.

Under extenuating circumstances where a probationary employee is not available for duty with the Agency during their probation period (for example: called for active military duty, an extended illness, etc.), entry level probationary police and correctional officers may, upon their return to the Agency, be required to complete the remainder of their requisite entry level probationary period. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Sheriff or his designee.

G. OBTAINING PERMANENT STATUS

For any employee to gain permanent status at the end of a designated probationary rating period, the employee must earn a rating of Acceptable or above in all rating factors as documented on his most recent performance evaluation and be recommended for permanent status by his division commander/ director. A Permanent Status Request memorandum generated by the Human Resources Section will be forwarded to the employee's division commander / director for endorsement then sent to OPR. OPR will endorse / not endorse the status change and forward the memorandum to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for review, and finally to the Sheriff. The employee's release from probation will take place only after authorization of the Sheriff.

H. DUTY STATUS

All sworn police and correctional officers are presumed to be on full duty status, authorized and able to perform all of the essential functions of the position.

A sworn police or correctional officer may be placed on modified duty status as described in the Modified Duty policy.

A sworn police or correctional officer may be placed on non-officer status in the following situations:

1. Emergency suspension;
2. Suspension pending criminal or administrative investigation;
3. Disciplinary suspension;
4. Extended military leave;
5. Medical conditions under the Modified Duty policy;
6. Unable to become certified within the first year of employment. (This would be for officers- sworn and corrections who are "recycled" from the Academy)

Non-officer status means that the officer's police or correctional certification is temporarily suspended.

I. DESCRIPTION OF SWORN/CORRECTIONAL OFFICER CLASSES

The following is a summary of the sworn and correctional officer classes within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Sworn and Corrections positions, Captain and above, and Master Corporals and Master Sergeants are appointed, non-competitive positions. The position of Lieutenant is the last permanent rank with the Agency. More detailed descriptions are contained in the job description for each class.

Lieutenant Colonel

This is the highest responsible senior administrative and supervisory authority of all employees of the CCSO. He is responsible to adhere to the directives of the Sheriff. The duties and responsibilities of this position are dictated



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by the Sheriff.

Qualifications:

1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Extensive law enforcement experience combined with management and administrative experience.

Major

A sworn officer in the position of Assistant Sheriff holds the rank of Major. The Agency has three Assistant Sheriff positions, all of which may be held by a sworn officer. At the Sheriff's discretion, however, the Assistant Sheriff of Administration position may be held by a civilian employee. Assistant Sheriffs are responsible to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as dictated by the Sheriff, which include planning, instructing, assigning of duties, providing leadership to subordinate personnel, and monitoring their proficiency. The incumbent exercises considerable independence in the performance of duties.

Qualifications:

1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Extensive law enforcement experience combined with management and administrative experience.
3. If sworn, must maintain Police/Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Director (Corrections)

The chief executive officer of the detention center holds the title of Director. The Director is responsible to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as dictated by the Sheriff, which include ensuring the safe, secure, and lawful operation of the detention center in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, accreditation standards, and Agency policy, and provides executive leadership to all correctional staff while overseeing operational management, fiscal administration, personnel management, policy development, training, compliance, and long-term planning. The incumbent exercises considerable independence in the performance of duties.

Qualifications:

1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Extensive corrections experience combined with management and administrative experience.
3. Sworn correctional officers must maintain Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Deputy Director (Corrections)

A sworn correctional officer serving as second in command of the detention center holds the title of Deputy Director and acts on behalf of the Director in his/her absence or as designated. As the senior executive commander, the Deputy Director provides oversight and direction to all other facility executive staff, enforces Agency policies, ensures operational compliance, and supports strategic and administrative initiatives across the facility. The incumbent exercises considerable independence in the performance of assigned duties.

Qualifications:



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1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Extensive corrections experience combined with management and administrative experience.
3. Must maintain Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Captain (Sworn and Corrections)

Duties: Work involves the responsibility of planning, instructing, and assigning duties to subordinate officers, providing leadership for them in the conduct of their work, and for checking their proficiency. The incumbent serves as the chief administrator for the division or assigned component and exercises considerable independence in the performance of duties, with only general guidance received from a superior.

Qualifications:

1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Several years of experience in law enforcement/corrections, including some supervisory experience.
3. Must maintain Police/Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Lieutenant (Sworn and Corrections)

Duties: This position involves responsibility for planning, instructing, and assigning duties to subordinates, providing leadership for them in the conduct of their work, and for checking their proficiency. Considerable independence is exercised in the performance of duties, and general guidance is received from the respective commander.

Qualifications:

1. College level degree or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
2. Several years of experience in law enforcement/corrections, including some supervisory experience.
3. Must maintain Police/Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.
4. May be required to maintain certification with the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) for access into state and federal computer networks (METERS/NCIC).

Master Sergeant (Sworn and Corrections)

Duties: This position is that of an officer holding the rank of Sergeant with the appointed title of Master Sergeant who is responsible for first-line supervisory work. This title may be bestowed by the Sheriff if a Sergeant meets the minimum years of service requirements and passes a nomination and review process.

Qualifications:

1. Must have been employed as a PO or CO for a minimum of 20 years.
2. Must have held the rank of Sergeant consistently for a minimum of 7 years.

An applicant meeting the qualifications may submit a request to be considered and/or be nominated by his immediate supervisor by way of a detailed memorandum with written justification, copies of the last two evaluations, copy of the leave record, copies of all corrective action and commendation forms / disciplinary



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actions within the prior 24 months, and copy of statistics, if applicable, for the last twelve (12) months.

The nomination packet will be forwarded through the chain of command using the Inter-Office Memorandum Coversheet (Form 144), and each level of command will either endorse or not endorse the nomination. The division commander / director will send the nomination packet to OPR who will also endorse / not endorse the nomination. OPR will forward the packet to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for review, and finally to the Sheriff. The Sheriff will review the information and approve or not approve the nomination.

Sergeant (Sworn and Corrections)

Duties: This position is responsible for first-line supervisory work. Work involves planning, assigning, overseeing, assisting, and evaluating the work of subordinate officers. This position can also include designing programs, preparing unit budgets, composing and reviewing reports, and maintaining records. Some assignments related to this position have the potential for personal danger and can involve dealing with many different levels of the criminal element. Considerable independence is exercised in the performance of duties, and general guidance is received from his respective commander.

Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a recognized high school or possession of a General Educational Development (GED) certificate recognized by the Maryland State Board of Education.
2. Must maintain Police/Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.
3. May be required to maintain certification with the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) for access into state and federal computer networks (METERS/NCIC).

Master Corporal (Sworn and Corrections)

Duties: This position is that of an officer holding the rank of Corporal with the appointed title of Master Corporal. This title may be bestowed by the Sheriff if a Corporal meets the minimum years of service requirement and passes a nomination and review process.

Qualifications:

1. Must have been employed as a PO or CO for a minimum of 15 years.
2. Must have held the rank of Corporal consistently for a minimum of 5 years.

An applicant meeting the qualifications may submit a request to be considered and/or be nominated by his immediate supervisor by way of a detailed memorandum with written justification, copies of the last two evaluations, copy of the leave record, copies of all corrective action and commendation forms / disciplinary actions within the prior 24 months, and copy of statistics, if applicable, for the last twelve (12) months.

The nomination packet will be forwarded through the chain of command using the Inter-Office Memorandum Coversheet (Form 144), and each level of command will either endorse or not endorse the nomination. The division commander / director will send the nomination packet to OPR who will also endorse / not endorse the nomination. OPR will forward the packet to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for review, and finally to the Sheriff. The Sheriff will review the information and approve or not approve the nomination.

Corporal (Sworn)

Police/Correctional Officer First Class

Police/Correctional Officer I and II



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Duties: These sworn positions involve general police work pertaining to the enforcement of all applicable statutes and laws within the jurisdiction of Charles County. This may include crime prevention, investigation and detection, protection of life and property, traffic control, and maintaining law and order in the County. These corrections positions involve entry level work responsible for the supervision, custody and security of incarcerated individuals in the Charles County Detention Center. Work related to these positions has the potential for personal danger and involves working with all levels of the criminal element. Officers receive direction from supervisors and carry out their assignments in accordance with established operating procedures, yet must be able to act without direct supervision and be able to provide supervision to subordinate officers in the absence of other supervisory authority.

Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a recognized high school or possession of a General Educational Development (GED) certificate recognized by the Maryland State Board of Education.
2. Sworn officers must be United States citizens and shall be 21 years of age or older at the time of certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC).
3. Correctional officers must be United States citizens and shall be 18 years of age or older at the time of certification by the MPTSC.
4. Must graduate from an accredited training academy and qualify and maintain Police/Correctional Officer certification through the MPTSC.

Corporal (Corrections)

Duties: This position is responsible for first line supervisory work as assigned. Work involves planning, assigning, overseeing, assisting, and evaluating the work of subordinate officers. This corrections position involves entry level work responsible for the supervision, custody and security of incarcerated individuals in the Charles County Detention Center. This position can also include designing programs, providing input into unit budgets, composing and reviewing reports, and maintaining records. Work assignments related to this position have the potential for personal danger and can involve dealing with all levels of the criminal element. Considerable independence is exercised in the performance of duties, and general guidance is received from their respective commander. Officers receive direction from supervisors and carry out their assignments in accordance with established operating procedures, yet must be able to act without direct supervision and be able to provide supervision to subordinate officers in the absence of other supervisory authority.

Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a recognized high school or possession of a General Educational Development (GED) certificate recognized by the Maryland State Board of Education.
2. Must maintain Correctional Officer certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC).
3. May be required to maintain certification with the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) for access into state and federal computer networks (METERS/NCIC).

J. APPOINTED POSITIONS

The following positions in the Agency are appointed by the Sheriff and serve at his pleasure. These appointments are temporary in nature and employees in them may be removed with or without cause by the Sheriff.

Sworn police and correctional officers who are appointed to positions are entitled to retain their tenure in the last permanent rank held. They may retreat to that last permanent rank in the event they are removed from an appointed rank, provided they are not the subject of a disciplinary action or were not terminated from the Agency.



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Sworn Police Officers

The ranks of Captain and above are appointed positions. The highest permanent rank within the Agency is Lieutenant.

Sworn Correctional Officers

The ranks of Captain, Deputy Director, and Director are appointed positions. Selections to fill the position of Captain and Deputy Director shall be made from within the Agency. Selections to fill the position of Director may be made from within or outside the Agency. The highest permanent rank within the Corrections Division is Lieutenant.

Civilian Employees

The civilian positions of Chief of Staff, Director and General Counsel are appointed positions. Selections to fill these positions may be made from within or outside the Agency.

K. LATERAL POSITIONS

Lateral positions are full-time, regularly established positions to be filled by a sworn or correctional officer that are beyond the regular entry level position. On-the-job and/or formal training may be provided as it becomes available, but does not preclude officers from selection for these positions prior to receiving training. The following positions, Sergeant and below, have been identified as lateral positions:

Office of the Sheriff

1. Internal Affairs;
2. Standards, Inspections, and Safety Officer.

Patrol Operations (North / South Divisions)

1. Neighborhood Enforcement Team

Criminal Investigations Division

1. Persons / Property Crimes;
2. Narcotics Enforcement;
3. Forensic Science;
4. Homeland Security & Intelligence.

Special Services Division

1. Domestic Violence;
2. Civil;
3. Child Support Enforcement;
4. Warrant / Fugitive;
5. Courts / Judicial Security; and
6. Property Held.

Special Operations Division

5. Traffic Operations



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Community Services Division

1. Crime Prevention;
2. Community Policing;
3. School Resource Unit; and
4. Alcohol Enforcement

Administrative Services Division

1. Pre-employment / Recruitment Unit.

Training Division

1. Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy.

Corrections Division

1. Custody and Security;
2. Work Release;
3. Transport;
4. Court Security;
5. Case Management;
6. Intake;
7. Facility Maintenance;
8. Administrative Hearings;
9. Commissary and Supply Services;
10. Academy Staff Instructor; and
11. Intelligence.

L. SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENTS

Specialized assignments (collateral duties) are part-time or intermittent functions performed in addition to regular duties and that require specialized experience, training, or certification prior to assuming the duties associated with the assignment. The following positions have been identified as specialized assignments within the sworn ranks of the Charles County Sheriff's Office:

1. Emergency Services Team (EST) Members;
2. Hostage Negotiators;
3. Honor Guard Members;
4. Motorcycle Operators;
5. Intoximeter Operators;
6. Drug Recognition Experts;
7. Certified Instructors;
8. Polygraph Examiners;
9. Security Response Vessel Operators/ Crew Members;
10. Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Pilots;
11. Search Managers;
12. Special Events Response Team (SERT) Members;
13. K-9 Handlers;
14. Tactical Response Team (HAZMAT) Members;
15. Field Training Officer (FTO);
16. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team;



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17. Technical Investigations Function (TIF) members;
18. Search Team members;
19. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT); and
20. Peer Support Team (PST) Member.

The following positions have been identified as specialized assignments within the correctional ranks of the Charles County Sheriff's Office:

1. Honor Guard;
2. Security Enforcement Team;
3. Emergency Response Team (ERT);
4. UAS Pilot;
5. Search Managers;
6. Firearms Instructor;
7. Search Team members;
8. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT);
9. Peer Support Team (PST) Member;
10. Fire Marshal; and
11. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team.

The following positions have been identified as specialized assignments that may be filled by civilian employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office:

1. Peer Support Team (PST) Member
2. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team
3. Certified Instructors
4. Wellness Committee Member
5. Wellness Ambassador

SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENT APPLICATION PROCESS

When a position becomes available to be filled by an eligible employee, the Human Resources Section will announce the vacancy to the affected segments of the Agency for no less than ten business days. General eligibility requirements and selection criteria, such as specialized experience, training, and certifications, will be determined by the Division Commander responsible for the specialized assignment and detailed on the position description for the assignment.

ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Employees who will become eligible for an announced position within one year from the date of the position announcement are eligible to interview for the position.
2. Employees who interview will be placed on an eligibility list which may remain in effect for one calendar year from the date of the announcement.
3. Employees placed on an eligibility list who are not eligible at the time of the interview may not fill the role of the announced position until they reach their eligibility date.

APPLICATION

To apply for a specialized assignment, the employee must submit a Request for Transfer, Reassignment or Specialized Assignment (form #301) along with any other documentation as required in the Specialized Assignment announcement. The selection process for specialized assignments will be determined by the affected Division Commander or designee with guidance from CCSO Human Resources staff to ensure fairness and



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conformity to Agency rules and regulations.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION SPECIFIC SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENTS

When a specialized assignment specific to the Corrections Division becomes available to be filled by an eligible correctional officer, the Human Resources Section will announce the vacancy in accordance with the current CCCOA MOU. Eligible correctional officers will apply for the position by following the guidelines outlined in the current CCCOA MOU.

3-603 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

- A. PURPOSE
- B. NEGOTIATIONS
- C. AGREEMENT AND RATIFICATION
- D. DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. PURPOSE

Maryland Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Title 2, allows for sworn law enforcement officers and correctional officers of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, at the rank of Sergeant and below, to organize and bargain collectively in good faith with the Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee concerning the following matters:

1. compensation, excluding salary, wages, and those benefits determined, offered, administered, controlled, or managed by the County Commissioners of Charles County;
2. leave, holidays, and vacations; and
3. hours, working conditions, and job security.

The law also provides that a sworn law enforcement officer or correctional officer who is a member of a bargaining unit with an exclusive representative may discuss any matter with the employer without the intervention of the exclusive representative.

B. NEGOTIATIONS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is committed to bargaining in good faith with the duly recognized collective bargaining unit representing the sworn and corrections employees of the Agency. The Agency is committed to abiding by any ground rules established for negotiations that arise out of the collective bargaining process or any agreed to arbitration proceedings. Ground rules may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. location of the meetings;
2. time schedules and meeting agendas;
3. methods for recording sessions, if any;
4. methods for introducing issues;
5. methods for resolving any conflict; and
6. procedures for release of information.

The Agency will abide, in both letter and spirit, by the negotiated agreement that has been signed by management and employee representatives and then ratified by the Sheriff and the recognized bargaining unit.

1. The Sheriff is responsible for the composition and organization of the bargaining team representing the



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Agency.

- a) The Sheriff will designate at least one, but not more than three individuals to represent the Agency in negotiations.
 - b) The Sheriff will designate either the Chief of Staff or an Assistant Sheriff to act as the principal negotiator for the Agency.
2. The Charles County Correctional Officers Association (CCCOA) has been duly certified and is recognized as the exclusive bargaining unit representing correctional officers at the rank of Sergeant or below.
 - a) The CCCOA shall designate at least one, but not more than three individuals to represent them during negotiations.
 3. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 24 has been duly certified and is recognized as the exclusive bargaining unit representing sworn personnel at the rank of Sergeant or below.
 - a) The FOP shall designate at least one, but not more than three individuals to represent them during negotiations.

Designated representatives shall meet at reasonable times and engage in good faith bargaining. Negotiations shall begin on or before each July 1 of the year before the expiration of any existing agreement.

In accordance with Maryland Law, the State Government Article, negotiations or matters relating to negotiations, shall be considered closed sessions. The parties shall make every reasonable effort to conclude negotiations in a timely manner so as to allow for any agreements made, to be included in the Charles County Sheriff's Office budget request to the County Commissioners.

C. AGREEMENT AND RATIFICATION

To the extent any matters negotiated between the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the collective bargaining unit requires legislative approval or the appropriation of funds, the matters shall be recommended to the General Assembly for approval of legislation or to the County Commissioners for appropriation of funds. Any agreement reached is not valid if it extends for less than 1 year or for more than 2 years.

Any agreement reached shall contain all matters concerning the terms agreed upon during the process. The agreement shall be in writing and signed by the designated representatives of the Sheriff's Office and of the exclusive representative involved in the bargaining negotiations. An agreement or any modifications thereof is not effective until it is ratified by the Sheriff and by a majority vote cast by members of the CCCOA or FOP respectively.

D. DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

In order to comply with any changes brought about by the ratification of a new agreement, it is essential that Agency policies and procedures be reviewed and amended as needed to conform with language in the negotiated agreement. Therefore, once an agreement is ratified by all parties, the Office of General Counsel will:

1. obtain a written, signed copy of the labor agreement and will cause any collective bargaining agreement to be posted on the Agency intranet.
2. disseminate a copy of any new written agreement between the Sheriff and the sworn and corrections collective bargaining units to all employees, with a summary of relevant changes, within 30 days of ratification.
3. Upon receipt, Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation will review and amend all written policies and procedures, as necessary, to coincide with the terms of the agreement.



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3-605 COMPENSATION

The Sheriff recognizes the benefit of providing employee compensation based upon the amount and level of the service rendered to the community. In providing compensation, the Agency seeks to balance the needs of employees with the requirement that the organization accomplish its mission and fulfill its obligations to the public. All employees of the Sheriff's Office must keep this balance in mind as they consider the compensation policies of the Agency. The citizens of Charles County have a right to expect availability of services, in quantity and quality.

3-605.1 DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the defined meanings for purposes of this Manual Section:

Critical Employees - Employees whose services are considered essential during their assigned work hours. These employees must report for work in circumstances when some other Sheriff's Office and Charles County employees do not.

Operational Employees - Employees whose services are necessary to the 24-hour operation of the Agency, but by job description are not critical personnel. These employees must report for work based on the directives of division commanders / directors who will establish in advance minimum staffing levels for their units.

Non-Critical Employees - Those employees generally assigned to a position within the Agency that by the nature of their position description are considered non-essential if emergencies occur during their scheduled work hours. These employees are in most cases assigned to normal business hours Monday through Friday.

A representative list of the above employee classifications can be obtained from the Administrative Services Division, Human Resources Section.

Exempt Employee - An employee who is exempt from the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act because of that employee's job within the organization. Exempt status is determined by the nature of the duties assigned to a particular position and not by the rank or pay grade of the individual. Exempt employees are not entitled to overtime pay. When job descriptions are reviewed, modified, or created, they shall be examined by Human Resources to determine if they meet the standard for exempt employees. This determination shall be noted on the job description. Employees shall remain classified exempt or non-exempt as they were on the effective date of this policy or until their position description is reviewed, modified, or newly created.

Non-Exempt Employees - Are those employees not designated as exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act, due to their positions within the Agency.

Police Recruit - An employee hired as a police officer candidate is considered to be a Police Recruit prior to and while attending the mandated entrance level training academy as approved by the Maryland Police Training & Standards Commission (MPTSC). Upon completion and graduation of the mandated entrance level training academy, the Police Recruit's title will be changed to Police Officer I (POI).

3-605.2 PAY SCALES

Pay scales are developed by the Deputy Director, Budgeting Section for both sworn and civilian personnel. Generally, the pay of sworn personnel is fixed by law upon Maryland State Police pay scales. Civilian pay scales are created by the Sheriff and reviewed by Charles County Government. Part-time civilian and correctional officer scales are created by the Sheriff's Office, and recommendations are provided to the County Commissioners during budget review. Employees should contact the Deputy Director, Budgeting for answers to questions related to pay scales. For individual pay rates or pay schedules, employees should contact the Deputy Director,



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Accounting. The Deputy Director, Planning & Accreditation will have a Special Order generated for addition to the AOM describing new and amended pay scales.

3-605.3 PAYCHECKS

Paychecks are distributed bi-weekly to the employee, either in paper format or by direct deposit by the Charles County Payroll Office. Paper checks will be released only to the employee whose name appears upon the check. Should there be a need to release the check to someone other than the employee, contact should be made with the County Payroll Office by the employee in order to provide official authorization of this process. A link to the Charles County Government Payroll Portal is available on the Agency Intranet and on the County website to provide information regarding pay, deductions, taxes, etc.

3-605.4 DUTY HOURS

Full-time sworn officers, correctional officers, and court security officers working in custody and security are exempt from the forty (40) hour work week mandated by the Fair Labor Standards Administration, and are placed on a twenty-eight (28) day work schedule per the FLSA 7K exemption. Sworn, correctional, and court security officers shall be eligible for overtime pay for all hours worked over those scheduled.

All non-exempt critical civilian employees are expected to work forty (40) hours per week and eighty (80) hours per pay period. No more than forty (40) hours per work week may be scheduled without compensating the employee at time and one-half the employee's hourly rate for all hours worked over forty (40) in a seven (7) day pay period. These employees shall be eligible for overtime pay or compensatory time for all hours worked over forty (40) hours.

Non-critical and operational employees are expected to work a seven and one-half (7.5) hour day, seventy-five (75) hours per pay period. These employees shall be eligible for overtime pay for all hours worked over forty (40) in one week.

There is some flexibility available in scheduling the duty hours of non-critical personnel; however, changes must be approved by division commanders / directors.

The New Duty Hour Request Form #300, available from Human Resources, will be used by a non-critical employee to request a change of duty hours. This form will be submitted through the chain of command to the employee's division commander / director.

Full-Time Reduced Hours (FTRH) employees are designated as critical, non-critical, or operational employees as indicated in the position description for their particular assignment. FTRH employees are expected to work thirty-two (32) hours per week, sixty-four (64) hours per pay period.

Part-Time employees are expected to work a twenty-four (24) hour work week, forty-eight (48) hours per pay period.

Work schedules, time records, and earning records must be retained for a period of three (3) years after employee termination. Records will be maintained on authorized time keeping, leave record, and overtime request formats. Exempt and non-exempt employees will record the hours they work each day. Premiums earned during the week such as overtime, shift differential, on-call premiums, or emergency overtime must be noted and justification provided for non-exempt employees. If authorized by the Sheriff, documentation must be submitted for any compensatory time and/or overtime earned for exempt employees. Accounting Section personnel will input the data into the County's automated payroll system.

3-605.4.1 COMPRESSED WORK SCHEDULE PROGRAM



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A voluntary compressed work schedule program is available to full time non-critical civilian staff. Critical and full time reduced hours staff are ineligible. Operational staff may be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the needs of the Agency. Employees will be permitted to participate so long as there is adequate work and appropriate coverage of offices and operations as determined and approved by the commander / director / deputy director of the section / division. A commander / director / deputy director of the section / division may cancel an employee's compressed work schedule at any time to accommodate the needs of their section. Additional provisions apply, as follows:

- Probationary employees and employees with disciplinary actions or unsatisfactory performance issues are not eligible;
- Eligibility may be seasonal;
- Agency needs will be accomplished by cross-training of participating and non-participating employees.

The Compressed Work option allows employees to vary the length of the workday and length of the workweek. Employees are assigned to work the hourly equivalent of a complete workweek in less than five (5) full days or a complete pay period in less than ten (10) days. For example, an employee who is scheduled to work seventy-five (75) hours over ten (10) days in a two (2) week pay period may compress the work schedule into nine (9) days. Listed below are examples of Compressed Work Week Schedules:

<u>Schedule A</u>						
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Total
1	8	8	8	8	8	40
2	Off	9	9	9	8	35

<u>Schedule B</u>						
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Total
1	9	9	9	8	Off	35
2	8	8	8	8	8	40

<u>Schedule C</u>						
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Total
1	8.5	8.5	8.5	8	4	37.5
2	8.5	8.5	8.5	8	4	37.5

These schedules can be arranged so that different employees have a day off on Monday of week 1, Friday of week 1, Monday of week 2, or Friday of week 2, to provide adequate staff on every day, and a Monday or Friday off every other week for each employee. Employees may work with their supervisor to determine an alternate schedule to those listed above, such as scheduling a mid-week day off or designing a schedule for a 40-hour per week shift worker, so long as they have received approval from their commander / director / deputy director and there is adequate and appropriate coverage in their section.



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Supervisors have the authority to adjust an employee's flex schedule based on workload issues, such as time-sensitive assignments, to assure goals and deadlines are met.

Days off cannot be accumulated. The earned day off must be taken within the pay period. Employees are required to work the same number of hours required in a regular schedule (excluding overtime or compensatory time earned) or to otherwise account for hours by the use of leave. For example, an employee who takes leave on one of their nine-hour days will be charged nine hours of leave.

When a scheduled day off falls on a day the Agency is closed due to a holiday, the following will apply:

- If a holiday falls on a Friday, the employee's day off will be the day preceding the holiday.
- If a holiday falls on a Monday, the employee's day off will be the day after the holiday.

Supervisors and employees may mutually agree upon a different scheduled day off within the work week.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) does not restrict the number of hours an employee can work each day. However, hours worked in a non-exempt position in excess of forty (40) hours in a work week must be compensated at a premium rate of time and one half (1.5) times the employee's regular rate of pay, or may be compensated by the accrual of compensatory leave at a time and one half (1.5) rate. Therefore, Compressed Work Week Schedules should not schedule a non-exempt position to work more than 40 hours in a several day workweek.

Employees will be required to complete a Compressed Work Schedule Request Form #994 prior to beginning a Compressed Work Week Schedule and receive approval from their commander / director / deputy director. Human Resources will maintain a file of all approved Compressed Work Week Schedules.

The Sheriff reserves the right to end or suspend the compressed work schedule at any time to meet the needs of the Agency.

3-605.5 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

Any Patrol Operations officer who receives less than seven (7) days' notice of an involuntary change in work schedule will be entitled to one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for the first eight (8) hours of work following the change in schedule. This provision applies only to officers assigned to Patrol Operations.

Any Corrections officer who receives less than ten (10) days' notice of an involuntary change in work schedule will be compensated at a rate of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate of pay for all time worked during the Officer's first shift of the new schedule.

These provisions do not apply to:

- any trainee assigned to the field training program or a trainee whose change in schedule results from his matriculating to full status;
- an officer who initiates or requests a change in schedule;
- a change in schedule resulting from a disciplinary action;
- a change in schedule resulting from a promotion;
- when a change in schedule results from an emergency declared by the Governor, Charles County Commissioners, or Office of the Sheriff;



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- an officer who volunteers for a change in shift;
- overlap shift days;
- officers who are required to attend training that is facilitated by an outside source or agency where the Sheriff's Office has limited control over the training dates. However, in the event the Sheriff's Office has had fourteen (14) calendar days' notice of the specific training dates and failed to adjust the officer's schedule, the overtime rate shall apply; or
- officers who have been provided with multiple optional training dates and have had the opportunity to sign up and attend said training but through the choice of the officer, has failed to do so.

On any overlap shift days, dayshift and evening shifts may be changed without additional compensation where the officer has been provided with seventy-two (72) hours' notice of the shift change.

On any overlap shift days, midnight shift may be adjusted requiring the officers to report for duty three (3) hours earlier than their regular shift. There shall be no additional compensation for this shift adjustment provided the officers have been provided with seventy-two (72) hours' notice of the shift change.

If at any time the current master shift plan for Patrol Operations changes; i.e., reverts to an eight-and- one-half (8½) hour shift, both parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agree that within fifteen (15) calendar days, they shall meet to renegotiate the provisions of the corresponding section in the MOU.

If a change is made to the Corrections Division master shift plan, the Sheriff's Office must notify the CCCOA and its members as soon as practicable, but no less than ninety (90) days from the new schedule's implementation.

When the schedule of an officer in Patrol Operations is altered to have them work a full shift on a day which is contiguous to neither the first nor the last day of their regularly scheduled days off, the officer will be paid at the rate of 1.5 times their current salary unless the officer is given at least six (6) months' notice (per MOU).

3-605.6 PATROL OPERATIONS – MINIMUM HOURS OFF BETWEEN SHIFTS

Any Patrol Operations officer who is assigned to work another shift with eight (8) hours or less having elapsed between shifts will be entitled to one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for the eight (8) hours of work on the second shift. This provision applies only to officers assigned to Patrol Operations. This provision shall not apply to:

- a trainee whose change in schedule results from his matriculating to full status;
- an officer who initiates or requests a change in schedule;
- a change in schedule resulting from a disciplinary action;
- a change in schedule resulting from a promotion; or
- when a change in schedule results from an emergency declared by the Governor, Charles County Commissioners, or Office of the Sheriff.

3-605.7 MEAL PERIODS



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Critical employees are compensated for their meal periods and will take them at a time during their workday which allows for the least interruption.

Non-critical and operational employees will be assigned a designated meal period of either thirty (30) minutes or one (1) hour. The length of the meal period will be determined by the respective division commander / director, and the employee will not be compensated for this period.

Part-time employees may or may not have a designated meal period, dependent upon hours scheduled per day. The decision will be made by the respective division commander / director.

3-605.8 ANNIVERSARY MERIT/ STEP PAY INCREASES

All employees will be eligible for a merit/step pay increase upon the anniversary of their date of hire, within their current segment, except in the following circumstances.

- An employee will be denied a salary step/merit increase if the employee has received two or more rating factors which have been deemed below acceptable standards on the employee's most recent performance evaluation or special evaluation.
- An employee will be denied a salary step/merit increase if they are on Special Evaluation at the time their increase is due.

Sworn police officers receive step increases based on negotiations with the Charles County Commissioners during the collective bargaining process. The anniversary merit/step pay increase for each individual officer is based on the current Maryland State Police pay scale, rank and prior steps earned.

Correctional officers and civilian employees receive merit increases based on the current, approved CCSO pay scales.

If an employee does not receive a merit/step increase due to an unsatisfactory performance evaluation rating, the employee will not be eligible until the posting of the next rating. If that rating meets or exceeds the required rating, the employee will be eligible for a merit/step increase effective the first pay period after the posting of the official performance rating. Merit/step increases will not be retroactive. See AOM 3-650 for more information regarding the performance evaluation system and use of performance evaluation results.

All anniversary merit/step raises are dependent upon funds having been made available in the then current budget. If merit/step raises have not been approved in the budget, employees will not receive them.

3-605.9 SITUATIONAL/EMERGENCY TELEWORK

In the event of an employee-specific situation or an emergency such as a weather, disaster or pandemic (to include continuity of operations plans), the Agency may allow or require employees to temporarily work from a remote worksite to ensure continuity of operations. In such circumstances when on-site work is not practical, temporary telework enables employee productivity and builds a more resilient organization by limiting barriers to accomplishing the goals of the Agency.

3-605.9.1 DEFINITIONS

Remote worksite - an employee's work location that is not the employee's CCSO worksite.

Situational/Emergency Telework - remote work for limited periods of time based on either circumstances



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impacting the availability of the CCSO worksite, the employee's inability to be physically present due a qualifying circumstance or job responsibilities that could best be accommodated by working remotely.

Situational/Emergency Telework Agreement Form #186 - a written agreement completed by the employee and immediate supervisor, reflecting the employee's voluntary participation. The form is required for requests to telework exceeding three days.

Telework - work status where work is performed from a remote worksite.

Teleworker - an employee who works at a remote worksite.

Worksite - the employee's CCSO work location/office where they fulfill their daily duties.

3-605.9.2 EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

Employee participation in situational/emergency teleworking is voluntary. Situational telework requested by the employee will be approved by the Chief of Staff on a case-by-case basis.

During a pandemic, emergency or other justifiable situation, employees may be able to telework if certain measures are in place and it is approved by the Chief of Staff. The necessary measures to enable an employee to telework will be determined by the employee's direct supervisor. Telework may be incorporated into the Agency's Continuity of Operations Plans or in response to a Maryland State of Emergency to support mission performance during emergencies.

Employees are to keep in mind the Agency's operational status codes, and will be notified of a delayed opening/ early dismissal, liberal leave in effect (non-essential, non-critical employees), or if all offices are closed (non-essential, non-critical employees).

Teleworkers are required to immediately notify their immediate supervisor of any changes that may alter their telework agreement.

3-605.9.3 PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed when the need for situational/emergency telework arises:

Requests for 3 days or less: Verbal approval may be given by the Assistant Sheriffs, through the employee's chain of command, for requests not exceeding three days. The supervisor will indicate whether or not he endorses the request; however the ultimate decision will be made by an Assistant Sheriff. The employee must articulate the reason for the request, the tasks to be completed, the location of the remote worksite and expected duration. The employee, in turn, will be notified through the chain of command of the decision. The Chief of Staff will be notified of all telework requests, regardless of how many days are being requested.

Requests for more than 3 days: If the employee is requesting more than three days, a Telework Request Agreement Form #186 must be submitted through the employee's chain of command. The employee and their immediate supervisor will discuss the employee-specific situation or emergency need for telework and determine the terms and conditions of the telework agreement and any measures to be taken to enable teleworking. The terms and conditions will be documented on the Telework Request



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Agreement Form #186. The supervisor will indicate on the form whether or not he endorses the request and include any relevant comments/supporting justification.

The form will be forwarded to the Chief of Staff through the employee's chain of command. Each supervisor/commander in the employee's chain of command will indicate whether or not they endorse the request and add any relevant comments to the form.

Upon receipt, the Chief of Staff or designee will review the Telework Request Agreement Form #186 to determine if temporary telework is the best option for both the Agency and the employee and either approve or disapprove the request. The employee will be notified of the decision through his chain of command. The original Telework Request Agreement Form #186 will be provided to Human Resources to be placed in the employee's personnel file. HR will forward a copy to the employee and employee's immediate supervisor.

A physician's note or other supporting documentation may be required, if requested by a supervisor or Human Resources.

In an emergency situation the Sheriff or his designee may authorize or require telework for employees for continuity of operations. In these circumstances, Telework Request Agreement Form #186 will not be necessary for staff. Immediate supervisors will be responsible for ensuring necessary measures are taken to enable telework for their employees.

A Telework Request Agreement can be discontinued at any time with notification through the chain of command to the Chief of Staff.

3-605.9.4 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

3-605.9.4.1 WORKSPACE

Telework is only permitted to be done at a designated workspace. The teleworker must designate and maintain a clean, safe, and productive workspace at the remote work location that is adequate for accomplishing necessary tasks and free of obstructions and distractions. Employees are responsible for self-certifying that the remote work location is safe for the work. Completion of the Telework Request Agreement Form #186 indicates that the employee has self-certified they can safely perform their job duties in their telework workspace.

3-605.9.4.2 EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION SECURITY

The employee and supervisor will coordinate with the Information Technology Division to obtain the required equipment and/ or software/ network access to work remotely. ITD will be available to support the employee's IT needs while teleworking. Agency equipment will only be used for Agency purposes.

Consistent with the Agency's expectation of information security for employees working on-site, teleworking employees will be expected to ensure the protection of Agency data accessible from their remote worksite. Teleworking employees will comply with all security protocols dictated by the Director, Information Technology Division.

The Agency will provide the equipment an employee needs to perform their assigned duties. The Agency will not provide duplicate items, equipment or devices. With their supervisor's approval, employees may bring home equipment that is currently provided for their exclusive use. Shared equipment must remain at the office (e.g.



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printers, copiers).

The Agency shall not be responsible for the purchase, maintenance, repair and operational costs of any personal devices. Employees are responsible for ensuring connectivity with the Agency to perform their assigned duties. If required to facilitate telework, employees are expected to acquire internet service and other general utilities at their own expense.

The teleworker will be responsible for the security of all items furnished by the Agency. The employee will immediately report any lost or damaged equipment to their supervisor.

3-605.9.5 EXPECTATIONS AND AVAILABILITY

While participating in temporary telework, the teleworker will continue to maintain normal functions, job duties and performance standards in accordance with Agency policy and the employee's job description. The employee is bound by all CCSO rules, policies, practices, and instructions as if they were working on-site.

In addition, the following guidelines shall be adhered to while teleworking:

- The supervisor and teleworker will communicate with respect to work at the same frequency that they normally would. The teleworker must be available during the agreed-upon hours and respond to communications (emails, phone calls, and other platforms that the Agency uses) during this period in the same fashion as they would working on-site.
- Teleworkers shall be available for online meetings, conference calls, trainings and other required activities as directed by the supervisor. The teleworker shall maintain a professional appearance as outlined in the AOM during all video conferences, meetings, etc. Teleworkers shall not conduct in-person meetings at remote worksites.
- Employees may not conduct personal business during telework hours. Personal business includes, but is not limited to, running personal errands and completing work around their home.
- It is recommended that teleworkers forward their desk phone to a number where they can be reached during teleworking. Voicemails may also be forwarded to/accessed via the teleworker's email.
- An employee requiring intermittent hours throughout a day or a change in daily hours will seek prior approval from their supervisor.
- Work hours must be properly documented on the employee's time sheet through the time and attendance software program, including any breaks or stoppages in work throughout the employee's established workday.
- Telework is not a substitute for child or dependent care. However, a child or other dependents may be present at the employee's remote worksite. The employee shall notify their supervisor of such arrangements and do their best to minimize any distractions.
- Teleworkers must notify their supervisor immediately of any situation that interferes with their ability to perform their job duties at the remote worksite and utilize the appropriate accrued leave in accordance with applicable Agency policies and procedures.



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- No overtime will be worked unless specifically approved in advance by the employee's supervisor.
- The total number of hours employees are required to work will not change, regardless of work location.
- An employee's job responsibilities will not change due to participation in teleworking.
- A decline in work performance may result in adjustments to the telework arrangement or termination of the Telework Request Agreement.
- If there is no work for an employee to complete from a remote worksite, a request for telework shall be denied.
- When the Agency is closed, on a delayed opening, or closes early on an employee's approved telework day, such as for inclement weather, the employee will follow the same closure/early release or delayed opening and modify their schedule as needed.

3-605.9.6 LIABILITY

The teleworker is covered under the State's Worker's Compensation Law for injuries occurring in the course of the actual performance of official duties at the remote worksite.

The teleworker or someone acting on the teleworker's behalf shall immediately notify the teleworker's supervisor of any accident or injury that occurs at the remote worksite.

The employee or their supervisor shall follow normal reporting procedures in case of accident or injury (AOM 6-202).

CCSO is not liable for damages to the teleworker's personal or real property while teleworking.

3-606 SPECIAL PAY CATEGORIES

- A. K-9 OFFICER COMPENSATION
- B. FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) COMPENSATION
- C. SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL
- D. ACTING PAY
- E. FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND SIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY
- F. TITLE COMPENSATION
- G. SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES' EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PAY PROGRAM
- H. HEALTH AND FITNESS INCENTIVES
- I. SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENT PAY

A. K-9 OFFICER COMPENSATION

K-9 officers shall be entitled to receive, in addition to any other pay to which they are entitled, \$1600 per dog annually. These payments are to compensate K-9 officers for off-duty care of their assigned K-9's.

The compensation will be paid, in arrears, in quarterly payments of \$400.00. Payments will be made in the same manner and at the same time as the uniform maintenance allotment (January, April, July, and October).



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K-9 Officers should also submit requests for overtime for any significant time caring for the dog(s).

K-9 ADOPTION VETERINARY EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

In accordance with Maryland Public Safety Article 3-526, Agency employees who assume care and custody of their K-9 after the animal's service with the Agency has ended are entitled to reimbursement for up to \$2,500 of veterinary expenses per calendar year, not to exceed \$10,000 over the life of the K-9.

These funds shall be used for any reasonable and necessary veterinary treatment provided to the dog. Reimbursement may only be used for usual and customary veterinary treatment that is not attributable to abuse or neglect. Reimbursement will not cover specialty dog foods which veterinarians frequently recommend to treat conditions such as obesity, sensitive stomachs, joint health, allergies, advanced age, or other health conditions.

To obtain reimbursement, the employee/ adopter must submit a K-9 Adoption Agreement Form #131 through their chain of command to the Sheriff for approval to adopt the K-9. Once approved, the original request form will be kept on file within the Accounting Section until the \$10,000 maximum is reached or the K-9 is no longer living. Copies will be provided to the employee /adopter and placed in their personnel file. The Accounting Section will retain copies of all veterinary treatment bills and medical treatment details.

Once the maximum reimbursement amount is reached or the K-9 dies, the Accounting Section will send the employee/ adopter a notification that the maximum reimbursement amount has been reached. The original request form and all related documents will be transferred from the Accounting Section to the employee's personnel file.

Reimbursement will not be provided until veterinary treatment is verified by written receipt provided to the Agency Accounting Section.

B. FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) COMPENSATION

All sworn police and sworn correctional FTOs, the rank of Corporal and below, and sworn court security FTOs, shall be entitled to receive, in addition to any other pay to which they are entitled, five dollars (\$5.00) for each hour they directly instruct and supervise a probationary officer during his initial field-training period. In order to qualify, the sworn police, sworn corrections and sworn court security FTO must have been formally trained and designated an FTO and assigned a probationary officer within the guidelines of the Agency FTO Program. No FTO will receive this additional FTO pay after an assigned probationary officer is released to perform independent duties.

When a police recruit is assigned to take part in a ride-along while attending the Academy, if there is not a formally trained Field Training Officer available to conduct the ride-along, the Patrol Shift Supervisor will assign another officer for the recruit to ride with. Only in these cases will an officer who is not a formally trained Field Training Officer be entitled to receive, in addition to any other pay to which they are entitled, five dollars (\$5.00) for each hour they conduct the ride along.

K-9 officers who train newly assigned K-9 officers shall be entitled to receive five dollars (\$5.00) for each hour they directly instruct and supervise the newly assigned K-9 officer.

All civilian FTOs who train personnel under a formal training program shall be entitled to receive, in addition to any other pay to which they are entitled, five dollars (\$5.00) for each hour they directly instruct and supervise a probationary civilian employee during the initial field training period. Only one employee shall receive this benefit per trainee per hour. Civilian Supervisors are not entitled to this compensation. A formal training program includes benchmarks identified by the unit required for successful job completion and documentation created and recorded within the Agency's FTO management software.



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An appropriate notation will be made on the time record.

C. SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL

Shift differential will be paid only for hours actually worked and are not added to sick pay, holiday pay, vacation pay, or any other pay for which work is not actually performed. Shift differential cannot exceed 40 hours in one week for civilian employees, unless working an approved compressed schedule. No shift differential will be paid for hours worked at a rate higher than the employee's normal hourly rate. Employees cannot receive shift differential when receiving overtime pay at the rate of time and a half.

Non-critical and Operational employees are expected to work a seven and one-half (7.5) hour day, seventy-five (75) hours per pay period. The first forty (40) hours worked in one week may be eligible for shift differential if those hours fall during a qualifying shift. These employees shall be eligible for overtime pay for all hours worked over forty (40) in one week.

Critical civilian employees are expected to work, at minimum, eighty (80) hours per pay period. No more than forty (40) hours per work week may be scheduled without compensation of the employee at time and one-half the employee's hourly rate for all hours worked over forty (40) in a seven (7) day period. These employees shall be eligible for overtime pay or compensatory leave for all hours worked over forty (40) hours.

PCO's, Police Station Technicians, and Central Processing Specialists (CPS's) will be entitled to shift differential for each hour physically worked on evening and midnight shifts as described below, as long as it does not qualify as overtime. Day shift coverage, even if it falls into the below listed times, does not qualify for shift differential.

The shift differential pay is as follows for PCO's and Police Station Technicians:

Those working the 1800-0600 shift	\$3.00 per hour

The shift differential pay is as follows for CPS's:

Shifts beginning 1400 to 1759 hours	\$2.00 per hour
Shifts beginning 1800 to 0200 hours	\$2.50 per hour
Permanent Midnight shifts	\$3.00 per hour

All other civilian employees who work regularly scheduled hours that begin between the hours of 1300-0300 will be entitled to shift differential pay of one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for each hour actually worked. Civilian employees who work a continuation of a day shift beyond their normally scheduled hours, do not qualify for shift differential.

Sworn Police Officers will be entitled to shift differential pay as listed below, per their MOU:

Shifts beginning 1400 to 2059 hours	\$2.00 per hour
Shifts beginning 2100 to 0200 hours	\$3.00 per hour

Correctional Officers will be entitled to shift differential pay as listed below, per their MOU:

Those working the 1500-2300 shift	\$2.00 per hour
Those working the 2300-0700 shift	\$3.00 per hour

No shift differential will be paid for hours worked at a rate higher than the officer's normal hourly rate. An officer will not be paid shift differential for overtime hours.



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D. ACTING PAY

When an employee assumes the duties of a rank or position greater than their own, subject to the conditions hereafter listed, any such employee shall be entitled to receive acting pay as described herein (per MOU):

1. Employees shall receive acting pay when it is anticipated that the employee will be, or the employee has been, in the acting role for a period of thirty calendar days or more.
2. The employee will receive acting pay upon taking over the acting position when the acting appointment was requested and granted at least 30 days prior to taking over the assignment.
3. If the appointment is made less than 30 days prior to taking over the assignment, the employee will receive acting pay as soon as the appropriate change in payroll status can be accomplished.
4. An employee who has performed in a rank or position greater than his own for thirty (30) consecutive days, without already receiving acting pay, will then be entitled to retroactive pay for the thirty (30) days.
5. No employee shall receive acting pay for a period when, after qualifying for acting pay, that person is absent from the position for any reason for a period of more than one week, and in no case will more than one person qualify for acting pay in the same position for the same period of time.
6. When a person has qualified for acting pay, that person shall be paid acting pay until such time the person is relieved of the position by the Sheriff or other supervisory authority.

A sworn employee qualifying for acting pay will be paid at the pay rate of the assumed rank scale equivalent to his years of service. A non-sworn employee receiving acting pay will have their rate of pay temporarily adjusted to provide them with an increase of six percent (6%), or the minimum of the acting grade, provided the resulting salary does not exceed the maximum of the higher grade.

Any other pay considerations which may apply to the higher position shall apply to the employee assuming the position during the acting period. For example, a person acting in a position which is exempt from overtime pay would not be paid overtime, and, if a person were in a position qualifying for overtime, the overtime rate would be based upon the acting pay rate.

AVAILABILITY OF ACTING PAY FOR A PARTICULAR POSITION

Before a commander/ director may install an employee in an acting position, written approval must be obtained from the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, or an Assistant Sheriff. The commander/ director shall direct a memorandum to the Sheriff, through the Assistant Sheriff, stating the following information concerning the acting pay:

1. explain why the position is vacant;
2. justify filling the position;
3. provide the anticipated effective dates for the acting position;
4. identify the person to be placed in the acting status; and
5. justify the selection of the person to be placed in an acting status.

E. FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND SIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY

Once per year during the month of January, the Human Resources Section will make an Agency-wide announcement regarding the availability of language proficiency pay for qualified officers and civilians.

Any sworn / correctional officer or civilian employee who maintains proficiency in one or more of any foreign



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languages, or in American Sign Language, will be entitled to language proficiency pay. The compensation will be paid, in arrears, in quarterly payments of five-hundred dollars (\$500). Payments will be made in the same manner and at the same time as the uniform maintenance allotment (January, April, July, and October).

1. To apply for the specialty pay, eligible employees shall submit a Request for Language Proficiency Pay Form #938 to the Human Resources Section.
2. In order to be considered proficient and entitled to receive Language Proficiency Pay in a foreign language, an employee must receive a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid or Higher as determined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), after being tested.
3. In order to be considered proficient and entitled to receive Language Proficiency Pay for American Sign Language, an employee must receive a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid or Higher as determined by the American Sign Language Proficiency (ASLP) test.
4. In order to remain qualified, employees will be retested every three years. The Agency will bear the cost, if any, of the testing.

Once an eligible employee is determined to be proficient in a foreign language or in American Sign Language, Human Resources will certify to Deputy Director, Budgeting Section the entitlement to the quarterly payment. Deputy Director, Budgeting Section will process the request and ensure payment is made.

A list of all sworn/ correctional officers and civilian employees proficient in a foreign language or in American Sign Language shall be compiled by Human Resources and provided to the Communications Section and the Detention Center.

Communications must be contacted any time interpretation services are needed to ensure only employees who have been tested and found to be proficient are being utilized.

F. TITLE COMPENSATION

Those Corporals and Sergeants who are appointed the title of Master Corporal or Master Sergeant may be eligible for additional compensation known as Title Compensation. This compensation is not considered base pay, but falls under the special pay category the same as education or foreign language pay.

This compensation will be paid annually in December to those officers receiving a Master title appointment before November 1 of that fiscal year, as follows:

1. Master Corporal	\$500
2. Master Sergeant	\$750

G. SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES' EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PAY PROGRAM

There is established an Educational Incentive Pay Program to encourage sworn and correctional employees of the Sheriff's Office to obtain relevant college degrees, and to attract to the Agency, as entry level employees, those persons who may already have acquired such degrees. Course work must be taken at a college or university accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, or a comparable organization having jurisdiction over other parts of the country. At a minimum, to qualify, an employee must have sixty (60) credit hours.

An employee who obtains an Associate Degree or sixty (60) credit hours in a degree program may receive an annual payment of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). An employee who obtains a Bachelor's Degree may receive an annual payment of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). This policy is predicated upon the



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availability of funds. In times of budget crises where the funds are not available for educational incentive pay, the Sheriff may suspend such payments.

To qualify for this program, an employee must have submitted the Educational Incentive Program Application Form #244. The application must be accompanied by an official transcript, in a sealed envelope from the college (may be mailed or hand carried), supporting the information contained in the application. Forms must be submitted to Human Resources by October 1 in order that the monies to fund the request be placed in the budget for the fiscal year beginning the following July. Applicant employees who receive the Sheriff's approval generally receive a check in July and December each year for half of the eligible amount. Employees must be eligible before the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) to receive any education incentive pay in that year.

H. HEALTH AND FITNESS INCENTIVES

The Agency offers the below health and fitness financial incentives to eligible employees. The fitness incentives are predicated on the availability of funds in the budget and will be paid the first pay period in April. Refer to the Employee Health and Fitness policy for additional information about the listed programs.

AGENCY FITNESS TESTING PROGRAM

Employees who participate in the Agency Fitness Testing Program and get a score of "Good" or better in at least two components of the test are eligible to receive financial incentives as described below. The Training Division is responsible for compiling a list of eligible employees which the Fitness Coordinator will certify, sign and submit the list to the Deputy Director, Budgeting by the end of the calendar year.

1. There is no financial incentive for a score of Fair.
2. A score of Good results in \$40 / year per component, and a max of \$160 if participant scores Good in all components.
3. A score of Excellent results in \$60 / year per component, with a max of \$240 if participant scores Excellent in all components.
4. A score of Superior results in \$80 / year per component, with a max of \$320 if participant scores Superior in all components.
5. If a participant scores Fair in one component (\$0), Good in another (\$40), Excellent in another (\$60), and Superior in another (\$80), the total incentive received would be \$180 for the year.

NOTE: Officers will not receive financial incentives for participating in the state-mandated physical agility assessment (other than for the run component which is also a component of the Agency's Fitness Testing Program).

PHYSICAL / DENTAL EXAMS

Employees who have a physical and/or dental exam (or both) are eligible to receive the financial incentives listed below. To be eligible, the employee must provide a Form #105 completed and signed by their doctor/dentist by the end of the calendar year (December 31). This completed form must be turned into the Training Division no later than January 15 of the following year. The Fitness Coordinator will compile a list of all participating employees and submit the list to the Deputy Director, Budgeting.

1. \$50 compensation for having either a physical or a dental exam, and
2. \$100 compensation for both exams.

I. SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENT PAY

The following specialized assignments have been approved for specialized pay through collective bargaining agreements:



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1. Crime Scene Processor \$250 quarterly payment
2. Breath Test Operator \$250 quarterly payment
3. Drug Recognition Expert \$250 quarterly payment
4. Emergency Services Team \$250 quarterly payment
5. Emergency Response Team \$250 quarterly payment

3-607 OVERTIME COMPENSATION

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. GUIDELINES
- D. COMMUNICATIONS STAFFING CRISIS – OVERTIME COMPENSATION
- E. COURT TIME
- F. ON- CALL COMPENSATION
- G. CALL OUT COMPENSATION
- H. OVERTIME APPROVAL

A. PURPOSE

It is policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to comply with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Non-exempt, sworn police officers, correctional officers and civilians will receive compensation for hours worked in excess of scheduled duty hours. Employees may be required to work overtime hours as necessitated by work related conditions. If at all possible, reasonable notice of overtime requirements will be provided to the employee. In unforeseen emergency situations, employees may be required to work overtime with little or no notice.

B. DEFINITIONS

Call Out: Overtime defined by an employee who is subject to being called to work outside his normally scheduled duty hours, or during a day off to perform a specific task, deploy a specific tool, or use a specific skill outside his regular shift. Examples of a call out are a media relations specialist being called out to create a press release for a high-profile crime in the county, a K9 officer being called out to search for a missing person, or an HNT certified officer being called out to a barricade situation.

Holdover: Overtime defined by the employee remaining at work performing his regular duties after his shift has ended for the day (normal overtime rules apply as described under the Guidelines section of this policy). Hold overs are not considered a change of schedule.

On-Call: Employee status where an employee is expected to limit their personal activities, while off duty, and are expected to respond to job related activities within the time frame of their on-call status.

Report Early: Overtime defined by the employee being called in to work his regular duties prior to his scheduled shift beginning (normal overtime rules apply as described under the Guidelines section of this policy). Reporting early is not considered a change of schedule.

Subject to Call Out: Employee status where an employee is not required to limit any personal activities during their off-duty time, but may be required to respond to work if required by their position in the agency. A "call back" as referenced in this policy is considered a "call out".

C. GUIDELINES



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Hours which have not been designated as emergency work, and are worked by employees staffing non-exempt positions up to forty (40) hours in a seven (7) day work week will be compensated at a regular rate of one (1) time the employee's regular rate of pay, or may be compensated by the accrual of compensatory leave at an hour-for-hour accrual rate.

At least fifteen (15) minutes must be worked past the end of the employee's shift in order to be eligible for overtime. Overtime may then be acquired in one-half (1/2) hour increments (15 to 44 minutes worked = 1/2 hour claimed, 45 to 74 minutes worked = 1 hour claimed, 75 to 104 minutes worked = 1 1/2 hours claimed, etc.). These hours will be paid at one and one-half (1 1/2) times their normal hourly rate.

When an employee is required to work an extra hour to cover a shift because of a daylight savings time change, the employee will be entitled to one (1) hour overtime compensation. Employees whose shift is shortened because of a time change will be required to work the full shift hours (one hour beyond their scheduled time off) or use one (1) hour of accrued leave.

Employees will submit and document overtime on their timesheets as required.

Non-Exempt Employees

1. In compliance with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, non-exempt, sworn police officers and correctional officers will receive compensation for hours worked in excess of scheduled duty hours, subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA) provisions.
2. Non-exempt civilian critical / operational employees will receive overtime compensation at one and one-half (1 1/2) times their regular hourly rate for all hours worked beyond 40 hours per week.
3. Non-exempt, non-critical / operational employees on a thirty-seven and one-half (37 1/2) hour work week will receive their normal hourly rate for the first two and a half (2 1/2) hours of overtime.
4. Compensatory leave is the preferred method of compensation for hours worked beyond regularly scheduled hours. Any accrued compensatory time must be paid out upon separation, transfer / promotion to an exempt position or reclassification from non-exempt to exempt.

Exempt Employees

Exempt employees are not entitled to overtime compensation. The civilian Deputy Director of the Forensic Science Section and civilian employees in exempt positions grades 119 or below may, with the permission of the Division Commander / Director, be eligible to receive additional pay or accrue compensatory leave at an hour-for-hour (straight time) rate for hours worked in excess of 37.5 / 40 hours.

1. Division commanders must first attempt to adjust the employee's schedule before authorizing additional compensation.
2. In time of emergency, the Sheriff or his designee may authorize paid administrative leave when appropriate.

Exempt employees will not receive compensation for accrued compensatory leave at the time of separation or retirement.

D. COMMUNICATIONS STAFFING CRISIS – OVERTIME COMPENSATION

In addition to the provision in the Guidelines section of this policy, during a Communications Section staffing crisis, a police communications officer or police station technician will be compensated at a rate of one and one half (1 1/2)

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the regular hourly rate for the first eight (8) hours of overtime and two (2) times the regular hourly rate for overtime worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one pay period. The employee may elect overtime compensation pay or leave accrual at the overtime compensation rate in the New Comp leave bank. This provision will be enacted if the staffing vacancies reach 30% of allotted staffing positions in either of the respective units. It will become inactive once staffing vacancies are below the 30% threshold. The Commander, Support Services will make a recommendation to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration, who will enact this policy via Special Order. The Special Order will be rescinded when vacancies drop below 30%.

E. COURT TIME

An employee summoned or requested to appear in a court or other judicial proceeding during non-duty hours will receive overtime compensation if the summons or request is a result of the employee's official duties and the employee does in fact attend as required. The employee will receive overtime compensation in one-half (1/2) hour increments for their time in attendance.

Sworn Correctional Officers – Court Appearance Minimum

Any sworn correctional officer who appears in court during his non-duty hours as a result of the employee's official duties shall be entitled to a minimum of three (3) hours of overtime pay at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) times their regular rate of pay. Appearing in court means dressed in accordance with policy and prepared to testify, including obtaining and reviewing all relevant reports and evidence. An officer who appears in court unprepared or not dressed appropriately shall forfeit all pay for that court appearance.

Sworn Police Officers – Court Appearance Minimum

Sworn police officers attending court during non-duty hours on matters arising from their employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office will be paid the Court Appearance Minimum when the court appearance is before 1600 hours.

If the employee is released by the Court or State's Attorney before he has remained in attendance for two (2) hours, the employee will still be entitled to two (2) hours of overtime pay as a minimum for that response unless part of that two (2) hours is part of his normal work schedule. If a second court appearance / docket begins within the specified minimum timeframe (2 hours) of the first appearance, that appearance is considered a continuation of the first appearance and the court minimum will apply to the two appearances combined, not individually. This applies in the same manner and amount for appearances in District or Circuit Court and appearances before the Liquor Board or any other administrative court.

Sworn Police Officers – Court Overtime Following an Evening or Midnight Shift

Sworn police officers who attend a court appearance scheduled to begin before 1200 and after working a shift ending between 0100 and 0700 will be entitled to a minimum of three (3) hours of overtime pay at one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate. If an officer has more than one (1) court appearance (double docket) on that same day, the three (3) hour minimum applies to both court appearances with the following exceptions. If the second court appearance/docket begins within the specified minimum timeframe (3 hours) of the first appearance, that appearance is considered a continuation of the first appearance and the three (3) hour minimum will apply to the two appearances combined, not individually. The three (3) hour minimum does not apply if the first appearance is after 1200 hours. In such case the officer will be entitled to the Court Appearance Minimum.

F. ON-CALL COMPENSATION

Certain positions within the Agency are entitled to on-call pay or on-call leave as noted below.

1. Sworn CID personnel are entitled to CID Administrative Leave as outlined in the FOP Contract, while in an on-call status. When a sworn employee assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division is assigned in



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an on-call status between the times of Saturday 2300 through Monday 0700 hours, and is not called out for an incident, the employee shall receive nine (9) hours of Administrative Leave. The Administrative Leave shall be separate from any and all leave banks and will be managed by the Division. The Division Commander shall establish a procedure for tracking the accrual and use of this leave. The Administrative Leave is non-transferable, does not carry-over when the officer is re-assigned to another division, and has no cash value. The provisions of this section do not apply to the officers assigned to the Narcotics / Vice section.

2. Non-sworn personnel placed in an on-call status will receive \$50.00 per day, while in this status. If the employee is called out while in an on-call status, they will receive on-call pay for the day, as well as overtime pay.
3. The current positions which qualify for on-call pay are:
 - a) Forensic Science Staff
 - b) Information Technology Staff
4. Overtime will be paid as noted under the Call-Out section of this policy and any contracts that are in place.
5. All employees who are in an on-call status must be available to respond to a scene within 30 minutes of notification.
6. Being placed in an on-call status is different from being subject to a call out, such as an EST call out. Being placed in an on-call status means you must be available to respond to a scene within 30 minutes, whereas subject to call out, an employee is not mandated to be available.

G. CALL OUT COMPENSATION

When an officer is called back to work with less than seventy-two (72) hours' notice during scheduled time off, the officer will receive overtime compensation in one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour increments for those hours the officer is required to work outside his normal work schedule. For any call back, unless seventy-two (72) hours' notice is given, the officer shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours overtime compensation unless the four (4) hours is part of the officer's normal work schedule. In that case, the officer would receive the portion of the four (4) hours that is outside his normal work schedule.

1. For the purposes of determining the number of hours worked as a result of a call out, the clock will begin to run as of the time the officer goes en route from his home to the place the officer has been called to work.
2. This provision does not apply to an officer who is called in or called back to appear in any court.
3. This provision does not apply in instances where an officer is called back to work due to the officer's neglect to complete an assignment (i.e., failed to sign a report, failed to turn in a report, failed to turn in equipment, etc.).

Members of the Emergency Services Team will receive compensation as specified above. Additionally, members of the Emergency Services Team will receive two (2) hours minimum call out compensation when more than seventy-two hours (72) notice is given, provided that the Emergency Services Team actually responds to the incident or activity. However, in such situations where the scheduled assignment is canceled and more than seventy-two (72) hours' notice is provided, no additional compensation will be paid.

When a non-sworn, non-exempt employee is called out to work during scheduled time off, the employee will receive



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overtime compensation at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) times their regular hourly rate, in one-half (1/2) hour increments for the time the employee is required to perform work outside his normal work schedule. For any call out for which the employee responds to a work location, he shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours overtime compensation, and thereafter will receive overtime compensation in one-half (1/2) hour increments for the time the employee is required to perform work outside his normal work schedule. For the purposes of determining the number of hours worked as a result of a call out, the clock will begin to run as of the time the employee goes en route from his home to the place the employee has been called to work.

For this section of the policy, an employee who is held over or asked to report to work early, is not considered a call out. This is simply an extension of their normal workday and normal overtime rules apply as described under the Guidelines section of this policy. Being called in early or held over is also not considered a change of schedule.

H. OVERTIME APPROVAL

Conditions which change unexpectedly and give rise to the need to have employees work overtime are a routine occurrence in police work. When these occasions occur, division commanders / directors and section commanders or their designees are granted the authority to approve the overtime necessary to meet the situation.

All overtime which is not incurred because of unforeseen circumstances will be approved by the division commander / director. Supervisors who anticipate the need to require an employee to work overtime will submit a memorandum or otherwise contact the division commander / director. The supervisor will address the condition(s) that require the use of overtime, the expected period of time the condition will last, the personnel expected to work the overtime and the number of hours each is expected to work. If there are levels of supervision between the requesting supervisor and the division commander / director, the memorandum or discussion will be directed through the chain of command with concurrence / non-concurrence by each person in that chain of command.

3-608 EMPLOYEE LEAVE

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR LEAVE USAGE
- D. ANNUAL LEAVE
- E. COMPENSATORY LEAVE
- F. HOLIDAY LEAVE
- G. PERSONAL LEAVE
- H. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE
- I. SICK AND SAFE LEAVE
- J. EXTENDED LEAVE
- K. MEDICATIONS
- L. RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

A. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the various types of leave benefits afforded to employees and provides guidance regarding the accrual, use and management of employee leave.

B. DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the defined meanings for purposes of this policy section (excluding FMLA purposes, which have their own definitions section):



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CHILD - Child includes the following:

1. Biological children of the employee,
2. The biological children of the employee's current legal spouse,
3. Legally adopted children of the employee and/or current legal spouse,
4. Foster child,
5. Stepchild,
6. Legal ward, or
7. Other child for whom the employee stands in loco parentis regardless of the child's age. To stand in loco parentis means to have assumed the duties of a parent to a child.

EXTENDED LEAVE - As used in this policy is defined as the following:

1. Sick and safe leave for any period of time greater than three (3) continuing work days, regardless of regular days off, or
2. Other types of leave continuing for a period of ten (10) work days or more, regardless of regular days off.

LEGAL DOCUMENTATION - If leave is requested for services or legal proceedings related to or resulting from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and documentation is required by policy, this will be in the form of official documentation from the provider of the services or legal proceedings.

MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION - If leave is requested for medical purposes, and documentation is required by policy, this will be in the form of official documentation from the treating physician's office and shall describe the nature of the illness / injury, date the treatment began, date of discharge from treatment, and / or date of maximum medical improvement. Provided the name of the physician or medical facility is pre-printed or stamped, and the physician's signature appears thereon, any of the following will be deemed acceptable sources:

1. prescription pad
2. desk or note pad
3. office stationery

The following term(s) have the defined meanings for purposes of this policy section and in accordance with the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act.

FAMILY MEMBER:

1. a biological child, an adopted child, a foster child, or a stepchild of the employee;
2. a child for whom the employee has legal or physical custody or guardianship;
3. a child for whom the employee stands in loco parentis, regardless of the child's age;
4. a biological parent, an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a stepparent of the employee or of the employee's spouse;
5. the legal guardian or ward of the employee or of the employee's spouse;
6. an individual who acted as a parent or stood in loco parentis to the employee or the employee's spouse when the employee or the employee's spouse was a minor;
7. the spouse of the employee;
8. a biological grandparent, an adopted grandparent, a foster grandparent, or a step grandparent of the employee;
9. a biological grandchild, an adopted grandchild, a foster grandchild, or a step grandchild of the employee;
or
10. a biological sibling, an adopted sibling, a foster sibling, or a stepsibling of the employee.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY - Includes the following persons related to the employee:



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1. Spouse
2. Child
3. Parent
4. Sister, half-sister or stepsister
5. Brother, half-brother or stepbrother
6. Grandchild
7. Grandparent
8. Great-grandparent
9. Father or mother-in-law
10. Son- or daughter-in-law
11. Sister- or brother-in-law

LIBERAL LEAVE - During a period of liberal leave, non-critical employees of the Sheriff's Office may elect to stay at home or leave work during their assigned work hours and use their accrued leave.

1. The Sheriff, or his designee, may declare a liberal leave status upon inclement weather or other emergency situation as appropriate.
2. Non-critical employees must inform their supervisors of their intentions to use leave instead of coming to work; however, no previous leave approval is necessary.
3. All critical and operational employees must report to work at the beginning of their assigned work shifts during periods of liberal leave.

PARENT - Parent includes the biological mother or father of the employee and/or a person who legally adopted and raised the employee.

SPOUSE - Spouse is the person to whom the employee is currently legally married.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR LEAVE USAGE

Unless otherwise noted in the specific leave policy section below, employees will follow the below general guidelines for leave usage:

1. Leave requests must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor.
2. Leave will be used in even increments of one-half (1/2) hour.
3. No leave may be used before it is earned and credited to the employee's leave account.
4. Leave requests for three (3) or less days off should be submitted to the employee's supervisor as soon as the expected use is known.
5. Leave requests for more than three (3) days should be submitted at least fourteen (14) days before the first requested day off.
6. All leave requests for more than ten (10) days are considered extended leave and must be approved by the employee's division commander / director or designee.
7. Supervisors will approve leave on a first-come, first-served basis until the supervisor determines the approval of any additional leave on the date(s) in question would reduce staffing levels below the minimum personnel necessary for efficient operation.

D. ANNUAL LEAVE

Annual Leave is granted to employees at rates determined by employee segment and years of service. Annual leave is intended to be used by employees for any personal purpose, such as vacation or any other personal matter, when approved by the employee's supervisor.

ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUAL



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Full-time non-critical and operational civilian employees of the Sheriff's Office will accrue annual leave at the following rates:

1. first 36 months of employment - 8 hours per month
2. on the anniversary of 3 yrs. service - 10 hours per month
3. on the anniversary of 9 yrs. service - 12 hours per month
4. on the anniversary of 14 yrs. service - 14 hours per month
5. on the anniversary of 21 yrs. service - 18 hours per month

Full-time reduced hours employees will accrue annual leave at the following rates:

1. first 36 months of employment - 6 hours per month
2. on the anniversary of 3 yrs. service - 8 hours per month
3. on the anniversary of 9 yrs. service - 10 hours per month
4. on the anniversary of 14 yrs. service - 11 hours per month
5. on the anniversary of 21 yrs. service - 14 hours per month

Sworn officers, correctional officers and critical civilians will accrue annual leave at the following rates:

1. first 36 months of employment - 8 hours per month
2. on the anniversary of 3 yrs. service - 10 hours per month
3. on the anniversary of 8 yrs. service - 12 hours per month
4. on the anniversary of 12 yrs. service - 14 hours per month
5. on the anniversary of 18 yrs. service - 16 hours per month
6. on the anniversary of 21 yrs. service - 18 hours per month

CALCULATING PARTIAL ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUAL

Annual Leave is accrued for each day of active employment. When an employee begins or ceases employment during a month, leave is pro-rated. This is accomplished by dividing the amount of leave normally earned by the employee in a month by the total number of days in the month. The result is then multiplied by the total number of days actively employed within the month (including days scheduled off) and rounded to the closest whole number. Leave is not credited to the employee's leave account until the end of the month in which it is earned.

ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUAL LIMITS

Critical employees may accumulate a maximum of 720 hours of annual leave.

Non-critical and operational employees may accumulate a maximum of 360 hours of annual leave.

A critical employee who becomes non-critical or operational because of reclassification of his position or because of a change of position, will retain all accrued annual leave until the end of the calendar year. At the end of the calendar year, any annual leave over the maximum allowed amount will be converted to sick and safe leave.

For critical, operational, and non-critical employees, annual leave over the maximum allowed amount will be converted to sick and safe leave. This conversion will take place at the end of the calendar year in which the maximum annual leave amount is exceeded or at the time of separation or retirement. No leave converted in this manner may be thereafter recovered as annual leave.

ANNUAL LEAVE BALANCE AT THE TIME OF SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT



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An employee who resigns, retires, is dismissed, or otherwise leaves employment with the Sheriff's Office is entitled to receive a lump sum payment for their annual leave balance. This payment will be made on the employee's next pay date following his final regular paycheck and only after the Deputy Director, Accounting Section has received notification of clearance from Human Resources. The employee must provide written, notarized authorization for deductions of any amounts owed the Sheriff's Office.

E. COMPENSATORY LEAVE

Compensatory Leave is granted to employees often in lieu of paid overtime for working extra hours. It may also be granted in other circumstances, including but not limited to compensation for working when the Sheriff's Office is closed due to inclement weather or working on a floating holiday. Compensatory leave can be used for various personal purposes when approved by the employee's supervisor.

The Agency maintains two separate compensatory leave banks: the Compensatory Leave Bank and the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.

COMPENSATORY LEAVE ACCRUAL

The accrual of compensatory leave is regulated via the following:

1. Contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 24 (sworn)
2. Contract with the Charles County Correctional Officers Association (corrections)
3. Agency policy (civilians)

The rate of compensatory leave accumulation will be at one and one-half (1 ½) hours for each hour worked by non-exempt employees over forty (40) hours in one week, unless specified otherwise.

When approval is granted by a Division Commander / Director for the crediting of compensatory leave, exempt employees will earn one (1) hour for each hour worked.

Any compensatory time granted as a result of a Sheriff's Office closing, or for any other reason when granted by the Sheriff's Office, will be accumulated as straight time.

COMPENSATORY LEAVE ACCRUAL LIMITS

1. Sworn and Corrections officers and PCOs may accumulate up to 480 hours of compensatory leave and annual compensatory leave combined.
2. All other Critical, Non-Critical and Operational Employees may accumulate up to 240 hours of compensatory and annual compensatory leave combined.

COMPULSORY USE PROHIBITION

The Agency shall not require any employee to use compensatory leave on any day in which that employee has not made a request for compensatory leave, except as outlined in existing policy.

SWORN POLICE OFFICERS - COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

1. Non-Exempt Sworn Officers:
 - a) Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Agency and FOP, non-exempt sworn officers no longer accrue leave in this bank.



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- b) All newly accrued compensatory leave is placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
- c) Previously accrued leave in this bank may be utilized for time off of work in the same manner as Annual Compensatory Leave.
- d) At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current rank and step.

2. Exempt Sworn Officers:

- a) Exempt officers are not entitled to overtime pay.
- b) When approved to accrue compensatory leave, exempt sworn officers receive hour for hour compensation in this bank.
- c) This leave may be utilized for time off of work in the same manner as Annual Compensatory Leave.
- d) This leave has no monetary value. At the time of separation from the Agency, the remaining hours will be depleted without monetary compensation.

SWORN POLICE OFFICERS - ANNUAL COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

1. Non- Exempt Sworn Officers:

- a) All compensatory time accrued by non-exempt officers during the term of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Agency and FOP, will be placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
- b) Sworn officers have the option to select compensatory time rather than paid overtime.
- c) This time is accrued at 1 ½ hours for each hour worked.
- d) Compensatory time accrued must be used during the calendar year in which it is earned. If for whatever reason the compensatory time is not used within the calendar year it is earned, the unused compensatory time will be converted to pay.
- e) At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current rank and step.

2. Exempt Sworn Officers:

- a) Exempt sworn officers do not accrue leave in this bank.

SWORN POLICE OFFICERS - USE OF COMPENSATORY LEAVE

- 1. Compensatory leave must be requested and approved in advance by the employee's supervisor and will be used in even increments of one-half (1/2) hour.
- 2. No leave may be used before it is earned and credited to the employee's leave bank.



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3. Compensatory leave requests for three (3) or less days off should be submitted to the employee's supervisor as soon as the expected use is known.
4. Compensatory leave requests for more than three (3) days should be submitted at least fourteen (14) days before the first requested day off.
5. All Compensatory leave requests for more than ten (10) days must be approved by the employee's division commander / director or his designee.
6. Compensatory leave requests must be requested a reasonable period in advance.
7. Supervisors will grant the employees' Compensatory leave requests on a first-come, first-serve basis until such time as the supervisor determines that the granting of any additional leave requests on the date in question would reduce the unit's staffing levels below the minimum personnel necessary for efficient operation. At that time, the reasonable period shall close, and the supervisor will deny additional requests for the use of Compensatory leave, as the operational functioning of the employee's unit would be adversely affected to the point of causing an undue disruption to that unit.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS - COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Agency and CCCOA, correctional officers no longer accrue leave in this bank.

1. All newly accrued compensatory leave is placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
2. Previously accrued leave in this bank may be utilized for time off of work in the same manner as Annual Compensatory Leave.
3. At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current rank and step.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS - ANNUAL COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

All compensatory time earned will be placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank per CCCOA MOU.

1. All correctional officers have the option to select compensatory time rather than paid overtime.
 - a) This time is accrued at 1 ½ hours for each hour worked.
2. Compensatory time accrued must be used during the calendar year in which it is earned. If for whatever reason the compensatory time is not used within the calendar year it is earned, the compensatory time shall be forfeited and the officer shall be paid at his current hourly rate.
3. At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current rank and step.

CRITICAL AND OPERATIONAL CIVILIANS - COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

Police Communications Officers, Police Station Technicians and all other critical & operational employees no longer accrue leave in this bank.



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1. All newly accrued compensatory leave is placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
2. This leave may be utilized for time off of work in the same manner as Annual Compensatory Leave.
3. At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current rank and step.

CRITICAL AND OPERATIONAL CIVILIANS - ANNUAL COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

1. All Police Communications Officers, Police Station Technicians and all other non-exempt critical & operational civilian employees will have the option to select compensatory time rather than paid overtime or additional straight time.
2. All overtime based compensatory time earned will be placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
3. Compensatory time is accrued at 1 ½ hours for each active hour worked over forty (40) hours in a week.
 - a) Employees will accrue compensatory time hour for hour until they reach forty (40) active work hours in a week. (For example, if an employee uses eight (8) hours of leave during a week, they only have thirty-two (32) active work hours. Each additional hour worked over the thirty-two (32) would accrue at one (1) hour increments until they reached forty (40) active hours. They would then begin to accrue at the 1 ½ hour rate for every hour after forty (40).
4. Compensatory time accrued should be used during the calendar year in which it is earned.
5. For non-exempt employees, if the compensatory time is not used within the calendar year it is earned, the unused compensatory time will be converted to pay.
6. The civilian Deputy Director of the Forensic Science Section and civilian employees in exempt positions grades 119 or below may, with the permission of the Division Commander / Director, be eligible to accrue compensatory leave at an hour-for hour (straight time) rate for hours worked in excess of 37.5 / 40 hours.
 - a) Division Commanders / Directors must first attempt to adjust the employee's schedule before authorizing additional leave compensation.
 - b) This leave has no monetary value and may be carried over from year to year.
7. Exempt employees will not receive compensation for accrued compensatory leave at the time of separation or retirement.

NON-CRITICAL CIVILIANS- COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK

Non-Critical Civilians no longer accrue leave in this bank.

1. All newly accrued compensatory leave is placed in the Annual Compensatory Leave Bank.
2. This leave may be utilized for time off of work in the same manner as Annual Compensatory Leave.
3. At the time of separation from the Agency, or upon promotion to an exempt rank, the balance of hours in this leave bank will be depleted and paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current grade and merit.

NON-CRITICAL CIVILIANS - ANNUAL COMPENSATORY LEAVE BANK



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1. Non-critical civilians directed to work on a holiday, including the two “floating” holidays, will receive an hour of compensatory time for each hour worked on that holiday.
2. Compensatory time accrued should be used during the calendar year in which it is earned.
3. If, for whatever reason, the compensatory time accrued by a non-exempt employee is not used within the calendar year it is earned, the unused compensatory time will be paid out to the employee hour for hour at their current grade and merit. Exempt employees will retain the balance of their leave and carry it over to the new calendar year.
4. Exempt employees will not receive compensation for accrued compensatory leave at the time of separation or retirement.

F. HOLIDAY LEAVE

Holidays are scheduled according to a list published each year by the Charles County Government and approved by the Sheriff. The Sheriff has the authority to adopt the leave schedule by the county government in whole or part. Lincoln’s Birthday and Maryland Day are Charles County Sheriff’s Office floating holidays.

NON-CRITICAL EMPLOYEES

With the exception of the two floating holidays identified below, non-critical employees are normally scheduled off on holidays and receive their normal pay for the holiday. However, non-critical employees may be directed to work as needed on a holiday. A non-critical employee directed to work on a holiday will receive an hour of compensatory time for each hour worked on that holiday. Notwithstanding job classification, certain employees may be required to work recognized holidays.

Lincoln’s Birthday and Maryland Day are considered “floating” holidays. If a non-critical employee requests or is requested to work either of these holidays, the employee’s supervisor must contact the Deputy Director, HR to check the status of the employee’s compensatory leave bank. Non-critical employees who have a compensatory leave bank which is capped or will exceed the maximum cap limit by working a “floating” holiday are required to take off this holiday. Non-critical employees authorized to work on either of these two holidays will earn one hour compensatory time for each hour worked.

CRITICAL AND OPERATIONAL EMPLOYEES

Critical and operational civilian employees receive leave compensation for days designated as holidays.

For sworn and correctional officers, holiday leave accumulated under this section will reside in the holiday leave account. Sworn officers and correctional officers are bound by the FOP MOU and the CCCOA MOU and will refer to that document for details relating to current Holiday Leave provisions.

Police Communications Officers (PCO), Police Station Technicians, and Central Processing Specialists who work on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, or Easter will receive an additional four hours of holiday leave.

HOLIDAY LEAVE ACCRUAL RATES – CRITICAL AND OPERATIONAL EMPLOYEES

Police Communications Officers (PCO) and Police Station Technicians shall accrue Holiday Leave at a rate of 11.5 hours per holiday.

All other Critical Civilians shall accrue Holiday Leave at a rate of 8 hours per holiday.



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All Operational Civilians shall accrue Holiday Leave at a rate of 7.5 hours per holiday.

Sworn police officers earn holiday leave at the rate of 10 hours per holiday in accordance with the FOP MOU.

Correctional officers earn holiday leave at the rate of 8.5 hours per holiday in accordance with the CCCOA MOU.

Newly hired sworn police officers and correctional officers will receive holiday leave on a pro-rated basis for the calendar year in which they are hired. They will only receive holiday leave for those holidays that have not yet passed, as of their hire date.

HOLIDAY LEAVE ACCOUNT

There is established a "holiday leave account" for each critical and operational employee. These employees receive holiday leave as defined in the Holiday Leave policy. These hours will be credited to the holiday leave account effective on the holiday. Holiday leave accumulated by these employees will reside in this holiday leave account.

Employees will not be compensated for accrued Holiday Leave upon separation from the Agency.

Critical or Operational civilians moving to non-critical positions have one year from the transfer date to use any existing holiday leave.

G. PERSONAL LEAVE

In each calendar year, all full-time and full-time reduced hours employees shall be entitled to personal leave hours which may be used for any purpose and are subject to the following:

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING COURT SECURITY OFFICERS)

Full-time non-critical and operational employees are entitled to 15 hours with less than 10 years of service, and 22.5 hours after 10 years of service. Full-time reduced hour (FTRH) employees are entitled to 16 hours of personal leave. Full-time critical employees are entitled to 16 hours with less than 10 years of service, and 24 hours after 10 years of service. Personal leave is to be used in hourly increments.

- Newly hired full-time non-critical and operational employees will receive 15 hours and full-time critical employees will receive 16 hours, if hired before July 1st. If hired after July 1st they will earn 7.5 and 8 hours; respectively.

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AND POLICE STATION TECHNICIANS

These civilian employees are entitled to 34.5 hours of personal leave.

1. New hires will receive 34.5 hours if hired between January 1 and April 30; 23 hours if hired between May 1 and August 31; and 11.5 hours if hired between September 1 and December 31.

SWORN POLICE OFFICERS

Sworn police officers, including officers in the ranks of Lieutenant and above, will receive 30 hours of personal leave, to be used in hourly increments.



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1. New hires will receive 30 hours if hired between January 1 and April 30; 20 hours if hired between May 1 and August 31; and 10 hours if hired between September 1 and December 31.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Correctional officers, including those officers in the ranks of Lieutenant and above, will receive a total of 25.5 hours of personal leave to be used in hourly increments

1. New hires will receive 25.5 hours if hired between January 1 and April 30; 17 hours if hired between May 1 and August 31; and 8.5 hours if hired between September 1 and December 31

ALL EMPLOYEES

- A request for personal leave may be denied due to staffing shortages.
- Personal leave not used by the end of the calendar year shall be forfeited without compensation or conversion to any other type leave.
 - The year the employee separates / retires from the Agency, the employee will be paid for unused personal leave up to 30 hours.
- All requests for personal leave use will be requested through the time and attendance software program, under the category of Personal Leave.
- Use of personal leave will be recorded on the employee's time record.

OLD PERSONAL LEAVE - SWORN POLICE OFFICERS

For sworn police officers who have accumulated old personal leave, the leave will remain in an Old Personal Leave Account until used. The leave in this account does not expire, but no new personal leave will be accrued in this account. Leave in this account will be used in hourly increments. Employees will not be compensated for unused leave in the Old Personal Leave Account upon separation from the Agency.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

Administrative leave is that leave not charged to any of the employee's leave accounts, which is granted to the employee at the discretion of the Sheriff. Division commanders / directors can approve administrative leave as it pertains to death, funerals within the employee's immediate family and jury duty. All other granting of administrative leave requires the approval of an Assistant Sheriff, Chief of Staff or the Sheriff. Some examples of such grants are:

1. So the employee may participate in a blood donor program.
2. When an employee is injured in the line of duty (see Administrative Leave Granted for Line of Duty Injury Claim policy).
3. Bereavement leave for an employee to attend the funeral of one of the following relatives: aunts and uncles of the employee or spouse, nephews and nieces of the employee or spouse, and other persons on a case-by-case basis as approved by the employee's division commander/director.
 - a) One (1) day of administrative leave will normally be granted for this purpose.



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- b) For an employee to tend to the circumstances of a death in the employee's immediate family (includes the employee's spouse, child or stepchild, parent, sister or brother, half-sister or half-brother, stepsister or stepbrother, grandchild, grandparent, great-grandparent, father or mother-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, and sister- or brother-in-law), four (4) days administrative leave are granted for this purpose.
- c) No additional time will be granted as administrative leave; however, supervisors shall make reasonable efforts to arrange for the employee to take other authorized leave for this purpose if travel or other considerations are involved.
- 4. Pending the investigation of any employee whose action(s) or use of force in an official capacity results in death or serious physical injury.
- 5. Pending the decision of the Sheriff when an Administrative Hearing Board has recommended the employee be terminated.
- 6. For the purpose of attending an educational course or program directly related to the employee's position with the Sheriff's Office and with the approval of the Sheriff.
- 7. When weather conditions have caused the closing of the Charles County Government and in conjunction with the policy contained within this section addressing those occasions.
- 8. At any time, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the public, the Agency or the employee.

Note: These examples are meant to be demonstrative and are not all inclusive.

CLOSINGS, DELAYED OPENINGS, OR EARLY DISMISSAL SITUATIONS

Closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals are intended to provide for employee safety during inclement weather or other conditions. All employees working in a facility not operated by the Agency shall follow the closing and delayed opening status of that facility. Those employees shall be granted administrative leave, when applicable.

OPERATIONAL STATUS CODES AND EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATIONS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER OR OTHER UNUSUAL SITUATIONS

The following codes will be used to notify employees of the Agency's operational status. During inclement weather or other unusual situations, code notifications will be sent out by Agency-wide email and posted on the Agency web site. For critical and operational employees only, the operational status code is subject to change during their affected shift(s).

GREEN	Normal Operations
YELLOW	Delayed opening / early dismissal – Agency will announce start or dismissal time.
ORANGE	Liberal Leave in effect for Non-Essential, Non-Critical Employees - Employees should notify their Supervisor of Intention to use Liberal Leave.
RED	All Offices Closed for Non-Essential, Non-Critical Employees.

NORMAL OPERATIONS – CODE GREEN – Normal daily operations, all employees report for shifts as scheduled.



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DELAYED OPENING / EARLY DISMISSAL – CODE YELLOW – During delayed openings, non-essential, non-critical employees will not report to work prior to the start time designated. During early dismissals, non-essential, non-critical employees will leave work at the designated dismissal time. Non-essential, non-critical employees will report to work as scheduled if the employee's normal start time is unaffected by the designated start time/dismissal. Administrative leave will be based on the employee's normal working hours. See the examples below for further explanation. All critical employees (FT, FTRH, and PT) will report to work (or remain at work). Operational employees must report to work based on the directives of their division commanders / directors.

Examples of how delayed openings affect employees are as follows:

1. If the employee's normal work day begins at 0800 hours, and the scheduled delay does not allow an employee to report to work until 1000 hours, the employee will be granted two (2) hours of administrative leave to cover those two (2) hours.
2. If the employee's normal work day begins at 1000 hours, and the scheduled delay does not allow an employee to report to work until 1000 hours, the employee receives no administrative leave and should report on time. That employee's work day is not affected by the delayed opening.
3. If the employee's normal work day begins after the delayed opening, such as 1100 hours, then the delayed opening has no effect on that employee. The employee will not receive any administrative leave and would report to work as usual.

Examples of how early dismissals affect employees are as follows:

1. If an employee's normal work day ends at 1600 hours and the scheduled dismissal is at 1400 hours, the employee will be granted two (2) hours of administrative leave to cover those two (2) hours.
2. If an employee's normal work day ends at 1500 hours and the early dismissal is scheduled for 1500 hours, the employee will receive no administrative leave and should leave at their normally scheduled time. That employee's work day is not affected by the early dismissal.
3. If the early dismissal is scheduled for a time after an employee's regular dismissal time, the employee will not be affected by the early dismissal.

LIBERAL LEAVE AUTHORIZED – CODE ORANGE – Employees should notify their supervisor of their intention to use Liberal Leave. If a FT or FTRH non-critical employee chooses to take leave for any period not included in the announced administrative closing, delay, or early dismissal, the leave taken will count only for that period and the employee will be credited for administrative leave for the remainder. Administrative leave will be based on regularly published work schedules and made only for the number of hours of any such announced administrative closure.

For example: If a delayed opening of two hours with liberal leave is announced, an employee who is scheduled to work an 8-hour shift may choose to take the remainder of the day off and be charged for only six hours of leave.

CLOSING – CODE RED STATUS – Non-Essential, Non-Critical employees are not permitted in Agency facilities without an Assistant Sheriff's approval. These employees do not have the option of deciding if they want to come in to work. All critical employees (FT, FTRH, and PT) will report to work (or remain at work) for their scheduled hours. Operational employees must report to work based on the directives of their division commanders / directors.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION FOR CLOSURES, DELAYED OPENINGS AND EARLY DISMISSALS



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When the Charles County Sheriff's Office closes, delays opening, or announces an early dismissal of administrative operations for any period, and places the employees in an administrative leave status, the Sheriff will compensate the Sheriff's Office employees in the following manner:

1. All critical and required operational employees (FT, FTRH, and PT) who report to work (or remain at work) as scheduled will receive compensatory time at the rate of one hour for each hour of closure, delayed opening, or early dismissal. Compensatory time will be based on regularly published work schedules and made only for the number of hours of any such announced administrative closure. In no case will the credit of compensatory leave exceed twelve (12) hours for any 24-hour period.
2. Non-Essential, Non-critical employees (FT, FTRH, and PT) will not report to work (or remain at work) during any closure, delayed opening, early dismissal, or CODE RED status. They will receive administrative leave for all such instances.

Any employee already on pre-approved leave, sick and safe leave, or who has called in sick or been placed on sick and safe leave, will be charged for leave as previously requested and will not receive administrative leave or compensatory time, except that the Sheriff may grant administrative leave when such leave is awarded as a part of a holiday or special occasion.

The Sheriff may declare closing, delayed opening, or early dismissal of Agency employees independent of the actions of the Charles County Commissioners. In these instances, all aforementioned accounting procedures prevail.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE PENDING AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Administrative leave may be granted for employee respondents who are the subject of an internal investigation to determine the nature and scope of a complaint when the professionalism of the agency and public interest dictate. When administrative leave is approved for use during an OPR investigation, the Notification of Placement on Administrative Leave form (Form #147) will be utilized and served by the respondent's division commander / director, or their designee.

Any employee whose action(s) or use of force in an official capacity, results in a death or serious physical injury will be placed on administrative leave. Additionally, this policy extends to all officers affected by any traumatic incident experienced while working in an official capacity. Officers placed on administrative leave due to use of force or traumatic incidents will be required to have a psychological evaluation and must be cleared, prior to returning to duty.

When an employee has been placed on administrative leave pending an internal investigation, the employee must provide a telephone number they can be reached at during weekday business hours from 0800 - 1600. The employee must be available to respond to a requested location within one hour. Reasonable consideration will be given for the location of the employee's residence. If the employee is unavailable to respond within the required timeframe because of extenuating circumstances, they will immediately notify their Division Commander and be required to use their own leave to cover the period of unavailability. All requests for leave must have their Division Commander's approval.

Officers involved in incidents where their duty weapon is recovered for evidentiary purposes will have that weapon replaced with another agency weapon by the Commander, Training Division or designee if they are not placed in a non-officer status. Officers will be required to qualify with the new weapon as soon as practical.

I. SICK AND SAFE LEAVE

Sick and safe leave is provided to all paid employees and may be used for the qualifying events listed below or for



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other purposes approved by the employee's supervisor.

SICK AND SAFE LEAVE QUALIFYING EVENTS

Sick and safe leave is approved for use for the following qualifying events in accordance with the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act:

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (see FMLA section of policy).
2. To care for or treat the employee's mental or physical illness, injury or condition and to allow the employee to rest and recover from illness or temporary disability that prevents the employee from performing the essential functions of the employee's job.
3. To obtain preventative medical care for the employee or employee's family member, including to allow the employee to keep necessary medical or dental appointments.
4. To care for a family member with a mental or physical illness, injury, or condition, including taking the family member to necessary medical or dental appointments.
5. For maternity or paternity leave.
6. If the absence from work is necessary due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against the employee or the employee's family member:
 - a) and the leave is being used to obtain medical or mental health attention, services from a victim services organization, or legal services or,
 - b) during the time the employee has temporarily relocated due to the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ACCRUAL RATES

1. Full-time employees- Ten (10) hours per month
2. Full-time reduced hours employees- Eight (8) hours per month
3. Part-time employees- Five (5) hours per month
4. Part-time Crossing Guards- Five (5) hours per month, with the exception of their non-worked summer pay periods.

SICK AND SAFE LEAVE USAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. Charges against an employee's sick and safe leave account shall be in increments of one-half (1/2) hour for periods that the employee is absent on approved sick and safe leave.
2. An employee who has exhausted his sick and safe leave account will be charged accrued leave from any of his other leave accounts (annual, compensatory, holiday or etc.).
3. Part-time employees who have exhausted all sick and safe leave will be placed in a leave without pay status.
4. There shall be no advancement of sick and safe leave, except as noted elsewhere in this policy.
5. There is no limit on the amount of sick and safe leave employees may accumulate.
6. Unused sick and safe leave in any year will be automatically carried forward to the next year and remain in the employee's sick and safe leave account until used by the employee or until the employee leaves employment with the Sheriff's Office.
7. Sick and safe leave is intended only to apply to current employment. When an employee leaves a



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position with the Sheriff's Office, there will not be a payment for unused sick and safe leave. However, all full-time and full-time reduced hour employees may receive a retirement benefit for unused sick and safe leave as outlined in the respective retirement program.

8. Any documentation of the qualifying event the supervisor receives from the employee or the employee's physician shall be forwarded immediately to HR. Under no circumstances should originals or copies of medical or legal documentation be kept anywhere in the Agency other than in the employee's confidential file in HR.

NEW EMPLOYEE SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ADVANCE

All full-time and full-time reduced hours employees hired by the Charles County Sheriff's Office are advanced eighty (80) hours of sick and safe leave when they begin employment.

All part-time employees are advanced fifty (50) hours of sick and safe leave when they begin employment.

Employees will begin earning additional sick and safe leave after the advanced sick and safe leave period has elapsed. For example:

1. Full-time employees after eight (8) months
2. Full-time reduced hours employees after ten (10) months
3. Part-time employees after ten (10) months.

Employees shall not earn sick and safe leave during the advanced sick and safe leave period.

Part-time employees transferring to a full-time or full-time reduced hours position will have their existing paid sick and safe leave transferred to the new position. They will begin to accrue sick and safe leave at the rate for the new position immediately, and therefore will not be advanced eighty (80) hours of sick and safe leave.

An employee who is rehired within a year of separation from the Agency will have all unused sick and safe leave reinstated if it was not rolled into their retirement.

The advanced sick and safe leave shall be used in accordance with Agency sick and safe leave policy.

ESTABLISHED EMPLOYEE SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ADVANCE

Sick and safe leave may be advanced by the Sheriff under the following conditions:

1. Only employees eligible to earn sick and safe leave are eligible to receive advanced sick and safe leave.
2. All available accumulated forms of paid leave must be exhausted.
3. The amount of sick and safe leave advanced to the employee's account may not exceed thirty (30) days at any time.
4. Where it is known the employee is to be retired, or where it is anticipated the employee is to be separated, the total advance may not exceed an amount which can be liquidated by subsequent accrual prior to the separation.
5. There must be a reasonable assurance the employee will return to duty.
6. A memo detailing the reason for the request, including the number of days requested and estimated return date, will be submitted through the chain of command to the Sheriff. Medical or legal documentation



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attesting to the necessity for the absence must support the request for advanced sick and safe leave.

7. All advanced sick and safe leave the employee has left upon termination of employment will be returned to the County.
8. The employee has not been required to provide medical / legal documentation under the sick and safe leave abuse section.

SICK AND SAFE LEAVE NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

1. Absent emergency circumstances, employees who are ill or injured and cannot report for duty will advise their supervisor as soon as possible, but no less than one hour prior to their scheduled time to report for duty.
2. Failure to inform the supervisor within one hour of the employee's normal starting time could classify the absence as Absent Without Authorization and the employee may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. For all scheduled medical and dental appointments, employees shall request sick and safe leave in advance through the time keeping system.

SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ABUSE

If there is reason to believe the sick and safe leave privilege has been abused, a Division Commander / Director acting on behalf of the Sheriff may request medical / legal documentation to justify any period of absence. In such cases, the employee will be advised in advance that documentation will be required to support any further granting of sick and safe leave, regardless of duration.

Disciplinary action may be taken if there is reason to believe there has been sick and safe leave abuse. In determining the severity of the discipline, the following shall be considered:

1. the nature and gravity of the offense;
2. the employee's sick and safe leave record;
3. the employee's work record; and
4. any other factors including, but not limited to, extenuating or mitigating circumstances presented by the employee.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

1. Any medical or legal documentation obtained under the sick and safe leave policy or other Agency regulation will be collected and maintained in the employee's separate confidential file in Human Resources.
2. Such files will be treated as confidential records, with the exception that supervisors of the employee may be informed regarding necessary restrictions on the work or duties of the employee and possible necessary accommodations.
3. First aid and safety personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if a medical condition might require emergency treatment.
4. The confidential employee files are held and secured by the Human Resources Administrator.

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY-RELATED SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT



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An employee on sick and safe leave or calling in sick is prohibited from working law enforcement / security-related secondary employment. An employee on sick and safe leave must return and work the next regularly scheduled shift before working any law enforcement / security-related secondary employment.

MANDATED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE USE

The employee shall be placed on sick and safe leave / extended sick and safe leave whenever medical opinion confirms the employee's medical condition may seriously impair his ability to perform the essential functions of his position or may jeopardize the health or safety of the employee or any other person. A commander / director, in coordination with the Administrative Services Division Commander, may order the employee to undergo a fitness for duty medical evaluation. The Human Resources Administrator will facilitate the scheduling of the evaluation.

CIVILIAN RETIREMENT BENEFIT

When a civilian employee retires and has achieved the relevant maximum pension benefit (expressed as a percentage of final average earnings) without applying any unused sick and safe leave to the percentage, the employee may receive a lump-sum payment of the accrued sick leave according to the following formula. This does not apply to Correctional Officers or Police Communications Officers.

1. Civilian employees who have accrued at least five hundred (500) hours, but less than one thousand (1,000) hours of sick and safe leave may receive a lump-sum payment equivalent to one hundred (100) hours at the employee's rate of pay at the time of retirement.
2. Civilian employees who have accrued at least one thousand (1,000) hours of sick and safe leave may receive a lump-sum payment equivalent to two hundred (200) hours at the employee's rate of pay at the time of retirement.

Lump-sum payments of sick and safe leave upon retirement may be modified, if necessary, to conform to the requirements of the federal and / or state tax laws or the requirement of the County's retirement plans.

J. EXTENDED LEAVE

EXTENDED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE

1. Employee Responsibilities:

- a) Notify direct supervisor.
- b) Contact Human Resources and provide written documentation of the qualifying event, such as documentation from their attending physician / health care provider after each medical appointment or legal documentation, directly to the Human Resources Administrator.
- c) If the employee is prescribed medications, the employee will follow the requirements set forth later in this policy.
- d) Sworn police officers who are absent from work on extended sick and safe leave may not wear a police uniform or operate an Agency vehicle for the duration of the extended sick and safe leave period.

2. Supervisor Responsibilities:

- a) After utilizing three (3) days of sick & safe leave, or if the supervisor is aware the employee will be out of work longer than three (3) days, the immediate supervisor will complete the Extended Sick and Safe Leave Form #691 and instruct the employee to contact the Human Resources Administrator for



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further direction.

- b) Extended Sick and Safe Leave Form #691 will be forwarded to the Human Resources Administrator.
- c) The supervisor will not request or accept any medical or legal documentation from the employee. Any such documentation will be provided directly by the employee to HR. Under no circumstances should originals or copies of medical / legal documentation be kept anywhere in the Agency other than in the employee's confidential file in HR.
- d) The immediate supervisor will advise the chain of command that the employee is on extended sick and safe leave.

3. Human Resources Responsibilities:

- a) Upon receipt of the Extended Sick and Safe Leave Form #691, the Human Resources Administrator will make contact with the employee to provide further instruction.
- b) Upon receipt of written medical or legal documentation, Human Resources will review the information provided to determine if the employee should be placed under the provisions of FMLA.
- c) In cases of severe injury or illness of a sworn police or correctional officer, Human Resources will provide the information to the employee's Assistant Sheriff who will determine if the employee should be placed in a non-officer status.
- d) Human Resources will monitor the nature and extent of an employee's illness or incapacitation, the employee's progress toward recovery, the likelihood or expected date of the employee's return to duty, and requests for accommodations.
- e) Human Resources will make appropriate recommendations, supported by written documentation and justification, and maintain a confidential record of all documentation.
- f) Human Resources will maintain communication with the employee's Division Commander / Director regarding the employee's status for the duration of the employee's extended sick and safe leave.
 - Human Resources will advise the Division Commander / Director of the reasons for the leave and of any entitlements to further leave under FMLA and/or the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act.
 - The Division Commander / Director will be responsible for relaying the status of the employee to the employee's chain of command.
 - If the employee is not entitled to further leave, the Division Commander / Director may approve continued use of accumulated sick and safe leave, allow the employee to use other accumulated leave accounts, or deny further leave.

4. Extended Sick and Safe Leave Limitations:

- 1. Employees are subject to the FMLA protections listed elsewhere in this policy when on extended Sick & Safe leave.
 - a) Once FMLA protection has expired or if ineligible for FMLA protection, the Sheriff may order the employee to return to work.
 - b) If ordered, the employee must return to work.
 - c) If the employee refuses, the Sheriff may initiate disciplinary action against the employee for being absent without authorization (AWOL) and refusal to obey a lawful order.
- 2. An employee on extended sick and safe leave shall submit a current medical prognosis and attending physician's statement or appropriate legal documentation to the Human Resources Section at least every thirtieth (30th) calendar day.
- 3. Extended sick and safe leave shall not exceed 180 calendar days for any one injury or illness.



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4. Employees may petition the Sheriff for additional periods of ninety (90) days of sick and safe leave.
5. The Sheriff shall review the request to decide the appropriateness of continuing leave.
6. Employees may be granted up to two (2) additional 90-day periods of leave for a maximum of one (1) year. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored, if applicable.
7. If an employee remains unable to return to duty after using 180 days of sick & safe leave and/or is not authorized an extension by the Sheriff, the employee may request Leave Without Pay (LWOP).
 - a) LWOP may not exceed one year or extend beyond the first anniversary date of the injury or illness. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored, if applicable.

OTHER TYPES OF EXTENDED LEAVE

All requests for more than ten (10) days of any other type of leave, excluding sick and safe leave, must be approved by the employee's Division Commander / Director or designee.

LIMITATIONS WHILE ON EXTENDED LEAVE

1. SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT

- a) Employees on extended sick and safe leave, administrative leave, or disability/workers' compensation leave are prohibited from engaging in security-related secondary employment under any circumstances.
- b) Employees may request approval to work non-security related secondary employment while in this status, provided they follow the procedures below:
 - All requests must be submitted by memorandum through the chain of command to the employee's respective Assistant Sheriff.
 - No secondary employment may be performed during the hours of the day in which the employee is receiving compensation from this Agency.
 - Approved requests will be retained in the employee's personnel file.

2. AGENCY VEHICLES

- a) Employees on extended leave over fifteen (15) calendar days, but less than thirty (30) days (including military leave) may, at the discretion of their Division Commander / Director, be required to park their assigned Agency vehicle at their designated work location, or the CCSO Annex, until their return to work.
- b) Employees on extended leave over thirty (30) calendar days (including military leave) shall be required to park their assigned Agency vehicle at the CCSO Annex. The Commander, Property Management will be notified, so routine maintenance and service can be completed on the vehicle.

K. MEDICATIONS

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS



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1. Any employee prescribed medication who intends to report to work while taking said medication shall inquire whether the drug has any side effects which might interfere with his ability to safely perform the essential functions of his position.
2. If the prescriber advises that the drug could adversely affect the employee's abilities to safely perform his duties as defined in his position description, the employee shall obtain this information in writing from the prescriber and present it to the Human Resources Administrator.
 - a) The written documentation from the prescriber shall include a list of all prescribed medications and indications as to which ones could affect the employee's ability to perform essential job duties.
3. If it is determined the prescribed medication will affect the employee's ability to perform essential job duties, the following actions may be taken:
 - a) The employee may be placed in a modified duty assignment, in accordance with the modified duty policy elsewhere in this policy.
 - b) If an appropriate modified duty assignment is not available or if the effects of the prescribed medication prevent the employee from safely accomplishing a modified duty assignment, the employee will be placed on sick and safe leave.
 - c) For sworn police and correctional officers, if the medication is determined to affect the judgmental and motor skills to a level that rational decision making would be impaired, then that officer will be placed in a temporary non-officer status, as authorized by an Assistant Sheriff, and in accordance with the modified duty policy elsewhere in this policy.

NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

1. Any employee using legal non-prescription medication who feels unable to safely perform the essential functions of his position and who intends to report to work while taking said medication shall inform his supervisor.
2. If there is no other appropriate duty to which the affected employee can be assigned, the supervisor shall place the employee on sick and safe leave.

L. RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT

1. It is the responsibility of all employees to report a fellow employee who appears to be suffering from a mental or physical disability, which interferes with the employee's ability to safely perform the essential functions of their job, to their supervisor.
2. The supervisor will take immediate action to ensure the safety of Agency employees and the public.
3. If the employee is found to be unable to safely perform the essential functions of his job, the supervisor will make notification through the chain of command to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff.
4. If, after the review, it is determined that the employee needs to undergo a Fitness for Duty examination, the Commander of the Administrative Services Division will advise the Human Resources Administrator to schedule the Fitness for Duty examination to determine suitability for retention in active services.
 - a) A memo detailing the concerns will be drafted by the reporting supervisor and forwarded to the Human Resources Administrator for notification to the doctor performing the Fitness for Duty.



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3-609 CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE SICK LEAVE BANK
(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Sick Leave Bank (SLB) was established to provide additional sick leave days for Sheriff's Office employees who have exhausted or will exhaust all of their accumulated sick and safe leave, holiday leave, and personal leave and are facing an absence due to a serious health condition. Other than the limitations listed in this policy, a serious health condition will generally have the same meaning as listed within the FMLA policy:

Serious Health Condition - an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

1. inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential care facility; or
2. a period of incapacity requiring absence of more than three calendar days from work, school, or other regular daily activities that also involves continuing treatment by, or under the supervision of, a health care provider, where the health care provider finds that the employee is unable to work at all, or is unable to perform any one of the essential functions of the employee's position; or
3. any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care; or
4. any period of incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.); or
5. a period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective; or
6. any absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by, or on referral by, a health care provider for a condition that likely would result in incapacity of more than three days if left untreated.

EXEMPTIONS

1. The Sick Leave Bank may not be used for lost time due to injury or illness which qualifies the member for workers' compensation benefits. The use of the Sick Leave Bank is meant to be used in conjunction with the Agency's policies regarding FMLA and may extend beyond the FMLA period.
2. The Agency Employee Leave Donation Program is a distinct and separate policy.
3. The Sick Leave Bank policy only applies to those employees who are eligible and have elected to participate in the program.

SICK LEAVE BANK PARTICIPATION

1. Any Charles County Sheriff's Office employee who accrues sick and safe leave is eligible to participate in the SLB.
2. Participation in the SLB is voluntary for all eligible employees.
3. Employees who are enrolled in the SLB may terminate their participation at any time by submitting a memorandum requesting termination from the SLB, to the Deputy Director, Human Resources.

NEW EMPLOYEE ENROLLMENT IN THE SLB

1. An eligible employee may apply to join the SLB once they have been employed by the Sheriff Office for six months and have a sick and safe leave balance of at least:



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- a) Full-time: 60 hours
 - b) Full-time reduced: 50 hours
 - c) Part-time: 30 hours'
2. The Deputy Director of Human Resources will forward a Sick Leave Bank Application (form #232) to the employee prior to their six-month anniversary.
 3. The employee has up to thirty days from their six-month anniversary date to complete the application and return to the Human Resources Section.
 4. If the employee chooses not to enroll or is not eligible to enroll due to their current sick and safe leave balance, the employee will not be able to enroll in the SLB until the next open enrollment period.

CURRENT EMPLOYEE ENROLLMENT IN THE SLB

1. An eligible employee may apply to join the SLB if they have a sick and safe leave balance of at least:
 - a) Full-time: 80 hours
 - b) Full-time reduced: 70 hours
 - c) Part-time: 40 hours
2. Eligible employees may join the SLB annually during the open enrollment period.
3. To join the SLB, the employee must complete a Sick Leave Bank Application (form #232) and forward to the Deputy Director of Human Resources.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

1. The month of May will be designated as the annual open enrollment period for joining the SLB.
2. Anyone applying to join the SLB must submit their application to Deputy Director of Human Resources by close of business on the last business day in May.

SICK LEAVE BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

INITIAL CONTRIBUTION

To enroll in the Charles County Sheriff's Office SLB, an eligible employee must make an initial contribution of sick and safe leave, annual, or compensatory leave to the bank at the time of enrollment in the following amounts:

1. Full-time: 16 hours
2. Full-time reduced: 14 hours
3. Part-time: 8 hours

An employee may use any combination of sick and safe leave, annual, or compensatory leave to make up the required number of hours.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

Once enrolled in the SLB, each employee will contribute additional sick and safe, annual, or compensatory leave



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every year in the following amounts:

1. Full time: 8 hours
2. Full-time reduced: 6 hours
3. Part-time: 4 hours

Only employees who have been members of the SLB for at least 12 full months will be required to make the annual contribution.

The annual contribution will occur automatically during the month of May unless the employee has been removed from or has voluntarily terminated their participation in the program prior to May 1st.

The annual contribution may be amended as deemed necessary by the Sick Leave Bank Board (SLBB) if an emergency contribution is necessary.

WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION

1. Upon separation from the Agency or termination of participation in the SLB, any contributions made by the employee will remain part of the SLB and will not be returned to the employee.
2. Employees retiring from the Agency may elect to make a one-time lump sum contribution of their unused sick and safe leave balance to the SLB.
 - a) The amount of contributed sick and safe leave that may be donated will be calculated in one of two ways:
 - Prior to the sick and safe leave being used to calculate the employee's pension through the County.
 - Any balance of sick and safe leave left over after the employee's pension is calculated through the County.
 - b) Sick and safe leave used in the calculation of an employee's pension may not be contributed to the SLB.
 - c) The Retiree Sick Leave Balance Donation Form #63 will be utilized for donations to the SLB.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SICK LEAVE BANK

The administration of the SLB shall be the responsibility of the Sick Leave Bank Board (SLBB). The board shall have the following responsibilities:

1. The proper, fair, and equitable administration of the SLB.
2. The maintenance of the hours maintained in the bank.
3. Enrollment in and donations to the SLB.
4. The preparation of annual reports of the status of the SLB which will be available to all employees who are members of the SLB.

SICK LEAVE BANK BOARD MEMBERS

The SLBB will be a five-member panel. To approve any application for SLB use, the board must have a majority vote in favor of the request. The board make up will be as follows:



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1. Assistant Sheriff, Administration Bureau
2. Commander, Administrative Services Division
3. Deputy Director, Human Resources
4. FOP Representative
5. CCCOA Representative

REQUESTS FOR USE OF THE SLB

1. The SLBB shall meet as needed to accomplish their responsibilities.
2. The SLBB shall meet to review all requests for leave from the SLB within five business days of receiving the request.
3. The SLBB shall provide written notification to the employee of their decision within five business days after the request is reviewed.
4. The SLBB proceedings shall remain confidential.
5. If the SLBB initially denied a request for SLB use and there is a change in the employee's condition or diagnosis, the employee may reapply thirty days after the initial denial. The change of condition or diagnosis must be documented on the required FMLA Certification form.

SICK LEAVE BANK DATABASE

1. A Sick Leave Bank database will be maintained by the Deputy Director of Human Resources to allow for tracking of membership, contribution, balances and uses of the SLB.
2. Access to the database will be restricted to the following personnel:
 - a) Sheriff
 - b) Chief of Staff
 - c) Assistant Sheriffs
 - d) Commander, Administrative Services
 - e) Deputy Director of Human Resources
 - f) Deputy Director of Budgeting
 - g) SLBB members
 - h) Timekeepers
3. Only the Deputy Director of Human Resources and / or their designee will have the authority to enter information into the SLB database.

EMERGENCY LEAVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BANK

The SLBB shall monitor the SLB balance to ensure an adequate number of hours are available for its members. In the event the board feels an emergency contribution is necessary to maintain a sufficient balance they will do the following:

1. Make a modification to the annual contribution amount to bring the leave balance to the level needed.
2. This change will be announced at least 30 days prior to the annual contribution period.



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3. Any employee not wishing to contribute the adjusted amount will have the opportunity to terminate their participation in the SLB.
4. The Assistant Sheriff of the Administrative Bureau, Commander of the Administrative Services Division, Deputy Director of Human Resources, FOP and CCCOA representatives will review this policy annually in March of each year and will submit recommendations by April 1st to the Chief of Staff.

REQUESTING LEAVE FROM THE SICK LEAVE BANK

ELIGIBILITY

1. Only participants who anticipate the need for more than three days of SLB time will be eligible for requesting the use of the SLB.

APPLICATION FOR USE

1. Complete an Application for Sick Leave Bank Use (form #218).
2. The SLB Use form shall be completed and submitted through their chain of command to the Deputy Director, Human Resources 30 days prior to the anticipated exhaustion of leave.
3. Any subsequent applications to request additional time for the same injury / illness shall be completed and submitted within ten days of the depletion of leave.
4. Prior to the SLBB reviewing any applications, the employee must also submit an FMLA Certification form to Human Resources.
 - a) The form must indicate the physician's diagnosis of the injury or illness as well as a prognosis.
 - b) The FMLA Certification form must be fully completed by the physician before the application will be considered for approval by the SLBB.
5. If the employee is incapacitated and unable to complete the application process, the employee's supervisor may initiate the process on the employee's behalf.

REQUEST FOR INTERMITTENT LEAVE

If the employee is requesting intermittent leave for the same injury or illness or a combination of consecutive and intermittent leave, the following will apply:

1. The FMLA Certification form must specifically note that the employee must be absent from work at intermittent times for necessary medical reasons related to the illness / injury.
2. The employee will submit a SLB Physician's Re-evaluation (form #219) every 30 days, stating that continued intermittent medical care is necessary and directly related to the original illness / injury.

RESTRICTIONS / NEWLY ACCRUED LEAVE

1. No more than thirty cumulative working days shall be granted for the first request for use of the SLB.
 - a) The employee may apply for subsequent extensions of 30-day blocks of time, if necessary, by submitting a new Application for Sick Leave Bank Use (form #218) and a SLB Physician's Re-Evaluation (form #219).



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2. While using leave from the SLB, employees shall continue to exhaust all accrued sick and safe leave, holiday leave, and personal leave as it is earned.
 - a) The timekeeper will deduct the employee's sick and safe leave, holiday leave and personal leave as soon as it is accrued.
 - b) Any sick and safe leave accrued as the result of a year-end annual leave rollover shall be exhausted as well.

LIMITATIONS ON SICK LEAVE BANK USE

An employee who has been approved / authorized to be placed in a modified duty status and provided a modified duty assignment, will not be eligible to utilize the SLB if they refuse the modified duty assignment.

The SLB will only be used for the employee's own personal illness or injuries.

Returning to work cancels any unused SLB time previously provided and returns the unused portion to the SLB unless the employee has previously been approved for intermittent leave approval or a modified duty schedule.

Any employee with documented sick and safe leave abuse will not be eligible to utilize the SLB for period of 180 days from the infraction. Documents to be reviewed shall be the employee's most recent performance evaluation and their leave record. The SLBB reserves the right to terminate an employee's membership in the SLB for documented sick and safe leave abuse.

3-610 INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. ON DUTY INJURY / ILLNESS-DISABILITY/ WORKER'S COMPENSATION
- C. DENIAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR LINE-OF-DUTY INJURY CLAIM
- D. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE GRANTED FOR LINE-OF-DUTY INJURY CLAIM

A. PURPOSE

Officers disabled while in the line of duty receive full salary for the period of temporary disability without charge against leave balances, provided all of the following:

1. The disability is temporary.
2. The disability resulted from an injury or illness sustained directly in the performance of the officer's duties.
3. Administrative leave is approved once the claim is accepted by the insurance administrator, in accordance with the below policy.

An officer may be placed on administrative leave when they incur illness, injury, disability, or a medical condition preventing them from performing the essential duties of their position. Officers on administrative leave because of a line of duty injury or illness will adhere to the procedures elsewhere in this policy.

FMLA protection will run concurrently while the employee is out of work for the line of duty injury.

Human Resources shall be the point of contact for the employee while they are on administrative leave for the injury.

Employees shall assign to the Agency such non-medical benefits as awarded for the temporary disability by the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission.



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B. ON DUTY INJURY / ILLNESS—DISABILITY / WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ACUTE REPORTING

1. When an employee is injured on the job, a Report of Injury or Illness, Form #227, shall be completed and submitted to Human Resources within twenty-four (24) hours of the injury.
2. The employee, or in the case the injuries prevent such preparation, the supervisor, shall prepare Form #227.
3. Supervisors shall investigate all injuries.
4. The investigation shall be completed on Form #227 before the end of the shift during which the injury occurred.
5. Should additional space be required, a continuation page can be submitted with Form #227. A separate report is not needed.
6. Form #227 and any attachments, to include discharge papers and doctors' notes, will be submitted directly to Human Resources.
 - a) Any medical treatment administered because of an injury or job-related illness requires documentation from a physician, which must accompany the report.
 - b) Any subsequent reports / documents submitted regarding the same injury shall be submitted directly to the Human Resources Section. Examples of such documents are medical prognosis and fit for duty certification.
 - c) The employee is required to attend all follow-up appointments as recommended by a physician and provide copies of supplemental reports to the Human Resources Section as noted above. Administrative leave to attend medical appointments will be granted as stated elsewhere in this policy.
 - d) The employee must also comply with prescription medication requirements as outlined elsewhere in the AOM.
7. Human Resources will provide a medical claim number to the employee. This claim number is needed so the employee can schedule follow-up appointments. It also improves billing issues and reduces unexpected problems for the employee.
8. It is the employee's responsibility to report on-the-job injuries to the Maryland Worker's Compensation Commission.
9. Only injuries which occur in the course of the employee fulfilling the duties of his employment are reported as workers' compensation injuries.

CHRONIC INJURY REPORTING

1. In the case of a job-related injury or illness that has occurred over the course of time, the employee is required to report the illness via a Report of Injury or Illness Form #227 within 24 hours of the diagnosis.
2. It is the employee's responsibility to report on-the-job injuries to the Maryland Worker's Compensation Commission.

LEAVE DURING WORKER'S COMPENSATION PROCESSING



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1. An employee who misses work due to a reported on-duty injury or illness will be placed on Administrative Leave until the case has been reviewed and accepted or denied by the Agency's insurance company.
2. If the claim is denied, the employee will be required to use his own accrued leave, which will be applied retroactively.

C. DENIAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR LINE-OF-DUTY INJURY CLAIM

Administrative leave for Line-of-Duty injuries shall not be granted:

1. Once the Agency's insurance company has determined the employee's disability is not work related.
 - a) In such cases the employee shall be required to utilize accrued leave.
2. Once a medical prognosis has established that an employee is not disabled.
 - a) In such cases, the employee may request another form of paid leave.
 - b) The Sheriff will consider the request and may grant additional forms of paid leave as he deems appropriate.
3. Should workers compensation determine the injury is work related at a later date, the employee's leave will be credited back to them and Administrative Leave will be utilized per established policy.

IF USE OF OTHER FORMS OF LEAVE ARE GRANTED

1. The employee will follow the provisions in the FMLA section of this policy.

INELIGIBLE FOR / EXPIRATION OF FMLA PROTECTION

1. Once FMLA protection has expired or if ineligible for FMLA protection, the Sheriff may order the employee to return to work.
2. If ordered, the employee must return to work.
3. If the employee refuses, the Sheriff may initiate disciplinary action against the employee for being AWOL and refusal to obey a lawful order.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE GRANTED FOR LINE-OF-DUTY INJURY CLAIM

Administrative leave for a Line-of-Duty injury is limited to the period specified in the attending physician's statement, subject to the following:

1. Administrative leave may be granted for up to thirty (30) calendar days based on a single attending physician's statement.
2. An employee on administrative leave shall submit a current medical prognosis and attending physician's statement to the Human Resources Section at least every thirtieth (30th) calendar day to be eligible for additional leave.
3. Administrative leave for Line-of-Duty injury shall not exceed 180 calendar days for any one injury or illness.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION



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1. Employees may petition the Sheriff for additional periods of ninety (90) days of administrative leave.
2. The Sheriff shall review the request, along with the attending physician's statement, to decide the appropriateness of continuing leave.
3. Officers may be granted up to two (2) additional 90-day periods of leave for a maximum of one (1) year.
4. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored.

DENIAL OF THE EXTENSION

If an employee remains unable to return to duty after using 180 days of administrative leave and is not authorized an extension by the Sheriff, one of the following apply as determined by the Sheriff:

Option 1

If the employee is receiving worker's compensation, the agency may notify the Worker's Compensation Third Party Administrator to provide the Temporary Total Disability (TTD) payment directly to the employee.

1. The TTD payment is $66 \frac{2}{3}$ of the employee's salary and is tax free. The employee will be in a Leave Without Pay Status until they return to work.
2. LWOP may not exceed one year or extend beyond the first anniversary date of the injury or illness.
3. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored.
4. The employee is responsible for arranging payment for any and all benefit deductions (health insurance etc.) which would normally be debited from their pay. Non-payment may result in a cancellation of their benefits.

Option 2

If the employee is receiving worker's compensation, the agency may notify the Worker's Compensation Third Party Administrator to provide the Temporary Total Disability (TTD) payment directly to the employee.

1. The TTD payment is $66 \frac{2}{3}$ of the employee's salary and is tax free.
2. The Sheriff may allow the employee to use their own remaining leave to supplement the remainder of their pay.
3. This status may not exceed one year or extend beyond the first anniversary date of the injury or illness.
4. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored.
5. The employee is responsible for arranging payment for any and all benefit deductions (health insurance etc.) which would normally be debited from their pay. Non-payment may result in a cancellation of their benefits.

Option 3

If the employee is not receiving worker's compensation, they may be placed on sick and safe leave or other forms of paid leave as deemed appropriate by the Sheriff.

1. Provisions noted under the extended Sick & Safe leave and FMLA policies will apply.
2. The employee may request Leave Without Pay (LWOP).
3. LWOP may not exceed one year or extend beyond the first anniversary date of the injury or illness.
4. Before this point, consideration of a disability or medical retirement will have been explored.
5. When in a LWOP status, the employee is responsible for arranging payment for any and all benefit deductions (health insurance etc.) which would normally be debited from their pay. Non-payment may result in a cancellation of their benefits.



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ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Employees may be granted administrative leave in half-day increments for follow-up medical appointments after a return to duty.
 - a) In order to be eligible, employees must submit a doctor's note for the appointment.

3-611 DISABILITY/MEDICAL RETIREMENT

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

The Agency has a Disability Pension Plan as part of the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plans administered by the County. An explanation of Disability Retirement provisions are located within the following retirement plans:

1. Sworn
2. Correctional Officers
3. Communications

The Non-Public Safety Plan does not contain a Disability Retirement provision.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The procedures for a Disability Retirement Review are contained within the "Charles County Sheriff's Disability Pension Plan" document amended and restated effective July 1, 1995.

An Employee Application is required. This form, titled "Application for Disability Retirement" Form #860, is located on the Intranet under the forms section. An employee may submit an application, or the Sheriff may apply in writing, to the Disability Review Board recommending Disability Retirement under the Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan for an employee.

Additional terms and requirements are located within the "Charles County Sheriff's Disability Pension Plan" document amended and restated effective July 1, 1995. A copy of this document is available through the Human Resources Section. The Human Resources Administrator may answer any question regarding the Disability Retirement process.

3-612 BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO INJURED WORKERS - CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

It is the employee's responsibility to file a claim with the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission when they are seeking benefits for an on the job injury. The Agency will provide a Worker's Compensation Commission Employee Claim Form if requested. The Commission makes a decision concerning any benefits due an employee as a result of an on-the-job injury. If the Commission determines the employee is entitled to compensation, the Sheriff will provide the following benefits:

1. The Sheriff will pay the employee an amount necessary to make up the difference between the employee's workers' compensation check and his normal pay rate. This will be effective for the first thirty (30) calendar days an employee is away from work.
2. The insurance carrier will pay medical costs incurred as a result of the employee's injuries up to the limits provided for by the Workers' Compensation Commission.



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3. Should the employee be away from work for more than thirty (30) days, he will be allowed to use accrued leave at a rate equal to the difference between the workers' compensation check and the employee's normal pay rate. The employee may continue to receive a combined amount from the Sheriff and the Workers' Compensation Commission equal to his normal rate of pay.
4. Should the employee exhaust his accrued leave because of long-term injury under this section, the Sheriff may, in his sole discretion, advance sick and safe leave. If sick and safe leave were not advanced, the employee would then receive only the workers' compensation check. Employees who are receiving only a worker's' compensation check must make arrangements to pay their portion of employee benefit payments. Benefits will lapse for those employees who do not make such payments.

3-613 FIT FOR DUTY EXAMINATION

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING

1. All Agency sworn, correctional and court security officers are required to submit to physical and psychological examinations prior to beginning employment.
2. The Pre-Employment / Recruitment Unit will schedule these examinations with the Charles County Sheriff's Office's designated physician with the costs being paid by the Agency.

EMPLOYEE TESTING

1. Any employee may be required at any time to submit to a physical and/or psychological examination, at the Agency's expense, by a physician so the Sheriff may determine the ability of the employee to perform the essential functions of an assigned position.
2. The need for this examination will be determined by the circumstances of the immediate case.
3. Employee examinations which are paid for by the Agency shall be scheduled by the Human Resources Section.
4. A lack of compliance by the employee with such a directive is justification for removal of the employee from the position.
5. Employees certified by the Sheriff's physician as fit for duty must return to work or vacate the position.

3-614 EMPLOYEE JOB-INDUCED PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

In the event an employee comes forward and states that he has been diagnosed by a mental health professional as suffering from a job induced psychological disorder, supervisors are instructed to follow the same reporting procedures as in injuries sustained on duty.

It shall be the appropriate Assistant Sheriff's responsibility to determine duty status and any further action (suspension, reassignment, modified duty, etc.), pending resolution of the case.

3-615 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

A. PURPOSE



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- B. DEFINITIONS FOR FMLA PURPOSES
- C. TYPES OF LEAVE PROTECTION UNDER FMLA
- D. MILITARY FAMILY LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS
- E. FMLA PROCEDURES
- F. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
- G. USE OF PAID AND UNPAID LEAVE
- H. REPORTING WHILE ON LEAVE
- I. FMLA COORDINATION WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- J. EMPLOYEE STATUS AND BENEFIT ACCRUAL DURING FMLA
- K. SPOUSES EMPLOYED BY THE CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- L. RETURNING TO WORK

A. PURPOSE

The Sheriff's Office will provide family and medical leave protection as required by and in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. An "eligible employee" of the Agency shall be granted up to 12 work weeks of leave during any 12-month rolling period for one or more of the following events:

1. Because of the birth of a child of the employee and in order to care for such child.
2. Because of the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care.
3. In order to care for the spouse, child, or parent of the employee if such spouse, child, or parent has a serious health condition
4. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position.

FMLA is a protection of employment status, not a type of accrued leave. While under FMLA protection, the employee uses their previously accrued leave.

B. DEFINITIONS FOR FMLA PURPOSES

Eligible employee- For purposes of FMLA, an "eligible employee" is an employee who has worked for the Agency for at least 12 months and has worked at least 1250 hours in the past 12 months.

Incapacity - the inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular activities due to a "serious health condition," treatment therefore, or recovery therefrom.

Parent - the biological parent of an employee or an individual who acted in the capacity of a parent ("loco parentis") to the employee when the employee was a child. Parents in- law are not included under FMLA protection.

Serious Health Condition - an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

1. inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential care facility; or
2. a period of incapacity requiring absence of more than three calendar days from work, school, or other regular daily activities that also involves continuing treatment by, or under the supervision of, a health care provider, where the health care provider finds that the employee is unable to work at all, or is unable to perform any one of the essential functions of the employee's position; or
3. any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care; or
4. any period of incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.); or



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5. a period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective; or
6. any absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by, or on referral by, a health care provider for a condition that likely would result in incapacity of more than three consecutive days if left untreated.

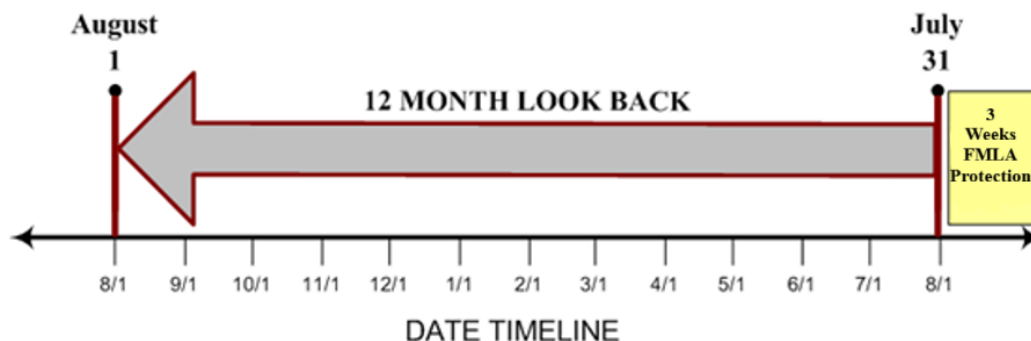
Examples of specific conditions cited by the regulations include, but are not limited to: pre- and post-natal care, heart attack, heart conditions requiring bypass or valve operations, cancer, back conditions requiring extensive therapy or surgical procedures, stroke, severe respiratory problems, spinal injuries, pneumonia, emphysema, severe arthritis, severe nervous disorders, injuries caused by serious accidents on or off the job, treatment for allergies, stress, and substance abuse.

Son or Daughter - a biological, adopted, or foster child; a stepchild, legal ward, or a “child” of a person acting as a parent (“loco parentis”). A child must be under the age of 18, unless the child is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

Spouse - a husband or wife.

12-Month Rolling Period – as outlined in the Department of Labor’s FMLA Fact Sheet #28H, refers to a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA protection. Under the “rolling” 12-month period, each time an employee uses FMLA protection, the remaining entitlement would be the balance of the 12 weeks which has not been used during the immediately preceding 12 months.

Example #1: An employee requests three weeks of FMLA protection to begin July 31. The employer looks back over the past 12 months (from July 31 to the previous August 1) to see if any FMLA protection had been used. Since the employee had not used any FMLA protection during the previous 12 months, they are entitled to the three weeks they requested, and have nine more weeks available.

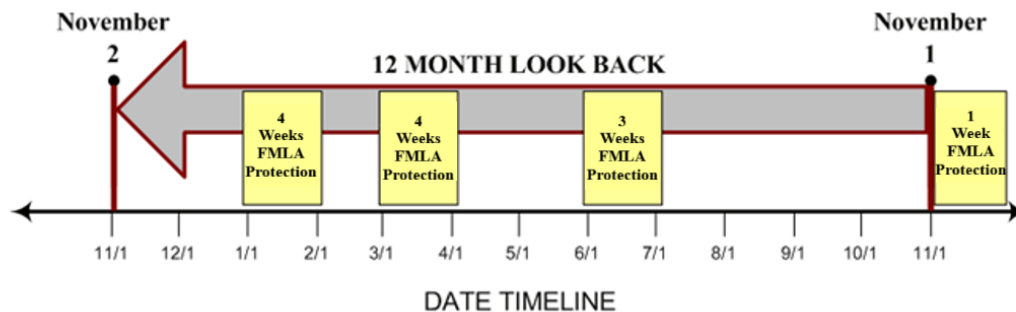


Example #2: Another employee requests two weeks of FMLA protection to begin on November 1. The employer looks back over the past 12 months (from November 1 back to the previous November 2) and sees that this employee had used four weeks of FMLA protection beginning January 1, four weeks beginning March 1, and three weeks beginning June 1, for a total of 11 weeks during the previous year. They now have only 1 week of FMLA-protected leave available. After they take one week in November, the next FMLA protected leave they can take will begin January 1, as the days of their previous January “roll off” the leave year.



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C. TYPES OF LEAVE PROTECTION UNDER FMLA

Regular – An employee needs time off for a continuous uninterrupted block of time (i.e., October 1 - December 8).

Intermittent – FMLA protection used in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. This may be in the form of hours or days.

Military Family Leave – Exceptions to FMLA to cover eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status, which may extend the protection from 12 to 26 weeks under certain circumstances.

Reduced – A protection schedule that reduces an employee's usual number of working hours per work week, or hours per work day. A reduced protection schedule is a change in the employee's schedule for a period of time, normally from full-time to part-time.

**** Note**** If an employee needs to utilize intermittent or a reduced schedule type of protection, the Agency reserves the right to temporarily transfer the employee to a position with equivalent pay and benefits which better accommodate the employee's recurring leave.

D. MILITARY FAMILY LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

QUALIFYING EXIGENCIES

Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active-duty status, may use their 12-week protection entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies include, but are not limit to, the following:

1. Attending certain military events.
2. Arranging for alternative childcare.
3. Addressing certain financial and legal arrangements.
4. Attending certain counseling sessions.
5. Attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

SPECIAL DEFINITION OF "SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS"

1. The FMLA definitions of "serious injury or illness" for current service members and veterans are distinct



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from the FMLA definition of “serious health condition”.

2. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 expanded the definition of a serious injury or illness for both current service members and veterans to include serious injuries or illnesses that result from a condition that existed before the service member’s active-duty service and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty.
3. Employees should contact Human Resources Section for particulars pertaining to these definitions.

SPECIAL FMLA EXTENSION

FMLA also includes a special protection entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered service member during a single 12-month period. A covered service member is:

1. A current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness.
2. A veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA protection to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

E. FMLA PROCEDURES

FORESEEABLE LEAVE

Employees anticipating an FMLA qualifying event must contact Human Resources to obtain an FMLA information packet containing the following items:

1. FMLA definition packet
2. Application for FMLA Protection Form #515
3. FMLA “Serious Health Care” form
4. U.S. Department of Labor Certificate of Health Care Provider form
5. Physical and Functional Evaluation Form #169
6. “Your Rights under FMLA.”

Employees requesting FMLA should fill out the Application for Family or Medical Leave Form #515, and submit it to Human Resources 30 days prior to the start of leave. Applications for protection may be obtained from Human Resources.

UNFORESEEABLE LEAVE

When the leave is not foreseeable, employees should notify their immediate supervisor as soon as practical (within one or two business days) of the need for FMLA protection. The request will then be forwarded to Human Resources for review.

1. If an employee is incapacitated, the employee’s supervisor will notify Human Resources of the illness / injury. Human Resources may ask for assistance in getting the necessary paperwork to the incapacitated employee.
2. Supervisors and Human Resources are required to ensure timekeepers are immediately informed of potential FMLA qualifying requests and sick and safe leave requests exceeding three consecutive days.



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3. Employees must complete the Application for FMLA Protection form #515 within 15 days after beginning the unforeseeable leave and provide supporting medical documentation.

F. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

An employee requesting leave protection under FMLA will provide certification as indicated in the Act.

1. The U.S. Department of Labor Form WH-380, Certificate of Health Care Provider, will be used for this purpose.
2. This certification must be completed and returned at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the protected leave when leave is foreseeable.
3. When leave is not foreseeable, the form must be submitted as soon as practical (one or two business days), following the FMLA protection request.
4. If necessary, the Agency may require a second examination by a health care provider of its choice, at its own expense.
5. Failure to provide medical certification when requested may result in denial of FMLA protection until such certification is received.

G. USE OF PAID AND UNPAID LEAVE

The Agency requires **all** paid leave to be exhausted prior to the use of unpaid leave.

1. The order in which leave is debited from the employee's accounts may vary based on the qualifying FMLA event.
2. If the event qualifies for the use of sick and safe leave, as stated in the Sick and Safe Leave policy, employees may debit their accrued sick and safe leave account first.
3. If the event does not qualify for sick and safe leave, employees may debit their other accrued leave accounts first.
4. Unpaid leave, while covered under the FMLA, is not the same as the Agency's Leave Without Pay Policy. An employee does not have to apply for unpaid leave during the specified 12-week period of FMLA.

H. REPORTING WHILE ON LEAVE

Employees on leave must contact Human Resources by the first and the fifteenth of each month regarding the status of their condition and intent to return to work.

The employee must notify Human Resources if there is a change in status or return date. Human Resources will keep the time keepers and supervisors informed of their employee's FMLA status whenever a change in status arises.

I. FMLA COORDINATION WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Days off due to a work-related injury will be designated as FMLA protection if the criteria for FMLA protection is



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met.

Procedures for reporting injuries for Workers' Compensation remain unchanged.

J. EMPLOYEE STATUS AND BENEFIT ACCRUAL DURING FMLA

DURING PAID LEAVE

1. Employees who are being paid while on leave through use of their leave accounts will continue to have payroll deductions for health insurance premiums as well as any other deductions for programs the employee is participating in at time of leave (i.e., additional life insurance, retirement, etc.).
2. The employee will also continue to earn and accrue annual and sick and safe leave in accordance with Agency policy.

DURING UNPAID LEAVE

1. The employee will not earn annual, sick or safe, or any other type of leave.
2. Employees who are in an unpaid status during FMLA (either had no leave to use or their leave accounts have been exhausted) will be responsible for paying their portion of the cost of health, life, or other benefits provided as part of their employment.
3. If the employee does not pay the outstanding health insurance premiums within 30 days of the due date, the employee's health insurance may be canceled due to non-payment of premiums.
4. If the employee does not return to work at the end of FMLA protection that included an unpaid period, he will be required to reimburse the Agency for the payments made to cover the total cost of employee benefits.

K. SPOUSES EMPLOYED BY THE CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Spouses who are both employed by the Agency, and are both eligible for FMLA protection, may be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks of leave during the rolling 12 month period, if the leave is taken for one of the following reasons:

1. For the birth of the employees' son or daughter or to care for the child after birth.
2. For placement of a son or daughter with the employees for adoption or foster care, or to care for the child after placement.
3. To care for an employee's parent with a serious health condition.

L. RETURNING TO WORK

Employees utilizing FMLA protection for their own serious health condition, and who are now ready to return to work, must submit a completed Physical and Functional Evaluation Form #169 to Human Resources.

1. The attending physician must certify the returning employee is capable of performing his job functions and any restrictions which may apply.
2. Employees returning from FMLA protection are entitled to be reinstated, if qualified, to the same or an



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equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment.

3-616 MILITARY LEAVE

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF DUTY
- C. SCHEDULED MONTHLY DRILLS
- D. FIVE-YEAR CUMULATIVE SERVICE
- E. HONORABLE RELEASE
- F. TIMELY RETURN TO AGENCY DUTIES
- G. RETURN FROM MILITARY DUTY
- H. FOP & CCCOA MILITARY LEAVE BENEFITS
- I. MILITARY LEAVE WITH PAY
- J. MILITARY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY
- K. USE OF LEAVE OTHER THAN MILITARY LEAVE
- L. GAP PAY

A. PURPOSE

The Sheriff recognizes the importance of military service and specifically the commitment of the National Guard members and reservists employed by the Agency. This policy is established to provide necessary scheduling flexibility for those affected, while maintaining adequate resources to accomplish the goals and mission of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

The following requirements are in compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994, commonly referred to as USERRA. According to USERRA, to be protected under the Act, employees using military leave must:

- Have given written or verbal notice to the Agency prior to the need for leave, except when precluded by military necessity.
- Not have exceeded the five-year cumulative limit on periods of service (not including time spent for required drills, annual training, and other skills training the reservist participates in). Some military orders are specifically exempt from the five-year standard;
- Have been released from military service honorably.
- Report back to work in a timely manner, as outlined under USERRA guidelines.

B. ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF DUTY

Due to the critical nature of the employee's position within the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the possible necessity of reaching an employee while on military leave, the employee must provide certain information to his division commander / director and Human Resources, through the chain of command. The following information will be provided at the time of hire, when an employee joins the armed forces, or when a reservist changes reserve units:

- The name of the employee's reserve unit commander.



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- The location of the employee's reserve unit.
- A phone number where the commander of the military unit may be reached by the employee's division commander / director.

WRITTEN NOTICE

Employees of the Sheriff's Office who are called to active duty are required to give written notice of the upcoming absence to their immediate supervisor prior to the beginning of the absence. Employees are required to notify their supervisor immediately upon receiving orders. A copy of the orders will be forwarded to the Deputy Director, Human Resources.

Employees will not be asked or required to find a replacement for their scheduled shifts when taking leave for military purposes.

For military activations / deployments exceeding 180 days, the following protocol will be followed. This protocol may also be followed for military activations/deployments less than 180 days as deemed necessary by the Sheriff or his designee.

- The Deputy Director, Human Resources will be the employee's point of contact during deployment, and a process for communication with the deployed member will be established.
- The Deputy Director, Human Resources will provide the employee with a Deployment Checklist, Form #167, detailing what actions are required before deployment, during deployment and post-deployment.
- The employee and Deputy Director of Human Resources will utilize the Deployment Checklist Form #167 to make sure required tasks are addressed before, during and after deployment. Each section of the checklist details the person or section responsible for a list of items needing to be addressed or secured. The employee, Deputy Director of Human Resources and the employee's Commander / Supervisor will be provided copies of the checklist for their records.
- The Commander / Director, Administrative Services or designee, will arrange for out-processing, including an exit interview, as well as the in-processing at the end of the deployment, including a re-entry interview.
- The employee will arrange for storage of Agency-owned equipment during deployment, by following the instructions listed on Form #167 Deployment Checklist. Equipment required to be turned in for safe storage during the employee's absence shall include all Agency-issued firearms, tasers, MDTs or laptops, Agency keys / key cards or wristbands, Agency employee identification cards, portable radios and vehicles.
- The Deputy Director, Human Resources will notify the Commander, Training Division of the employee's upcoming deployment dates. Upon the employee's return, the employee will be temporarily assigned to the Training Division. The Training Division will provide any necessary initial or refresher training, weapons qualifications, and steps for reintegration, as appropriate. The employee will review and sign off on policy changes through the document management system.

C. MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISES

Members of the National Guard who have an advance schedule of upcoming military training exercises will provide documentation to their supervisor, along with any other information helpful in planning for the employee's absence. A copy of the employee's drill schedule and Active Duty Training (ADT) will be forwarded to Human Resources and placed in the employee's personnel file.



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D. FIVE-YEAR CUMULATIVE SERVICE

Employees will not be eligible for protection under USERRA if their cumulative length of military service while working for the Agency exceeds five years. Some military orders are specifically exempt from the five-year standard.

NOTE: Mandated National Guard and reserve training requirements and service performed on active duty during times of war or national emergency, or if the military member is activated by the President of the United States for domestic operations (encampment) are excluded from this limitation.

E. HONORABLE RELEASE

Any employee of this Agency who receives or has previously received a dishonorable, bad conduct, other than honorable discharge from any military service will not be eligible for protection under USERRA.

F. TIMELY RETURN TO AGENCY DUTIES

Employees who participate in military service are required to report back to work within a specified length of time as defined under USERRA guidelines. Employees not meeting the listed time constraints in returning to work once their tour of duty has ended are considered Absent Without Leave (AWOL).

To be eligible for protection under USERRA, the service member must report back to work within the following guidelines:

1. **1-30 days of service:** Report to work next scheduled work day after safe travel and 8 hours rest.
2. **31-180 days of service:** Report to work within 14 days after completion of service.
3. **181+ days of service:** Report to work within 90 days after completion of service.

The employee must notify his Division Commander / Director and the Deputy Director, Human Resources Section of their planned return date.

G. RETURN FROM MILITARY DUTY

Any employee on military duty for a period of thirty (30) days or more is required to submit to Human Resources a copy of orders received for release from active duty (DD-214) prior to returning to the Sheriff's Office. USERRA allows the Agency to request a copy of military orders showing the date of release from duty and a copy of the certificate of satisfactory performance of military duties to ensure the criteria for protection under USERRA are met.

Employees who are deployed in a designated combat area or where hostile action occurred are subject to a post-deployment psychological evaluation by designated Sheriff's Office physicians. This is an early intervention program designed to identify officers who may be suffering from "Combat Stress." Employees may be subject to a physical exam by a medical doctor if injuries occurred during deployment. Results of exams are confidential and will be kept in the employee's medical file. Any treatment will be coordinated through the military.

Supervisors should be cognizant that "Combat Stress" may occur in military personnel returning from active duty in a combat zone and observant for any of the following indicators:

- anger
- irritability



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- difficulty concentrating
- loss of confidence
- sadness
- isolation
- fear

Early intervention is key to effectively reducing Combat Stress reactions and the onset of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

H. FOP & CCCOA MILITARY LEAVE BENEFITS

Per the FOP MOU:

1. Effective July 1, 2009, an officer who is a member or who becomes a member of a United States Military Reserve or National Guard Unit can receive paid military leave up to fifteen (15) work days, either consecutively or non-consecutively, per calendar year when ordered to participate in annual training exercises. Five (5) of the leave days may be used for weekend drill. These are paid leave days and not subject to gap pay.
2. Effective July 1, 2011, five (5) military leave days may be carried over to the next calendar year if such leave was not used in the previous calendar year. Any additional days will not carry over, nor will they be eligible for compensation. No more than twenty (20) days may accumulate in a calendar year.
3. Officers are permitted to use their Agency vehicles to commute out-of-county for military purposes, after first notifying their respective Assistant Sheriff through the proper chain of command. Other applicable conditions can be found in the MOU.

Per the CCCOA MOU:

1. Any officer who is a member or who becomes a member of a United States Military Reserve or National Guard Unit can receive paid military leave up to fifteen (15) work days, (either consecutively or non-consecutively) per calendar year when ordered to participate in annual training exercises.
2. Five (5) military leave days may be carried over to the next calendar year if such leave was not used in the previous calendar year. Any additional days shall not carry over, nor shall they be eligible for compensation. No more than twenty (20) days may accumulate in a calendar year.

I. MILITARY LEAVE WITH PAY

Any employee who is a member or becomes a member of a United States Military Reserve or National Guard Unit can receive paid military leave up to fifteen (15) work days, either consecutively or non-consecutively, per calendar year.

Weekend drill and annual training exercises qualify for Military Leave With Pay, up to fifteen (15) days. Leave used for weekend drill and annual training exercises in excess of fifteen (15) days shall be requested as Military Leave Without Pay, or other accrued leave may be utilized if available.

In order to receive payment for the fifteen (15) days, the employee must submit a copy of military orders, as soon as they are received by the military member, to the Human Resources Section prior to taking leave. The Deputy Director, Human Resources will review and, once approved, forward the orders to the Deputy Director, Accounting Section for processing.



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If the employee does not contact Human Resources and produce orders, the leave will be recorded as Military Leave Without Pay.

While an employee is on Military Leave With Pay, all benefits to the employee remain the same. The employee continues to accrue sick and safe leave and annual leave and will continue to be enrolled in the County's health plan if already a participant.

J. MILITARY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

Any employee who is a member or becomes a member of the United States Military Reserve or National Guard Unit will be placed on Military Leave Without Pay when the fifteen (15) days of Military Leave With Pay for weekend drill and annual training exercises has been exhausted, and the employee is called to another exercise within the same calendar year. Other accrued leave may be utilized if available and requested by the employee.

While an employee is on Military Leave Without Pay, the employee will not accrue sick and safe or annual leave during this unpaid leave period. It will be the responsibility of the timekeeper to track and document Military Leave Without Pay for the purpose of leave accrual.

If the employee is a participant in the County's health plan, the employee may elect to continue coverage through the period of leave without pay. This can be arranged by contacting the County Benefits Administrator.

Contributions to the retirement plan will not be made during any period of Military Leave Without Pay; however, upon returning to duty, the employee shall be allowed to make up missed deferrals or contributions. The employee shall be allowed a period equal to three times the period of military service, but not longer than five years, to make up the contributions. County Government will match any such contributions, but is not obligated to credit the employee with any interest which would have been otherwise earned.

All periods of Military Leave Without Pay will be considered continuous service with the Agency for the purposes of years of service and/or retirement eligibility.

K. USE OF LEAVE OTHER THAN MILITARY LEAVE

An employee may elect to use accrued leave in lieu of Military Leave With / Without Pay. This leave will then be deducted from the selected accrued leave account.

Time used for military leave may not be deducted from any of the employee's leave accounts unless specifically requested by the employee.

L. GAP PAY

In cases where employees are called to full-time military service, and where funds are available within the Sheriff's budget for such purposes, it is the intent of the Agency to provide the employee with Gap Pay in order to supplement the difference between military pay and the employee's Agency salary. To receive GAP Pay, the employee must provide the Deputy Director, Accounting Section a copy of the employee's military pay voucher, or other acceptable evidence of the employee's military salary. Every effort will be made to provide this supplemental income as consistently as possible; however, the employee may use Agency available leave during times when the Gap Pay may not be available.

Employees may elect to continue health care coverage with the County during times when they are receiving Gap Pay. The employee must contact the County Benefits Administrator to confirm any decision in this regard.



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Annual and sick and safe leave will be accrued by the employee while receiving Gap Pay.

Employees on active military duty will have pension contributions suspended. Upon return to active employment with the Agency, the employee has the option of repaying missed contributions to the pension plan.

Eligible employees may return to their former positions when they leave military service.

3-617 EMPLOYEE LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

A. PURPOSE

B. INITIAL REQUEST FOR LEAVE DONATIONS

C. ADMINISTRATION - LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a program whereby a CCSO employee may transfer accrued leave (annual, sick, personal or compensatory) directly to another CCSO employee who has exhausted, or will exhaust during a specific absence, all accrued leave and is facing an extended absence without pay brought about by the employee's illness, injury or disability.

B. INITIAL REQUEST FOR LEAVE DONATIONS

1. To request approval for leave donation, an employee or designee shall submit their request to the Sheriff through Human Resources.
 - a) The request will have attached supporting documentation from a treating physician explaining the employee's condition and the anticipated date of return.
2. Human Resources will review the request, the employee's sick and safe leave record, accrued leave banks and personnel file.
3. Human Resources will prepare a memorandum outlining the necessity of the request, the employee's employment history and any information concerning leave issues within one (1) week of receiving the request.
4. The memorandum, employee request, and supporting documentation will be forwarded through the chain of command to the Sheriff for review. The Sheriff will then make a final decision to either grant or deny the request to participate in the Employee Leave Donation Program.
5. Human Resources will notify the requesting employee and division commander / director of the Sheriff's decision.
6. The division commander / director of the affected employee is responsible for soliciting leave donations from Agency employees via agency email.
7. Employees wishing to donate leave will notify the agency timekeepers in the Human Resources Section via email.
 - a) The email will note the type of leave to be transferred (sick, annual, personal or compensatory) and the number of hours being donated.



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C. ADMINISTRATION - LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM

The Employee Leave Donation Program will be administered by the timekeepers in the Human Resources Section. When leave donation for an employee is approved, the timekeepers will:

1. Create a log detailing the names of employees donating leave and the amount / type of leave donated.
2. Verify employees donating leave have sufficient leave in their banks to support the donation.
3. Notify the donating employee when their leave is utilized by the requesting employee.

An employee is not eligible to receive leave donations for absences that are covered by workers' compensation due to a work-related injury or illness.

The Leave Donation program works in conjunction with the Agency FMLA policy, where applicable. An employee who meets the criteria for FMLA will remain protected under the FMLA while on leave, regardless of the type of leave. In addition, if an employee does not receive any leave donations or is out of leave, he will continue to be protected under the FMLA as explained in the section addressing FMLA.

All of an employee's accrued leave will be used before any donated leave.

All leave donations shall be voluntary and for the specific requesting employee. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that any excess hours donated shall remain in the leave account of the employee donating the leave.

No employee may donate more than one-half of their total accrued annual, sick, personal, or compensatory time to the requesting employee.

Any employee who has received formal counseling regarding the abuse of sick and safe leave shall not be eligible to receive donated leave.

Employees separating from the Agency for any reason will not be allowed to donate unused leave for present or future use.

The Employee Leave Donation Program is subject to and used in conjunction with the limitations stated in the Extended Sick & Safe Leave Policy (including time limits) located elsewhere in policy.

3-618 LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS
- C. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. APPROVAL PROCESS

A. PURPOSE

Leave without pay (LWOP) may be requested by any employee and shall be approved or denied by the Sheriff. LWOP shall be granted only when the interests of the Agency are served and the employee intends to return on or before the expiration of the LWOP request. LWOP requests under FMLA are an exception and procedures specified in that section of policy shall be followed.

B. PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS



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1. An employee on LWOP may not earn annual, sick, or any other leave during a period of unpaid leave.
2. All accumulated leave must be exhausted before consideration of granting LWOP.
3. Following a leave of absence without pay, a reinstated employee shall begin work with no accumulated leave credit. Leave accruals shall begin once the employee is in pay status.
4. Contributions shall not be paid into the retirement plan during any period of unpaid leave.
5. If an employee granted LWOP wishes to continue coverage under the County health insurance program, they must make arrangements with the County Payroll Office to pay their own contribution toward the monthly premium.
6. An employee on LWOP may return to active status before the expiration of their request, with the approval of the Sheriff.
7. LWOP may be granted to an employee by the Sheriff in conjunction with Workers' Compensation because of a long-term injury. The employee must exhaust their accrued leave, at which time the Sheriff may advance sick and safe leave or approve LWOP.
8. Periods of leave without pay shall be deducted from the employee's anniversary date and their service credit.
9. The duration of this leave shall not exceed one (1) year.

C. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Requests for LWOP must be submitted in writing through the chain of command to the Sheriff at least three weeks prior to the requested start date. The request will be made via agency memorandum and utilize a Form #144 Chain of Command Cover Sheet. The memorandum will contain the following information:

1. The employee's name, ID number, assignment, and date of request.
2. The reason for the requested leave of absence.
3. The dates when LWOP begin and end.
4. The position held at the time of the request.

All documents substantiating the request should be attached to the employee's request.

D. APPROVAL PROCESS

The Sheriff will determine whether to accept, return, or reject in whole or in part the request by the employee for LWOP. The Sheriff shall notify the employee in writing of his decision. The Sheriff's decision is final and binding. Copies of the approval or denial shall be sent to the employee's division commander / director and the Deputy Director of the Human Resources Section. A copy of the documents pertaining to this matter shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file.

- The employee is responsible for notifying the Agency of their intended return to duty date within five (5) business days of the expiration of leave without pay. This notification will be made to the Sheriff through the chain of command via memorandum. Failure to make this notification may be grounds for termination.
- If the employee is unable to assume the same duties held prior to the LWOP, the employee will make



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notification in the memorandum to the Sheriff. If a suitable placement cannot be accomplished, steps will be taken to separate the employee if the employee is not eligible for retirement.

- Sworn and Corrections employees granted LWOP shall:
 - Have their police powers / correctional authority suspended.
 - Shall not operate a Sheriff's Office vehicle.
 - Shall not wear the uniform.
 - Shall not work law enforcement / security-related secondary employment.

3-619 MODIFIED DUTY

(Last Reviewed: May 27, 2025)

A. PURPOSE

B. DUTY STATUS- SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

C. MODIFIED DUTY ASSIGNMENTS- MEDICAL

D. MODIFIED DUTY ASSIGNMENTS- ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

E. MODIFIED DUTY RESTRICTIONS FOR SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

F. SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT WHILE ON MODIFIED DUTY

A. PURPOSE

The policy of this Agency is to provide temporarily incapacitated employees with productive employment consistent with the Agency's needs and the employee's specific incapacitation. In the case of sworn police and correctional personnel, the policy is designed to ensure the safety of the incapacitated officer, fellow officers and the public, and to address liability issues.

An employee may be considered for modified duty status when one of the following conditions are met:

1. When, because of a medical condition, they are unable to perform the duties and responsibilities required by their full-time position description, and they have been released by an attending physician to perform restricted duties outlined in the Physical and Functional Evaluation Form #169.
2. When they are placed on administrative leave or suspended due to an administrative investigation and have received the prior approval of an Assistant Sheriff.

B. DUTY STATUS – SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

There are three types of officer duty status:

1. **Full duty:** the officer is able to perform all of the duties and functions of a sworn police or correctional officer.
2. **Modified duty:** the officer is unable to perform some of the duties and functions of a sworn police or correctional officer because of temporary psychological or physical limitations. These limitations do not present an unreasonable risk to the individual, other employees, or the public.
3. **Non-officer duty:** an officer who has had his police powers or correctional authority temporarily suspended due to the severity of the officer's psychological or physical limitations. These limitations could present an unreasonable risk to the individual, other employees, or the public.

When a Commander has a concern about an officer's ability to perform full duty as a result of suffering from



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psychological or physical limitations that may impact the ability to perform the duties and functions of their assignment, the officer's division commander/director shall review the situation to determine if a change in the officer's duty status is warranted. The commander/director will consult with Human Resources. If the commander/director believes a change in status is warranted, the commander/director will prepare an e-mail or memorandum to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff recommending the change in status and the basis for the recommendation. The Assistant Sheriff will notify the division commander/director and Human Resources if there is to be a change in the officer's status to a non-officer duty status.

All medical information reviewed for a change of duty status is confidential and shall not be disclosed outside of Human Resources, the Office of General Counsel, Assistant Sheriffs, the Chief of Staff, and the Sheriff.

Modified Duty Status

A sworn police or correctional officer will be placed in a Modified Duty Status if:

1. A fitness for duty examination concludes that the officer has some level of restrictions which would cause him to be unable to perform some of the functions of a correctional or sworn police officer or a treating physician has completed a Physical and Functional Evaluation (Form #169) indicating the need for restrictions; and
2. An officer has requested consideration for modified duty because of a temporary disability; and
3. The officer's limitations do not present an unreasonable risk to the individual, other employees, or the public.
4. Final approval for modified duty status will come from the Assistant Sheriff of the employee's division.

An officer in a modified duty status may qualify for a modified duty assignment, dependent upon his restrictions and the availability of an assignment.

Non-officer Duty Status

A sworn police or correctional officer may be placed in Non-Officer Duty Status if one or more of the following conditions exist. The final decision to place an officer in non-officer duty status is at the discretion of the Assistant Sheriffs.

1. A fitness for duty examination concludes that the officer is unable to perform the functions of a police or correctional officer or a treating physician has completed a Physical and Functional Evaluation (Form #169) indicating the officer is unable to perform the functions of a police or correctional officer; or
2. The psychological or physical condition preventing the officer from performing the functions of a police or correctional officer is expected to last for more than five days; or
3. The officer's limitations are determined to present an unreasonable risk to the individual, other employees, or the public.

An officer will be placed in non-officer duty status if the officer's psychological or physical condition will prevent the officer from meeting the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission's standards.

An officer in non-officer duty status is prohibited from taking police actions and will be required to surrender his Agency-issued firearm, badge, identification cards, MPTSC certification card, and will not operate an Agency vehicle with emergency equipment.



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If the officer remains in non-officer duty status for 30 days, Human Resources will notify the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

An officer in non-officer duty status may qualify for a modified duty assignment, dependent upon their restrictions and the availability of an assignment. However, the officer may not be placed in an assignment which requires the use of police powers. If placed in a modified duty assignment while in a non-officer status, the officer will be issued a temporary identification card without a title (i.e. police officer / correctional officer).

Disagreement over change in duty status

An officer who disagrees with a decision to change his duty status may file an appeal to the Chief of Staff in writing at any point while the status change is in effect. The appeal will be sent through the employee's Assistant Sheriff. The decision of the Assistant Sheriff will remain in effect unless and until the Chief of Staff makes a different determination. The appeal process is not available for a disagreement over modified duty assignments.

C. MODIFIED DUTY ASSIGNMENTS - MEDICAL

Every effort shall be made to provide employees who are injured in the line of duty with temporary modified duty assignments in accordance with their medical limitations.

Employees whose injuries are not work related may be given modified duty assignments when such work is available.

The procedures for considering placing a sworn, corrections, or civilian employee in a modified duty assignment are as follows:

1. The employee being released for modified duty will report to Human Resources and provide Human Resources with the Physical and Functional Evaluation Form #169. The modified duty medical release must indicate:
 - a) the restrictions imposed on the employee during the modified duty assignment; and
 - b) the date for the next medical evaluation.
2. The employee will complete the Modified Duty Request Form and Authorization Form #690 and submit to the Human Resources Section;
3. Modified duty assignments will be coordinated through the Human Resources Section and the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division, with the approval of the affected division Commander / Director. An employee will not be placed in a modified duty assignment without such coordination having taken place.
4. Final approval for modified duty assignment will come from the Assistant Sheriff of the employee's division.
5. The Sheriff's approval is required if the initial request will exceed 30 days.

Once these requirements have been met, the employee may be offered a modified duty assignment, should one be available. Employees are reminded that employees injured in the line of duty will be given priority over non-work-related injury cases. Employees offered modified duty assignments resulting from a non-work-related injury will:

1. Submit the Physical and Functional Evaluation Form #169 every 30 days, updating work restrictions and listing an expected date of return to full duty;



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2. Comply with current policy and procedures concerning modified duty assignments.

If a modified duty assignment is unavailable for an employee injured outside the line of duty, the employee will be required to use their leave. This policy will in no way be construed to mean modified duty is guaranteed.

An employee who qualifies for FMLA leave cannot be forced to accept a modified duty assignment until the employee has exhausted all FMLA protection.

D. MODIFIED DUTY ASSIGNMENTS – ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

Modified duty assignments may be appropriate for an employee when they are placed on administrative leave and / or suspended pending an administrative investigation. Modified duty status and assignment must be approved by an Assistant Sheriff and will be in an administrative capacity. In the case of the suspension of a sworn or corrections officer, modified duty may not be approved until after the conclusion of the suspension hearing or until the employee has elected to waive their right to a suspension hearing. The Human Resources Section will issue a personnel order stating the agency location and effective date of the Modified duty assignment, which will be determined by the affected Assistant Sheriff. Employees will adhere to the procedures set forth in the following modified duty policy, with the exception of the need for medical releases.

E. MODIFIED DUTY RESTRICTIONS FOR SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

All sworn police / correctional officers in modified duty assignments are subject to the following provisions:

1. Modified duty assignments may not exceed one year and/or extend beyond the second anniversary date of the illness or injury;
2. An officer in a modified duty assignment will be provided an assignment consistent with documented medical limitations. In some instances, the employee's current assignment may satisfy the modified duty requirements;
3. The Agency uniform will not be worn during modified duty assignments. Officers will wear civilian attire as described elsewhere in the Manual. Any deviations will be approved by the division commander / director;
4. An officer on modified duty assignment shall not operate a marked vehicle;
5. Agency grooming standards will be followed, as outlined in the AOM.

In addition to the above provisions, sworn police officers will also abide by the following:

1. An officer may be authorized to work, but in an administrative capacity as outlined by a division commander in accordance with the employee's physical limitations;
2. An officer in a modified duty assignment will take no law enforcement action unless failure to do so would likely result in the serious injury or death to the officer or another person.
 - a) Examples of "Law enforcement action" include:
 - Making arrests;
 - Conducting traffic or Terry stops;
 - Participating in EST operations such as forcible entry.



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b) Examples of "Law enforcement action" do not include:

- Applying for search warrants;
 - Submitting applications for charges;
 - Completing equipment repair orders.
3. If one is available, an unmarked vehicle may be assigned to an officer on modified duty assignment, pending physician's release. The requesting employee's commander will provide notification to the property management commander to prepare the use of a vehicle should one be available. Unmarked vehicles will be provided only to personnel who are on modified duty assignment due to a work-related incident.

F. SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT WHILE ON MODIFIED DUTY

For employees who are in a modified duty assignment, any continuation of secondary employment or entering into new secondary employment will require the employee to update and submit the following documentation to the applicable division commander / director:

1. employment status (modified duty, etc.);
2. name of secondary employer;
3. number of hours worked per week; and
4. detailed description of the nature of work performed in the secondary employment.

In the case of new secondary employment, such correspondence will accompany the Secondary Employment Request Form #185.

In determining if continuation of existing secondary employment or the approval of new secondary employment is appropriate, the division commander / director will consider the following:

1. whether the secondary employment conflicts with the employee's ability to perform modified duty assignments;
2. whether the secondary employment adversely affects the employee's return to his full performance regular work assignment; and
3. whether the secondary employment involves the performance of functions or activities that the employee has been determined unable to perform in his full duty regular work assignments.

Secondary employment in a law enforcement / security-related capacity will not be allowed while an employee is on modified duty.

3-620 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to provide an effective and consistent method of providing a means of tuition reimbursement to Sheriff's Office employees. This procedure establishes a standardized method to be followed by all eligible employees for the application, approval and reimbursement of tuition for approved courses. These guidelines will be followed whenever an eligible employee applies for benefits under the Tuition Reimbursement Program.



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3-620.1 EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

The Charles County Sheriff's Office believes the continued development of its employees is important to the success of the Agency and paramount to upgrading existing levels of service, as well as to providing new services. The Sheriff's Office Tuition Reimbursement Program is a strategy for developing employees who will then enable the Agency to achieve its long-term goals.

3-620.2 ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for benefits, the employee must be a full-time or a full-time reduced hours employee. To be eligible to receive benefits under the Tuition Reimbursement Program, the employee must have successfully completed his initial probationary period.

3-620.3 COURSE CRITERIA

Courses covered by the Tuition Reimbursement Program must be credit courses that are job-related. Job-related is defined as a course of instruction which must have a direct bearing on the employee's work assignment or be related to an Agency position to which the employee may reasonably expect to progress. Courses that are required to obtain a degree related to the employee's current job or to an Agency position to which the employee may reasonably expect to progress are also covered by the Tuition Reimbursement Program.

Courses shall be credit courses and be offered at an accredited institution. Other non-credit classes, classes that are assigned continuing education units (CEUs), and seminars are considered "technical training" and should be considered for payment under the Agency training budget.

All courses should be taken during a time that does not conflict with an employee's assigned work. It is understood that an employee's first responsibility is to his assignment with the Agency.

3-620.4 FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT AND COSTS COVERED

An employee is eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 12 credit hours to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,200.00 per fiscal year.

Tuition reimbursement is limited to tuition and textbook costs only. Tuition and textbooks will be reimbursed at 100%. Reimbursement does not apply to other charges, such as registration fees, activity fees, transfer fees, or lab fees associated with courses.

Should the employee be eligible to receive any other financial assistance, i.e., G.I. benefits or scholarships, the Agency reimbursement will be reduced by that amount for tuition / textbook costs up to \$1,200.00.

Example:

An employee enrolls in an approved course of study with an associated tuition / textbook cost of \$750.00. The employee receives a scholarship in the amount of \$400.00. The Agency would reimburse the employee only \$350.00. If the tuition for a course is \$2,200.00 and the employee receives G.I. benefits totaling \$1,000.00, the employee would still be eligible to receive the maximum Agency benefit of \$1,200.00.

3-620.5 REQUIRED GRADES

To be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement, the employee must receive a passing grade, C or better for



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undergraduate, and B or better for graduate courses.

3-620.6 SERVICE COMMITMENT

Employees who receive this benefit will be required to reimburse the Agency on a pro-rated basis, should they separate from Agency employment in the one-year period following the completion date of the course.

3-620.7 APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

An employee must submit a Tuition Reimbursement Program Funding Request (Form #245A) to the Deputy Director, Human Resources Section prior to October 1 in the year preceding the fiscal year in which tuition assistance is being requested. For example, if an employee is seeking tuition assistance for FY-2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), Form #245A must be submitted prior to October 1, 2017. Once the form is approved, it will be forwarded to the Deputy Director, Budgeting, for inclusion in the upcoming fiscal year budget. This funding is not guaranteed and is contingent upon approved budgeted funding.

An employee must complete and submit a Tuition Reimbursement Application (Form #245) to his supervisor at least three (3) weeks before the course commences and obtain approval prior to enrollment in any course. A copy of the course description(s) from the school's catalog and completed school registration form must be attached to the application form. If a course is not directly job-related but is required for a degree, some form of acceptance to the degree program must also be attached. Once the courses have been completed, a final grade(s) report must be submitted to the Human Resources Section to begin the payment process as outlined in AOM 3-620.11 through 3-620.13.

3-620.8 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor of the employee requesting tuition assistance will review the application to verify the employee meets eligibility and course criteria requirements. The supervisor will then sign the form, indicating the application is either recommended for approval or disapproval and forward it to the division commander / director within three (3) working days of receipt from the employee.

If the application is not recommended for approval, the supervisor must provide a written explanation stating the reason the course(s) was not recommended for approval.

3-620.9 COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

The division commander / director should receive the application within three (3) working days of the employee submitting the form. Upon review of the application, the commander / director will sign the form, indicating the application is either recommended for approval or disapproval. The commander / director will then forward the application form to Human Resources within two (2) working days of receipt from the supervisor.

If the application is not recommended for approval, the division commander / director must provide a written explanation stating the reason the course(s) was not recommended for approval.

3-620.10 HUMAN RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITIES (APPROVAL PROCESS)

Human Resources will review the application for compliance with all guidelines. If all guidelines are met, Human Resources will process the request and return a copy of the approved application to the employee and to the division commander / director (or designee).



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If the application is disapproved, Human Resources will advise the employee of the reason for disapproval, in writing, within two (2) weeks from the date of disapproval.

3-620.11 REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

When an employee has successfully completed an approved undergraduate or graduate level course, the employee will submit a copy of the final grade report within two (2) weeks of receipt to Human Resources.

3-620.12 HUMAN RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITIES (PAYMENT PROCESS)

Human Resources will review the grade report and attach it to the employee's original Tuition Reimbursement Application. If it meets the required guidelines, the payment request section will be completed and signed. A copy of the Tuition Reimbursement Application requesting payment will then be forwarded to the Deputy Director, Budgeting Section. The Deputy Director, Budgeting Section or designee will see the request is forwarded to Accounts Payable for undergraduate classes or to Payroll for graduate level classes.

If the request for payment is not in compliance with approved guidelines or if the tuition reimbursement payment is disapproved, Human Resources will advise the employee of the reason for non-compliance or disapproval, in writing, within two (2) weeks.

3-620.13 PAYMENT - GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

The tuition reimbursement payment will be made in conformance with the County's accounts payable policies for all undergraduate and graduate courses.

It is Sheriff's Office policy to follow all IRS regulations, and is hereby stated any future changes to the IRS regulations regarding tuition reimbursement will be followed. Any changes of this nature will not require a formal change to this policy. Employees will be notified of changes related to taxability of this benefit by written notice to divisions.

This benefit is dependent upon availability of funds in the current fiscal year budget.

3-628 FILLING PERSONNEL VACANCIES

The Sheriff is the sole authority for the approval of staffing of the various positions within the CCSO. Human Resources shall continually monitor all positions within the Agency in order to advise the Sheriff, through the Commander / Director, Administrative Services, concerning factors which impact the staffing of these positions.

Staffing considerations include the responsibility to create, fill, maintain or abolish positions, based upon the need to provide a particular service, required of the Sheriff by law or community expectation. It is inherent in this responsibility to provide these services in the most economical way practical, while maintaining an effective and professional level of the delivery of services. In this regard, each position should be evaluated to determine if it must be occupied by a sworn officer, corrections officer, civilian employee, or contract employee.

There are many economic, legal, and professional criteria which may impact the decision to choose any of the aforementioned categories of staffing. Human Resources shall thoroughly research those criteria when making staffing recommendations. Additionally, they will develop a position description containing the essential functions for each authorized or proposed position which accurately defines the position. In addition to the essential functions, the position description will define the pay grade / salary range of the position, whether or not the position is exempt or non-exempt, its place in the organizational structure (reports to and responsible for), the general hours of work, any license or certification requirements, any prerequisite education, experience, or skill requirements, and any other criteria necessary to define the position.



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In no case is there a requirement for a particular position to be filled simply because it is vacant. If, in the opinion of the Sheriff, an appropriate candidate has not been found, or there is other cause to temporarily leave the position vacant, then the position may remain vacant until such time as the Sheriff directs it be filled.

Division commanders are authorized to make reassignments of personnel under their command. The division commander shall make notification to Human Resources no later than 48 hours after the reassignment is made.

3-628.1 MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL

The Sheriff retains the right to make organizational transfers and reassignments which in his sole discretion and opinion are in the best interests of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-628.2 DEFINITIONS

Business day- Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Reassignment - A movement of personnel not involving a transfer.

Reassignment examples:

- A sworn police officer is moved from Squad A, Shift 1 at District 1 to Squad G, Shift 3 at District 1. This move is a reassignment.
- A correctional officer is moved from Squad B, Team 3 to Squad A, Team 1. This move is a reassignment.

Transfer - A change in job function (duties) which entails a major revision in the scope of duties and responsibilities necessary to complete the assigned tasks. Also, movement from one location to another, within the same position.

Transfer examples:

- A sworn police officer is moved from a position as a patrol officer to a position as an investigator, at the same pay grade, in CID. This move is a transfer.
- A Lieutenant is moved from a position as the Commander, Communications to a position as the Commander, Community Relations Section. This move is a transfer.
- A correctional officer is moved from Squad A, Team 4 to Transport. This move is a transfer.

3-628.3 TRANSFER / REASSIGNMENT OF SWORN POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS - SERGEANT AND BELOW

If a position is to be filled by a sworn police or correctional officer and that position is above the entry level position for officers, it may be filled by reassignment or transfer. Entry level positions and those filled by promotion are covered by procedures defined elsewhere in this Manual.

Sworn Police Officer Positions

When a position becomes available to be filled by an eligible police officer, the Human Resources Section will announce the vacancy for no less than ten business days. Eligible police officers may apply by submitting a Request



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for Transfer or Reassignment Form #301 along with a resume to the Human Resources Section before the closing date of the announcement.

To be considered eligible:

- Sworn police officers must be off entry level probation and have three years of experience as a sworn law enforcement officer;
- Sworn police officers who will become eligible for an announced position within one year from the date of the position announcement are eligible to interview for the position;
- Sworn police officers who interview will be placed on an eligibility list which may remain in effect for one calendar year from the date of the announcement;
- Sworn police officers placed on an eligibility list who are not eligible at the time of the interview, will not be considered for the announced position until they reach their eligibility date.

Correctional Officer Positions

When a position becomes available to be filled by an eligible correctional officer, the Human Resources Section will announce the vacancy in accordance with the current CCCOA MOU. Eligible correctional officers will apply for the position by following the guidelines outlined in the current CCCOA MOU.

To be considered eligible:

- Correctional officers must be off entry level probation and have three years of experience as a certified correctional officer.

Transfer requests within the Corrections Division will normally be within the Division, with the exception of Court Security Officer, which is assigned to the Special Services Division.

Other transfer requests will indicate Section and Position; i.e., Support Services Section / Transport, etc.

Each time Human Resources receives a Form #301 from an officer, a copy will be returned to the officer to verify receipt. An officer may only apply for transfer to positions which are to be staffed at the officer's current rank. In addition to meeting rank criteria for a particular transfer opportunity, the officer must also meet any selection criteria for the new position.

3-628.4 TRANSFER / REASSIGNMENT SELECTION PROCESS

All eligible officers who have submitted a transfer request will be scheduled for a personal interview. Upon completion of the interview process Commanders (or their designee) will review the following information before a selection recommendation is made to the Sheriff;

- employee's personnel file;
- performance ratings;
- training records;
- formal education;
- knowledge, skills, and abilities;
- pending investigations;
- disciplinary actions; and
- personal interview.

Eligibility Lists- Sworn Officers

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Once the interview process has been completed, an eligibility list will be established with each officer's eligibility date. The eligibility list may be active for up to one (1) calendar year and a Commander may utilize this list should the same position become vacant within a year from the time the position was originally announced.

Eligibility Lists- Correctional Officers

The terms of utilizing an eligibility list are articulated within the current CCCOA MOU.

3-628.5 CIVILIAN VACANCIES

In most circumstances, civilian vacancies which occur within the CCSO will be announced. Announcements will generally be in-house only, i.e., within the Agency and Charles County Government, if the position is above entry level. In some cases, when the anticipated response to an announcement is expected to be low, the announcement may be made simultaneously in-house and to the general public.

Responses to such announcements by current employees of the CCSO will be made using the Request for Transfer or Reassignment Form #301. The Form #301 shall be submitted to Human Resources on or before the closing date indicated on the announcement for the position. Announcements for entry level positions will always be made both publicly and in-house. Announcements of vacancies will define, at least in general terms, salary requirements, skills, and qualifications for the position.

If a competitive process is to be used, Human Resources shall conduct or coordinate this process. The final approval shall remain the responsibility of the Sheriff. Civilian employees may only submit a transfer request for positions which have been announced. No database of transfer requests is maintained for civilian positions.

Civilian positions are not subject to the consideration of rank as are sworn and correctional officer positions. Civilians may therefore apply for transfer to any position for which they meet the basic qualifications.

Voluntary Grade Reduction

When an employee applies for a position with a lower grade, it is considered a voluntary grade reduction through the recruitment process. An employee who is selected for a lower graded position will receive a decrease in pay according to the following sliding scale:

Number of Grades of Reduction	Percent Decrease
1	6%
2	9%
3 or more	12%

If the reduction in an employee's salary is higher than the maximum pay on the salary scale even with the percentage decrease, the employee's salary will be further reduced to the maximum salary of the grade for that position.

In-Grade Transfer

If an employee transfers to a position at the same grade level as the one they are currently serving in, they will retain the same salary.

Promotion

An employee who is promoted competitively to a new position in a grade higher than his current position, will receive



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an increase according to the following sliding scale:

Number of Grades of Promotion	Percent Increase
1	6%
2	9%
3 or more	12%

The employee's salary would increase according to the sliding scale or the minimum of the new, higher grade, whichever is greater (percentage increase or minimum of grade). The salary increase cannot place the employee's pay above the maximum salary of the new grade. If a promoted employee's salary increase would surpass the maximum of the grade, the increase will be limited to the maximum salary of the grade.

Promotions will be effective the first full pay period following the approval of the promotion.

NOTE: When a position is grant funded, that specific salary amount will be advertised. Grant positions will be paid at the funded amount. All in-house announcements will advise whether a position is grant funded or not.

Reclassification

When a position is changed to a lower grade for reasons such as reclassification, the incumbent will retain the same rate of pay. If the incumbent's rate at the time of a change is higher than the maximum rate for the new grade, the incumbent's rate will be retained and redlined.

When a position is changed to a higher grade due to a change in the position, in the classification plan, or a classification error, the incumbent will be placed in the higher grade, without competition, using the same sliding scale as noted under the Promotion section of this policy.

Position Upgrade

When an employee has been approved by the Sheriff to receive a position upgrade (career ladder advancement) they will receive a salary increase in the same manner as noted under the Promotion section of this policy. As an example, this would apply when a PCO I has been approved for a position upgrade (promotion) to PCO II.

3-628.6 CIVILIAN SELECTION PROCESS

The process by which a person is selected to fill a particular position is a formal one. Prior to the announcement of a vacancy several preliminary matters must be assured:

- There must be a valid position on the current staffing document appropriate to the announcement;
- There must be a current or expected vacancy in at least one such position;
- There must be a current valid position description for the position;
- There must be a valid series of interview questions and rating form for the position.

When a vacancy occurs, Human Resources will prepare and distribute the announcement and receive the Form #301. Human Resources shall initiate the competitive process and coordinate its completion.

All lists of eligible candidates will have an expiration date. During the life of the appropriate list, candidates may be selected from that list without the need to re-announce or interview.

3-628.7 PAY CONSIDERATIONS - TRANSFERS



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If an employee is transferred, i.e., moved from a current position to one which is at the same pay grade or salary range as the one the employee currently occupies, the employee will be maintained at his current pay structure. If there are some other financial considerations which were connected with the position from which the employee is moving, then the employee will lose them as a result of the move.

If there are some financial considerations connected with the new position, the employee will receive them. For example, a sworn officer is transferred from uniform patrol to investigations. He will lose the normal shift differential associated with working rotating shifts in patrol. Then, as an investigator, he will receive the clothing allowance associated with the investigative assignment and will receive shift differential based on the hours he is assigned specifically to work, hours which qualify for shift differential.

3-630 SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT

Last reviewed: 4/23/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES
- D. PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
- E. UNIFORMS AND VEHICLES
- F. NOTIFICATIONS
- G. LIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS
- H. RESPONSIBILITIES
- I. DOCUMENTING, MONITORING, AND AUDITING

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for employees working secondary employment. Employment with the CCSO requires employees to work irregular schedules which are subject to change to meet staffing needs. It is necessary for employees to have adequate rest and to be alert while working. Employees are restricted from working secondary employment that conflicts with the ability to perform the responsibilities of their duties to the Agency. In addition, the Agency may also restrict employees from working secondary employment as security officers or police as a disciplinary measure.

Secondary employment will never be considered an excuse for poor performance, absenteeism, tardiness, or refusal to work overtime.

This policy shall apply to all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. It is applicable to all secondary employment regardless of the length of the term or the temporary nature of that employment.

B. DEFINITIONS

Non-Security Related is defined as employment which has no bearing on the employee's police powers, and the exercise of police powers during this employment would be surprising and unusual. Examples would be as a carpenter, painter, shoe salesman, bus driver, or waterman.

Secondary Employment is defined in the context of this policy as any work performed or any service rendered, outside of duties assigned by the Sheriff or command structure of the Agency, for money or other remuneration. This would include any work performed by the employee in a business or company where the Agency employee is a stockholder, sole proprietor, partner or other owner / worker.

Security or Police-Related is defined as that employment in which there is a reasonable expectation of the use



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of police powers. Such employment would not normally be offered to the employee if he were not a sworn police officer. Examples would be as security at Board of Education dances or ball games, as a watchman at a car lot or construction site, or as protection against shoplifters at a department store.

C. PROCEDURES

Any employee wanting to work secondary employment will submit a Secondary Employment Request, Form #185, through the chain of command to his division commander / director. The Secondary Employment Request will be accompanied by a Chain of Command Coversheet, Form #144. Each level of supervision and command will review the request and indicate their endorsement for either approval or denial. The division commander / director will forward the Form #185 to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for final approval. Once approved, no additional action is necessary to maintain approval.

Final distribution of the Form #185 will be as follows:

1. Original to Standards and Inspections Section of OPR, who will manage an Agency-wide database;
2. Copy to Human Resources for placement in the employee's personnel file; and
3. Copy to the requesting employee

If immediate approval is needed during the evening or on a weekend and the employee's division commander / director is not available, the Form #185 may be submitted to the section / shift commander for approval. If approved, it shall be for a period not to exceed 72 hours. If the secondary employment is to continue beyond the 72-hour emergency approval, the employee must resubmit a Form #185 through the normal approval process.

This process provides the employee an opportunity to work secondary employment on short notice. However, it should never interfere with the needs of the Agency and must be appropriate and compatible with the Agency's policies and primary mission.

In any case where an employee's request to work secondary employment is denied, the employee shall have the right of appeal to the Sheriff. The appeal shall be in the form of a memorandum addressed to the Sheriff stating the circumstances of the appeal. A copy of the original Form #185 should be attached.

SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT LOCATION APPROVAL

Each secondary employment location must be approved before an Agency employee can work there. Each location will have one Agency employee who is identified as the manager of that secondary employment site. A Secondary Employment Location Request, Form #185.1, will be submitted through the chain of command to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff requesting approval for each location. The Secondary Employment Location Request will be accompanied by a Chain of Command Coversheet, Form #144. Each level of supervision and command will review the request and indicate their endorsement for either approval or denial. For any new location to be added to the approved list, the employee identified as the manager for the location shall be responsible for the submission of the Form #185.1. Once a location has been approved, it will be added to a database of all security or police-related locations. The database will be managed by the Standards and Inspections Section of OPR and will be available on the Agency Intranet to allow employees interested in working secondary employment to determine if a location has been approved.

When a secondary employment site is no longer active, the manager of that site will submit Form #185.1 with the block "site inactive" checked along with the date. The form will be forwarded through the chain of command to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff, who will forward the approved document to the Standards and Inspections Section of OPR. This will effectively remove this secondary employment site from the list of active sites.



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D. PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Security-related secondary employment is generally not permitted during an employee's probationary period. However, lateral officers with two years of prior police experience may apply for and be approved to work secondary employment once they have been approved to work as a solo officer. In no case shall a sworn employee be permitted to engage in secondary employment related to security or police work, unless the employee has attended an Academy and successfully completed field training.

If an employee's sick and safe leave records reflect the employee's health has hindered their ability to be attentive to the responsibilities of his primary work, secondary employment will be denied.

No employee in a modified or non-officer status may work police or security related secondary employment. No employee may engage in secondary employment which would amount to being paid by the Sheriff and another employer for the same time period.

No employee shall engage in secondary employment where their position may have a coercive effect on individuals interacted with. For example, collection of debts, civil process service, private investigations (including accident investigations), providing bail bond, insurance, etc. No employee may be owner or part owner of any business which engages in such activities.

No employee may work as a police or security officer representing any side in a labor dispute. Unless acting under a contract through the Agency, a sworn employee may not work as a police or security officer for any other county, municipality, or other political subdivision. (This section does not apply to duties related to U.S. military reserves or National Guard activities.) No employee may work as a police or security officer for a private company whose place of business is outside of Charles County.

If a secondary employment location is a private or corporate business enterprise (as contrasted with a not-for-profit charitable, religious or civic enterprise), Sworn officers shall not engage in the sale or service of alcoholic beverages. In reference to businesses in possession of a liquor license: Officers shall not perform "bouncer" duties including enforcement of "house" rules, conducting "pat downs", alcohol level screenings, or identification verification. The business's liquor license must be in good standing with the Charles County Board of License Commissioners (Alcohol Board). Upon the suspension or loss of the liquor license, a new Secondary Employment Location Request (Form 185.1) must be submitted for review of the circumstances and approval by the appropriate Assistant Sheriff to continue as an approved location. The submitting officer will document "Location review. Loss of liquor license" in the "Description of Event" section of the form.

In no case will an employee engage in secondary employment that could bring discredit, disrespect, or disfavor from the public in general upon the Agency or its members. Although the circumstances of this requirement may be difficult to determine, the responsibility to maintain public trust and confidence in the Agency and its members requires that employees be extremely conservative in their decisions regarding secondary employment. The fact that approval for a particular secondary employment has been obtained, does not relieve the employee from responsibility for this requirement. The employee is in the best position to evaluate and continually monitor the ongoing conditions of a particular secondary employment position to ensure it is in compliance with the requirements and spirit of this section.

No employee may engage in secondary employment where the employee's access to Agency records or information is a factor. Employees may not gain a business advantage nor profit in any way from the access to such information or records. No employee may disregard or violate Agency rules as a result of secondary employment.

Supervisors and all other employees are reminded the work of the Charles County Sheriff's Office is the primary employment for all. Supervisors shall consider adequate staffing when granting leave requests for employees to



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work secondary employment.

Security or police-related secondary employment may be suspended or prohibited by a commander / director or an Assistant Sheriff as a disciplinary tool, subject to the Public Safety Article for sworn employees.

LIMITATIONS

No employee is permitted to engage in secondary employment which may have a detrimental effect upon the employee's performance of his duty functions. This would include, but is not limited to, length of time spent in secondary employment, the physical activity necessary, the mental stress, or job pressures.

E. UNIFORMS AND VEHICLES

Sworn officers approved to work secondary employment in security or police-related positions must wear the authorized patrol shift uniform. Officers shall also carry all required equipment as if reporting for duty.

No specialty uniforms (EST, Bike Patrol, etc.) are to be worn while working secondary jobs. Exceptions to the uniform requirement for specific locations or details must be requested and justified during the approval process. A specific request and justification to wear civilian clothing at secondary employment must be submitted via memo to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff. K-9 officers are permitted to wear their specialty uniform when their K-9 partner is present at the secondary employment. If the K-9 partner is not present, K-9 officers will wear the authorized patrol shift uniform.

Sworn employees who are approved to work secondary employment in security or police-related work in civilian clothing will carry an approved firearm, badge, Agency ID Card, Maryland Police Training Commission Card, handcuffs, and the Agency portable radio. It is highly recommended the employee wear issued body armor and carry the issued collapsible baton, OC Spray, and extra ammunition for the firearm.

Use of an Agency vehicle during secondary employment requires prior approval. Use of the vehicle shall be strictly limited to only those tasks that are necessary. Excessive use of an Agency vehicle during secondary employment may result in revocation of approval. An Agency vehicle may be used to travel to and from the fixed location of the secondary employment and for limited movements about the location. The vehicle may be occupied by the employee while parked; however, the engine of the vehicle will not remain running for any extended period of time.

F. NOTIFICATIONS

Sworn employees working secondary employment in any police or security capacity shall, prior to the start of such employment, notify the police station technician for the district in which the secondary employment assignment will take place. This notification may be made by telephone or in person.

The technician will be provided with the following information:

1. the location (address);
2. the name of the business (if applicable);
3. the hours the employee will be working.

The technician will initiate a "Secondary Employment" event, and enter all information provided by the officer.

When securing from secondary employment, the officer may contact the district station or Communications to clear the event. However, officers shall be responsible for verifying they have been logged off the secondary



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employment assignment.

Failure of the officer to make this notification may result in disciplinary action, up to and including loss of the privilege to work secondary employment. Police Station Technicians who are responsible for entering this information into Agency computer systems are also subject to disciplinary action for failure to complete this function.

Communications personnel, upon beginning a tour of duty, shall familiarize themselves with locations and officers currently on a secondary employment assignment.

REPORT OF POLICE ACTION

When an officer working secondary employment takes police-related actions, the officer will notify Communications. The Communications PCO will start an event in the CAD system under the officer's ID number. When the situation is completed, the officer will clear the event with a disposition code. This includes any police action at the secondary employment site or anywhere the officer might respond.

GAMBLING SITES

Employees working secondary employment at locations where games of chance resulting in monetary winnings to participants are played are required to ensure there is a valid gambling permit on site. Any violations noticed by employees while working at these sites will be reported to the person in charge. If the violations continue, the district supervisor or, the section / shift commander, will be immediately notified and the employee will cease the secondary employment.

The notified supervisor will cause the appropriate action to be taken to deal with the violation(s). In the case where the reporting employee is sworn, an incident report will be completed by the reporting employee documenting the circumstances of the violation(s) and a copy forwarded to Narcotics / Vice. In the case where the reporting person is not sworn, the notified supervisor will cause a report to be made and a copy forwarded to Narcotics / Vice.

G. LIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

When employees work secondary employment, they should consider the question of liability for their acts on behalf of the secondary employer. They should also consider the consequences of accidents and injuries which they may sustain in the performance of their secondary employment. The Charles County Sheriff's Office will assume no liability for an employee's actions or injuries sustained as a result of activities on behalf of, or at the direction of, secondary employers.

Employees should consider what they have to lose (including the ability to work for the Agency), and take steps to ensure the secondary employer will provide protection for injuries or civil suits arising from the secondary employment. The secondary employer should provide Workers' Compensation and liability insurance to the employee.

H. RESPONSIBILITIES

SWORN

Sworn employees have responsibilities inseparable from their oath of office which may not be disregarded because the employee is working secondary employment. If an incident arises which requires law enforcement action during the course of the secondary employment and that action is not associated with or compatible with the secondary employment duties of the employee, the employee must take such actions as are required by his



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duties to the Sheriff and the citizens of Charles County.

Minor incidents which did not or are not occurring on the secondary employer's premises and do not require immediate law enforcement action may be handled by an on-duty officer. Communications may be notified of the need for an on-duty officer. Otherwise, incidents which occur as a result of the secondary employer's operation, or on the secondary employer's premises, will be handled by the employee working secondary employment. An on-duty supervisor or commander may, under exigent circumstances, direct an incident to be handled by on-duty personnel.

Emergency situations, regardless of location or relationship to secondary employment, will be handled by the employee as if in a duty status. Employees will then be compensated by the Agency for any arrest, transport, processing time, and any subsequent court time associated with the incident. Officers, starting at that point, shall not continue to be compensated by both the Agency and the secondary employer.

NON-SWORN

Non-sworn employees are prohibited from working in any secondary employment capacity which is prohibited to sworn employees, unless they can demonstrate no conflict with their duties or other detrimental influence will prevail because of their engagement in the secondary employment. Non-sworn employees shall not wear uniforms or equipment associated with their employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

I. DOCUMENTING, MONITORING, AND AUDITING

The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) shall be responsible for monitoring all secondary employment.

The Commander, OPR shall ensure random review of secondary employment is conducted. In this regard, occasional inspections of locations and operations of businesses approved for secondary employment will be made. The activities of employees will be observed in order to determine if they comply with this policy and are in accordance with those described on the approved Form #185.1. As a result of such audits, the Commander will report any discrepancies or problems to the Chief of Staff.

The Commander, OPR will ensure an annual review of secondary employment is conducted, and present a written report to the Sheriff through the chain of command outlining the secondary employment of Agency employees for the previous 12 months.

3-639 PATROL OFFICER FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The successful completion of the Patrol Field Training Officer (FTO) Program is required of every sworn patrol officer and will begin once the officer has met the following:

6. Completion of mandated Police Academy Training;
7. Completion of Agency specified training for newly hired sworn officers; and
8. Overview of the FTO Program.

The Patrol Field Training Officer Program is based on the essential functions of a Police Officer I and is meant to ensure each officer will have received the necessary training, supervision, and guidance under field conditions to meet the high standards of the Agency.

3-639.1 PATROL FTO PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY

A Patrol Administrative Sergeant will be selected as the coordinator of the FTO program. The FTO Coordinator is



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responsible for the overall daily operation and administration of this program. Specific responsibilities of the FTO Coordinator include selecting the curriculum, maintaining records, providing Agency specified training, and acting as a liaison between the Agency and Academy staff. The Commander, Training Division, in conjunction with the Patrol Shift Commanders, will continually evaluate the FTO Program to improve its effectiveness toward providing the newly sworn officer with the experience and skills necessary to complete the program. Details of this program may be found in the FTO SOP.

3-639.2 PATROL FTO PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Patrol Field Training Officer Program requires systematic and organized activities that educate and train newly hired officers. The program consists of on-the-job training, classroom training, and numerous evaluations throughout the process. The program is designed to replicate, as nearly as practicable, those conditions a police officer will be presented with on solo patrol. It takes into consideration previous life experiences, whether as a cadet, a member of the military, or an officer from another agency.

The Patrol FTO Program consists of a minimum of 400 documented hours for newly sworn patrol officers and a minimum of 250 documented hours for lateral / prior police experience officers. The maximum time a trainee can remain in the Patrol FTO program is 900 documented hours.

The program consists of two distinct phases. The first phase is a minimum of 250 documented hours for a rookie trainee and a minimum of 150 documented hours for a lateral officer / prior police experience officer. At the end of this phase, and with approval of supervisory staff, the trainee will move into Phase 2 for the completion of their training. Performance is measured by exams, reports, task completion, and other methods as determined by the FTO Coordinator.

3-639.3 PATROL FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

The selection of sworn officers to act as Patrol Field Training Officers (FTOs) will be closely monitored by the Patrol Shift Commanders. Officers must meet the following requirements:

- Have at least two years' experience (MPCTC COMAR requirement) as a police officer post-Academy;
- Have demonstrated a solid understanding of Agency policy and procedures, including criminal and procedural law;
- Have satisfactory performance evaluations for the last year;
- Have their immediate supervisor's recommendation;
- Have the recommendation of their shift commander;
- Be highly motivated and be a positive role model for the Agency; and
- Be willing to be subject to transfer within the Patrol Division as the needs of the program require.

Patrol Officers selected to perform the duties of an FTO will be constantly evaluated by their immediate supervisor. Performance which does not meet with the standards set forth in the program will result in the officer being removed from the program.

3-640 CADET PROGRAM

- A. PURPOSE
- B. REQUIREMENTS
- C. WORK ENVIRONMENT
- D. DUTIES, ROLE, AND SCOPE OF AUTHORITY
- E. OPERATION OF AGENCY VEHICLES
- F. TRAINING



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G. AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Cadet Program is designed to temporarily employ young adults seeking employment as police officers or correctional officers with the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Cadets are non-sworn Agency employees. No rank structure exists within the Cadet Program and all cadets are part-time employees serving at the will of the Sheriff.

Cadets require no training prior to commencing employment with the Agency; however, cadets experience on-the-job training to learn the duties of the specific assignments cadets receive throughout the Agency.

The Cadet Program is under the direct supervision of the Patrol Operations Division. The cadets are periodically evaluated for efficiency and job performance.

B. REQUIREMENTS

Cadets must meet the same requirements as those of police officers, excluding the age requirement, and maintain those qualifications while in the Cadet Program. Failure to maintain these standards and qualifications while in the Cadet Program will result in dismissal from the program and the Agency. Cadets must be between the ages of 17 and 19 at the time of application. Applicants may not be hired until they are 18 years of age and must be employed before their twentieth birthday.

A Cadet who becomes ineligible for the position of police officer or correctional officer during employment as a Cadet will be terminated.

EDUCATION

Cadets may be in their final year of high school to begin the application process, or hold a diploma from a recognized high school or possess a General Education Development certificate recognized by the Maryland State Board of Education.

C. WORK ENVIRONMENT

Cadets will work a maximum of 24 hours per week, with some exceptions. Work schedules and hours will vary and include shift work and weekends, but may be adjusted around college schedules and demands.

Cadets are non-sworn uniformed members of the Patrol Operations Division; however, they may be assigned to other divisions as needed.

Cadets shall treat all Agency communications, information and business as confidential. Official information shall not be provided outside of the Agency except as provided elsewhere in policy. All report dissemination will originate from the Records Management Section.

Cadets shall not access any Agency computer for the purpose of using the information contained therein for other than official purposes. No information obtained from any Agency computer shall be divulged except as permitted by law and Agency policy.

D. DUTIES, ROLE, AND SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

Cadets are not sworn officers and are not given the power or authority to make arrests or take any law enforcement



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action whatsoever. Cadets shall not exercise any arrest or enforcement authority. Cadets shall not intentionally engage in activities that may require the powers given to sworn officers, such as the use of force or powers of arrest. This does not prohibit their ability to come to the aid of a citizen or another officer in need of assistance as would any other citizen or at the direction of a lawful order by a sworn officer.

Cadets will assist members of the Agency in accomplishing work objectives to include:

1. Administrative duties.
2. Performing duties of a Police Station Technician.
3. Assisting Traffic Operations with various duties such as:
 - a) Commercial vehicle inspections.
 - b) School bus safety inspections.
 - c) Conducting safety seat inspections.
 - d) Crime prevention and Traffic Operations public education programs.
 - e) Staffing CCSO informational displays or booths.
 - f) Assisting with crowd control and traffic control at public events such as carnivals, fairs, fireworks displays, sporting events.
 - g) Assisting with crowd control and traffic control at crime scenes, fires, traffic light outages, and other unusual occurrences.
4. Working in the Charles County Detention Center providing assistance in areas that do not involve direct contact with the incarcerated individuals of the Detention Center; and
5. Any other related duties authorized by the Commander, Patrol Operations Division and within the cadet's scope of authority.

Cadets may also be utilized as a resource for support services during emergencies and large scale special events in accordance with their scope and authority.

Cadets shall not be assigned to perform law enforcement related tasks which would require a sworn law enforcement officer without the direct supervision of a sworn member of the Agency. They will, from time to time, be assigned to assist sworn members of the Agency with their law enforcement related duties. In such instances, the sworn officer will provide the exact nature of the cadet's duties, and the cadet will be provided any necessary training to perform his assigned task. During this time, the cadet shall remain under close supervision by the sworn member.

Cadets shall not be assigned or authorized to carry any weapons, lethal or non-lethal, at any time except during formal training by a certified firearms instructor.

Cadets shall not take any action that is contrary to, or interferes with, the duties of the members of the Agency.

E. OPERATION OF AGENCY VEHICLES



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Cadets may operate Agency vehicles only if they are on duty, possess a valid operator's license, and are directed by a supervisor. Vehicles operated by a cadet may be used for:

1. Transportation to and from maintenance facilities;
2. Administrative purposes;
3. Transportation to and from an assignment location; and
4. Special assignments.

Cadets will not use any vehicle to pursue another vehicle or respond to any situation with the emergency equipment activated.

Cadets may operate an emergency vehicle only if they are accompanied by a sworn officer or at the direction of a sworn supervisor.

F. TRAINING

Cadets provide services to support duties not requiring sworn officer status. Prior to any assignment, the cadet will receive instructions and / or training appropriate to the duties anticipated. Often such training is conducted one-on-one, with an officer / employee assigned to perform such duties. Cadet training may vary from formal classroom training to on-the-job training.

G. AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS

In order to clearly distinguish cadets from sworn or correctional officers, cadets are authorized to wear uniforms only as described in the Uniform and Grooming Standards SOP.

3-645 STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM

The Charles County Sheriff's Office recognizes that a close working relationship with the community is imperative for effective operation. This includes working with local colleges, universities, and high schools in the development of a student intern program. The student intern program provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in designated activities within the Agency. In addition, the Agency can observe potential police applicants in action. The focus of the program shall be to offer the students a variety of exposures within the Agency.

This section establishes program responsibility, eligibility, and operational procedures for the Student Intern Program.

3-645.1 PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for this program is assigned to the Commander, Administrative Services Division. The Pre-Employment / Recruitment Unit Supervisor will be responsible for coordinating with local colleges and universities, interviewing prospective interns, evaluating intern eligibility, coordinating necessary form completion, intern placement, and program evaluation.

3-645.2 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Candidates shall meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate in the program:

- Currently enrolled as a Maryland high school Junior or Senior student, or a Maryland college/ university student or Maryland resident enrolled in an out-of-state college/ university. If under the age of 18 the student must have parent/ guardian written consent.



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- Have the approval of a faculty advisor;
- Successful completion of a background investigation and oral interview conducted by the Pre-Employment/ Recruitment Unit Supervisor;
- Completion of Student Intern Program Application, Liability Waiver, and Student Intern Work Agreement.

3-645.3 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Upon successful completion of the interview, the background investigation, and all necessary forms, the student intern will be given a tour of Headquarters for familiarization purposes.

The Pre-Employment/ Recruitment Unit Supervisor, Administrative Services Division, will coordinate the placement of interns within the Agency based on requests received from the various divisions. Efforts will be made to give the intern as many diverse assignments as possible. Following deployment, commanders shall exercise normal managerial authority over interns and shall assign either a sworn or a civilian employee to monitor the intern's progress.

Interns, who will serve for any length of time to make it feasible, will be issued a photo I.D. card identifying them as a student intern.

An intern may be removed from the program when circumstances warrant such action for the benefit of the Agency. Recommendations for removal shall be directed to the Commander, Administrative Services Division.

3-646 EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- A. PURPOSE
- B. REQUEST FOR TRAINING
- C. REPORT OF TRAINING
- D. REPORT OF EXPENSES
- E. SUPERVISOR TRAINING
- F. CIVILIAN TRAINING
- G. POSITIONS REQUIRING SPECIALIZED TRAINING
- H. ROLL CALL TRAINING
- I. REMEDIAL TRAINING

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for Agency members to attend training seminars, conferences and other training programs and for the Commander, Training Division to maintain records of training completed. This policy also establishes Agency positions that require specialized training and procedures for remedial training.

B. REQUEST FOR TRAINING

The procedures for requesting training are as follows:

1. The Request for Training Form #181 will be filled out in full for all requested training, excluding in service training for civilians, correctional and sworn personnel and no cost in-house training programs. The form should include a justification for attending the training.



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2. Any fliers or further information on the training will be attached to the Request for Training. Incomplete Requests for Training will be sent back to the originating Section Commander for further documentation.
3. Any costs associated with the training should be included on the Form #181. Examples: air travel, lodging, rental vehicles, parking fees, and / or per diem. These can be basic estimates determined through internet search. The Training Administrator will research the final cost once the Request for Training is received with approval signature by an Assistant Sheriff.
4. If lodging is needed the night before and / or after the training, it should be noted on the Request for Training.
5. All "no cost" training requests for programs presented outside of the Agency need only be approved by a Division Commander. All other training requests with costs associated are to be forwarded to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff for approval.
6. No cost in-house training programs will be requested through the use of the online training request form located under the "Reports" tab on the Agency intranet. Command approval to attend is required to ensure adequate staffing levels before completing the form.
7. If a request is denied, it should still be processed through the Chain of Command to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff. Upon review, the Assistant Sheriff's final determination will be communicated back through the Chain of Command to the supervisor and requesting party.
8. All denied Requests for Training should still be forwarded to the Training Division via email at training@ccso.us for documentation purposes. An electronic file of the denied training requests will be maintained in the Training Division shared drive as described in the Training Retention Schedule. The original denied paperwork will be returned to the originating Division Commander.
9. To prevent any undue delays in the approval process, if anyone in the Chain of Command is not available, an "unavailable" notation should be recorded in their signature line on the Request for Training form and the form will be forwarded to the respective commander who is in charge at the time of submission.
10. All requests for training should be made sixty (60) days in advance, when possible, to allow for processing and disbursement of pre-paid expenses. When it is not feasible to complete the Request for Training within the requested time, the employee may be required to maintain all receipts associated with per diem in order to receive reimbursement based on the amount allotted by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), published at gsa.gov.

Once the Request for Training Form #181 is completed, it will be submitted following the below outlined procedures:

SWORN OFFICERS

1. Complete the Form #181 Request for Training in its entirety and prefill the Chain of Command indicating:
 - a) For no cost training: Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain
 - b) For any training with a cost associated: Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Budgeting, and Assistant Sheriff
 - c) Training requests associated with specialized assignments (EST, Security Response Vessel Function, Hostage Negotiations, etc.) outside the employee's assigned Division will also include the Division Commander responsible for the specialized assignment for approval.



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2. The officer will then email the request to his / her Sergeant.
3. The Sergeant will review for completeness and accuracy, then check approved or denied and sign in the first signature line (this should be done using an electronic signature). At this time, it should be forwarded electronically to the Lieutenant for manpower determination.
4. Once the Lieutenant determines manpower is available, the request and all supporting documents without the Lieutenant's signature should be sent to training@ccso.us.
5. The Training Division will place the document in the electronic workflow program utilized by the agency which will automatically forward through the appropriate Chain of Command as indicated in step 1.
6. Once approved by all required designees indicated in the employee's Chain of Command, the Training Division will begin processing the request and send a confirmation email with all required details to attend the training.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

1. The employee will complete the Form #181 Request for Training in its entirety and prefill the Chain of Command indicating:
 - a) For no cost training: Supervisor, Lieutenant / Deputy Director, Captain / Director.
 - b) For any training with a cost associated: Supervisor, Lieutenant / Deputy Director, Captain / Director, Budgeting, and Assistant Sheriff.
 - c) Training requests associated with specialized assignments (EST, Security Response Vessel Function, Hostage Negotiations, etc.) outside the employee's assigned Division will also include the Division Commander responsible for the specialized assignment for approval.
2. The employee will then email it to their supervisor.
3. The Supervisor will review for completeness and accuracy, then check approved or denied and sign in the first signature line (this should be done using an electronic signature). At this time, it should be forwarded to the Lieutenant / Deputy Director for manpower determination.
4. Once the Lieutenant / Deputy Director determines manpower is available, the request and all supporting documents should be sent to training@ccso.us without the Lieutenant / Deputy Director's signature.
5. The Training Division will place the document in the electronic workflow program utilized by the agency which will automatically forward through the appropriate Chain of Command as indicated in step 1.
6. Once approved by all required designees indicated in the employee's Chain of Command, the Training Division will begin processing the request and send a confirmation email with all required details to attend the training.

CORRECTIONS

1. The employee will complete the Form #181 Request for Training in its entirety, to include indicating:
 - a) For no cost training: the Corrections Training Sergeant or Training Lieutenant, the employee's supervisor, Deputy Director, and Director.
 - b) For any training with a cost associated: the Corrections Training Sergeant or Training Lieutenant, the employee's supervisor, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Director, Director, Budgeting, and Assistant Sheriff



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2. The employee will email it to ccdctrainingrequests@ccso.us.
3. The Corrections Training Unit will review for completeness and accuracy, then upload to the electronic workflow program utilized by the agency which will automatically forward through the appropriate Chain of Command as indicated in step 1.
4. Once signed by all required designees indicated in the employees' Chain of Command, the request will be processed by the Corrections Training Unit and a confirmation email will be sent with all required details to attend the training.

C. REPORT OF TRAINING

Employees who conduct, participate in, or attend seminars, schools, conferences, and programs must complete the Report of Training Form #182 and forward to the Training Division via email at training@ccso.us, within five (5) days after completion of training. A copy of any certificate awarded shall be attached to the Form #182. This report will become a permanent part of the employee's training file.

D. REPORT OF EXPENSES

When Agency funds are spent with regard to training, a final accounting will be made to the Accounting Section at the completion of training.

1. The Travel Expense Report Form #183 shall be used for this accounting.
2. The Form #183 shall be submitted along with receipts for all expenses, except meals paid in advance by per diem unless meal receipts are required by a special funding source, even if no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred.
3. This form shall be completed and submitted through the Chain of Command and then to the Accounting Section within five (5) days after the completion of training.
4. The Travel Expense Report Instructions, Form #183a (printed on the reverse of Form #183) shall be complied with in the completion of Form #183.
5. Additionally, the rules explained in this policy shall govern the character and amount of expenses which may be reported. Only those allowed expenses, which are the direct result of the business purpose for which the travel is approved, will be allowed.

TRANSPORTATION

1. All travel shall be by the most direct route reasonably available. Side trips and detours for personal reasons are not allowed and will not be reimbursed.
2. The most economical mode of transportation is the preferred method of travel. All factors shall be considered in deciding the most economical form of travel. For example, if the choices consisted of traveling by air or by car, the car trip would include the computed cost of the vehicle mileage / fuel, plus the meals in transit, plus the lodging if the trip required an overnight stop, plus the cost of any overtime hours spent driving, plus tolls, and so forth.
3. In most cases involving a trip by automobile, a Sheriff's Office vehicle shall be used.
 - a) Civilian employees attending training classes should contact the Commander, Property Management



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- to see if a suitable pool vehicle is available for their use. If no vehicle is available, an alternate method may be used.
- b) If the employee has a marked vehicle which would be inappropriate for the trip and/or no suitable pool vehicle is available for the employee's use, the employee may use a personal vehicle.
 4. The current standard mileage allowance will be reimbursed for personal vehicle use in an approved business capacity. The Training Division may be contacted for the current standard mileage allowance amount.
 5. When public transportation is the preferred method of travel, the actual fare for the transportation shall be reimbursed. The ticket receipt or coupon is the proof of the cost of the transportation, not a charge receipt. The most economical class of travel shall be used.
 6. Other miscellaneous transportation expenses, when incurred during business travel, which will be reimbursed include:
 - a) porter or bellman fees at one dollar per bag,
 - b) bus fares,
 - c) street car fares,
 - d) subway fares,
 - e) parking fees and
 - f) taxi/ ridesharing platform fares.

LODGING

Lodging may be provided to employees who are required to attend a business function which is more than two hours from their primary work location.

1. This applies if the employee will work a full business day at the location of the function, and it is impractical, because of the time required to travel to and from the function in the same day.
2. It will, in most cases, be considered impractical, if any expenses incurred (overtime and meals, if applicable) by traveling during non-work hours, would be greater than the expense of lodging and meals incurred by an overnight stay.
3. In any case where the employee's workday would be extended beyond a period of fourteen (14) hours, including attending the function and the travel to and from the function, an overnight stay is presumed reasonable.

NOTE: The Agency is not able to get Federal government published hotel rates in most cases. The employee or the Training personnel responsible for booking the training should request either a government rate or special conference rate when making reservations, as well as tax exemption, when applicable.

Training will make reservations at a cost within published per diem rates. If an employee opts for accommodations in excess of the per diem rate, he will be responsible for any amount in excess, unless a prior approval has been granted because the function attended is held in the place of lodging, and it would be impractical or more expensive to stay elsewhere when all expenses related to that stay are considered.

1. All lodging receipts shall be itemized daily and only allowed business expenses in addition to the room rate and tax / resort fee, if applicable, shall be reimbursed.
2. Such allowed items might include business telephone calls and laundry or cleaning expenses on extended



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stays.

3. Such expenses as movie or television rental and room bar bills will not be reimbursed.
4. If an employee travels with a family member who stays in the same room, any added expenses incurred as a result are the employee's responsibility and will not be reimbursed. Receipts shall not show non-allowable expenses.

MEAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

While on overnight travel, employees shall be eligible for meal expenses. Eligibility for a given meal is dependent upon the following circumstances:

1. On the first day of travel with an overnight stay, the employee's lunch and dinner are eligible for reimbursement, and breakfast is eligible if the employee was required to leave home more than two hours sooner than required by the employee's normal commute to work.
 - a) On the last day of travel connected with an overnight stay, the employee is reimbursed for breakfast and lunch.
 - b) Reimbursement for dinner will be paid only if the employee returns home two hours after his normal commute time.
2. If an employee is required to work at a location that is more than two hours from his normal work location, the employee shall be eligible for a before and / or after work meal.
 - a) If in accordance with this policy, an employee is eligible for meal reimbursement for breakfast and / or dinner, the employee is also eligible for lunch reimbursement.
3. When training does not require an overnight stay and does not meet the standards as established for per diem, employees will not be eligible for meal expenses.
 - a) On the rare occasion when training meets the established standard for per diem but the employee elects to commute, he will be eligible for meal expenses.
 - b) When these circumstances occur, no per diem meals will be paid in advance.
 - c) The meal expenses will be reimbursed up to the allowable meal per diem after receipts are submitted with the Travel Expense Report Form #183. This saves the Agency on the number of check requests processed.

In an effort to standardize travel distances to comply with the two hour time frame, the Agency will use a recognized mapping website or application which is easily accessible through the Internet.

1. All meal pre-payments and reimbursements are based upon the current annual rates as published on the GSA website (gsa.gov).
2. Daily rates are listed for particular cities or if not listed, there is a rate which applies to all other places in the Continental United States which will be used.
3. Individual meal payments are determined by utilizing the current published rates on the GSA website. All employees who are eligible for per diem will also be eligible for the "Incidental Expenses" rate on the GSA website to be added to their breakfast, lunch, and / or dinner meal breakdown.
4. Meal receipts are required if per diem has not been pre-paid to the employee.
5. If receipts are required for reimbursement, only that amount meeting the per diem rates listed on the GSA website will be reimbursed.
6. The employee should contact the Training Division for any questions in this matter.



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No reimbursement will be made for the cost of alcoholic beverages. If the cost of meals is part of a duly authorized flat rate per diem or part of a maximum rate of reimbursement, the limitations set forth above shall not apply (for example, when personnel attend out-service training that is several months in duration such as Northwestern University or the FBI National Academy). When an official or employee is attending a meeting, seminar, or convention where a meal is part of the program and the employee must pay for the meal with his own money, the expense of such a meal will be reimbursed.

MISCELLANEOUS ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Telephone and postage charges incurred in the performance of official duties are reimbursable. Registration and tuition fees for approved courses are reimbursable. The costs of supplies needed for courses, seminars, and conferences are reimbursable with receipts. When a training period exceeds one week, the cost of laundry, cleaning, and pressing may be allowed.

E. SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Employees are required to attend training programs which they are scheduled, or directed, to attend. All employees will be trained as required by any law or Agency directive regarding minimum training for their position. All levels of supervision are required to provide for employee training, at least to the minimum levels required by law, regulation, or policy of the Agency. This requirement is deemed to have been met by a supervisor if a Request for Training Form #181 has been forwarded to the Training Commander.

As required by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), newly promoted sworn and corrections supervisors / administrators will attend an approved training course within one year of their date of promotion.

1. Sworn supervisors will also attend the Agency Sworn Supervisor Training class when promoted.
 - a) The Agency Sworn Supervisor Training class is administered by the Patrol Administrative Sergeants and taught by subject matter experts.
 - b) This training will cover supervisory duties, performance evaluations, skills, paperwork, and knowledge needed for the position.
2. Correctional supervisors will attend the Agency's Corrections Supervisor Training class when promoted.
 - a) The Corrections Supervisor Training class is administered by the Corrections Division Training Unit.
 - b) The training will cover supervisory duties, paperwork, and specific tasks required by supervision within the Corrections Division.
3. New civilian supervisors are required to attend one of the Agency Civilian Supervisor Training classes developed by the Training Division. In addition to required Agency training, new civilian supervisors may request to attend civilian supervisor training offered by MPCTC.
4. All first-line supervisors and first-line administrators are also required to attend the CCSO Leadership Seminar. The Leadership Seminar provides employees with leadership philosophy, including change management, building trust and accountability, interpersonal communication, and sharing mission priorities and agency vision in the roll call setting.
 - a) The seminar is administered by command staff members designated by the Sheriff and taught by subject matter experts.

Each employee who is responsible for conducting a training program, and the Training Commander, will develop for each program a method of dealing with excused absences of attendees at training programs. These methods could take the form of make-up classes, individual instruction, reading assignments, or such other methods as may qualify the employee to the levels required of attendees to the program. Employees who are scheduled to attend



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any program must notify the Training Commander, or the designated leader of the particular training program, as far in advance as possible, of any need to be absent from a training program or any portion thereof.

All levels of supervision will identify advanced training, beyond that required at entrance level, in order to enhance the performance of their subordinates. Recommendations for such training will be forwarded to the Training Commander for consideration.

F. CIVILIAN TRAINING

Certain positions within the Charles County Sheriff's Office require in-service training as an essential function of those positions. In addition, civilian employees are encouraged to attend position-related seminars and training to supplement and encourage growth within the Agency.

The following civilian positions require completion of the CN1 (NCIC Logon Certification) Course administered by CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) before being authorized to access confidential information involving state, national, and local agencies:

1. Records Management personnel;
2. Police Station Technicians and Supervisors;
3. Police Communications Officers and Supervisors;
4. Judicial Services Specialists;
5. Firearms Tracking Specialist;
6. Central processing personnel;
7. Civil Process Server Specialists;
8. Child Support Enforcement Coordinator;
9. Latent Print Specialists;
10. Automated Enforcement Unit Specialist, Supervisor.

ITD personnel must obtain the appropriate access level for their position.

Records Technicians and Central processing personnel are required to attend National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) training.

The Victim Services Coordinator is required to attend the Maryland State Board of Victim Services pre-certification conference.

When a civilian employee of the Agency is promoted or transferred within the Agency, that employee will receive either formal training if required, or on-the-job training by personnel qualified in the position being filled by the employee. This training will either take place prior to the promotion or transfer or within the first year of the employee filling the new position.

G. POSITIONS REQUIRING SPECIALIZED TRAINING

There are several positions throughout the Agency which have been identified as requiring some degree of specialized training. Each employee shall receive initial training by either attending a training course to develop skills in the particular specialization or by receiving instructions and on-the-job training. This development is continuously enhanced by on-the-job training and supervision by experienced personnel as well as additional training and seminars as approved.

The following is a list of the Agency identified positions requiring some degree of specialized training:



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1. Traffic Operations
 2. School Resource Officers/ D.A.R.E. Officers
 3. Electronic Fingerprinting Technicians
 4. Emergency Services Team Members
 5. Hostage Negotiators
 6. Forensic Science Technicians
 7. Truth Verification Examiners
 8. Drug Recognition Experts
 9. Intoximeter Operators
 10. Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Operators
 11. Security Response Vessel Operators
 12. Motorcycle Operators
 13. Radar / Laser Operators
 14. Crime Scene Processors
 15. Field Training Officers
 16. Crisis Intervention Team Members
 17. MPCTC Certified Trainers
 18. Academy Instructors
 19. Firearms Instructors
 20. K-9 Handlers / Trainers
 21. Comfort K-9 Handlers
 22. Search Managers
 23. Special Events Response Team Members
 24. ATV/UTV Operators
 25. Community Policing Officers
 26. Crime Prevention Officers
 27. Forensic Chemist
 28. Latent Print Specialists
 29. Critical Incident Stress Management Team Members
 30. Corrections Emergency Response Team Members
 31. Corrections Transport Officers
 32. Digital Forensic Examiners
 33. Digital Forensic Analysts
 34. Technical Investigations Function Members
 35. Peer Support Team Members

Additional positions may require some degree of specialized training as Agency policy, or legal requirements, change.

H. ROLL CALL TRAINING

Periodically, supervisors will conduct roll call training with their subordinates. Roll call training is typically conducted at the beginning of a shift and is intended to be brief. Topics may include policy review, legal updates or other critical or time sensitive information or instruction. Typically, this applies to Patrol squads just before they begin their shifts. However, other employee segments may conduct similar training with their subordinates as needed. Sworn supervisors will document the completion of roll call training on a Roll Call Training Form #398A and forward the form to the Training Division via email at training@ccso.us.

I. REMEDIAL TRAINING

Remedial training is defined as personalized training used to correct a specific deficiency which may have been identified through:



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1. testing;
2. evaluation by a supervisor or FTO during training;
3. evaluation by a supervisor during routine job performance;
4. employee performance evaluations;
5. the disciplinary process; or
6. employee requests.

The goal of remedial training is always to correct an employee's deficiencies in basic skills, knowledge, and abilities required to perform his job assignments. Remedial training is not discipline and is not by its nature punitive and therefore not subject to the grievance process. When it is determined that an employee should receive remedial training, it may be provided:

1. through Agency in-service training;
2. by re-assignment to the Field Training Program; or
3. by enrollment in a course of instruction given by another agency, school, or university as deemed necessary.

Requests for remedial training shall be made by memorandum along with a Remedial Training Worksheet Form #775 and any supporting documentation. The memorandum will outline the deficiency in the employee's performance and include:

1. a recommendation for training to correct the deficiency; and
2. any other corrective action that may have already been taken.

Once approved by the Division Commander:

1. Remedial training handled within the division must be completed within 30 days and documented on the Remedial Training Worksheet Form #775.
2. If the recommended remedial training requires enrolling / scheduling the employee to attend a class or training session at a later date, the approved Remedial Training Worksheet will be forwarded to the Training Division via email at training@ccso.us. Training Division personnel will review the request and schedule the requested training within 60 days, absent exceptional circumstances.
3. If remedial training is provided by another Agency or outside entity, the employee will submit a Report of Training Form #182 through the Chain of Command to the Training Division via email at training@ccso.us.

In all cases, remedial training will be administered or scheduled as soon as practical after the need is identified.

Upon completion of remedial training, the results of the remedial training will be documented on the Remedial Training Worksheet Form #775. Copies of the worksheet and any related documentation will be forwarded via email to:

1. Training Division at Training@ccso.us
2. Human Resources at HR@ccso.us



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3. Office of Professional Responsibility at OPR@ccso.us

Unsatisfactory completion or non-participation in remedial training may be cause for disciplinary action.

3-647 TRAINING ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)

The Charles County Sheriff's Office has established a standing committee within the Agency known as the Training Advisory Council (TAC). The Training Advisory Council is responsible, through the Training Commander, for identifying training priorities for the Agency and for the oversight of all training throughout the Agency, including the review of training related policies. The Council, in identifying training needs, shall take into consideration any information or suggestions obtained from citizen complaints, community meetings, citizen advisory committee meetings, personnel involved in internal investigations, and supervisory or command personnel.

In addition to any other policy or program the TAC identifies for review, the committee shall review the following at least annually. Refer to the Administrative Reporting Program policy for specific requirements.

1. Active Shooter / Active Threat policy and training needs
2. DMVR program

The Council is composed of the Training Commander and one representative from each of the Agency divisions and the Office of General Counsel. The division representatives will be appointed by their respective division commanders or directors. If that selected representative is not available to attend a particular Training Advisory Council meeting because of an excused absence, the respective division commander should send a substitute to represent the division.

The Training Advisory Council will meet in a manner and/ or location as designated by the Training Commander. The Training Commander will send out notifications of dates and times of these meetings to the division commanders/ directors. Training personnel will ensure that these meetings occur at least biannually, with records of attendance and minutes of each meeting maintained and recorded in writing. A copy of the minutes for each meeting will be forwarded to the Sheriff and all members of the Executive Command Staff.

3-649 POSITIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to recognize employees for positive work performance. A copy of all commendations and positive community feedback received by the Agency will be disseminated to the employee and the employee's immediate supervisor and the original will be placed in the employee's personnel file. All feedback may be included in the employee's performance evaluation.

If the employee being recognized is unknown, efforts will be made to identify the employee. If the feedback is directed to the Agency as a whole or multiple divisions / sections / units and individual employee(s) cannot be identified, the feedback will be shared with the responsible Assistant Sheriff or Division Commander / Director to disseminate as he deems appropriate.

When the Agency receives positive feedback via letter, email or phone, the Office of the Sheriff will coordinate dissemination to the employee and a response to the citizen. If the compliment was received in writing, the employee will be provided with a copy of the feedback. If the compliment was received via phone, the compliment will be summarized in writing by whoever received feedback and a copy provided to the employee.

The Commander, Executive Services Division is responsible for monitoring positive community feedback received through the CCSO website and will coordinate dissemination to the employee and a response to the citizen.



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Positive community feedback received by the Agency will be recorded and tracked by the Office of the Sheriff. In all cases, the Agency will send a response back to the citizen who provided the feedback.

3-650 EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. GENERAL PROCEDURES
- D. CORRECTIONAL OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM
- E. SWORN POLICE OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM
- F. CIVILIAN PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM
- G. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND COMMANDERS
- H. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SUPERVISORY REVIEW
- I. TRANSFERS AND REASSIGNMENTS DURING RATING PERIODS
- J. USE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION RESULTS

A. PURPOSE

There are established performance evaluation systems within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. These systems are designed to provide every employee and the Agency with an objective evaluation of the employee's performance of the essential functions of their position. A specific system has been developed for evaluating members of each segment of the Agency: police, corrections and civilian.

Performance evaluations serve the following purposes:

1. To facilitate supervisors in identifying issues of concern and enhancing overall job performance;
2. To encourage supervisors to identify issues of concern, put forth new ideas, and assist in goal setting for officers and the Agency;
3. To facilitate and encourage frequent and open communication between supervisors and employees regarding job expectations, job performance, personal goal setting, and achievement;
4. To provide a mechanism to review the period of evaluation and to discuss both positive and negative aspects of job performance as well as performance improvement plans if necessary; and
5. To allow for the supervisor and the employee to discuss upward mobility, lateral movement, and/or identify training needs.

B. DEFINITIONS

Formal Entry-Level Training: includes the Academy or Comparative Compliance Training and Field Training Program (FTO).

Rater: The person completing the performance evaluation form is the Rater. The Rater should be the immediate supervisor of the employee being evaluated.

Reviewer: The immediate supervisor of the Rater.



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C. GENERAL PROCEDURES

All employees shall receive a documented performance evaluation at least annually. All entrance level probationary employees shall receive quarterly evaluations, with the exception of sworn police recruit officers who are attending SMCJA and non-solo police officers who have not completed formal entry-level training. Civilians as well as non-commissioned sworn police and correctional officers shall receive an evaluation specific to their assignment. All civilian deputy directors, directors as well as commissioned sworn police and commissioned correctional officers shall receive a management level evaluation.

A candid performance evaluation requires continuous observation, analysis of employee's actions, first-hand knowledge of the employee and the employee's work habits, and accuracy in completing the evaluation. It is not a static activity and a true evaluation of an employee must be viewed as a continuous process with frequent communication and feedback between the supervisor and the employee. The review process should stimulate communication and interaction between the supervisor and employee.

The Rater may provide written comments in all applicable comment sections on the evaluation form. If additional space is needed, the Rater may attach a continuation page to the evaluation form.

Any disciplinary actions against the employee during the rating period shall be documented in the performance evaluation. Information contained in Employee Commendation and Corrective Action forms received by the employee during the rating period may be incorporated into the performance evaluation and copies of the forms may be attached as supporting documentation.

Completed and signed performance evaluations become a permanent part of the employee's personnel file.

REQUIRED RATER TRAINING

The Commander, Training Division will coordinate with the Deputy Director, Human Resources Section to identify and schedule training for new supervisors who are responsible for rating other employees. Supervisors receive guidance on their role in the performance evaluation process through mandated sworn/corrections supervisor training conducted by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) and through internal Agency supervisor training programs, described elsewhere in policy. Supervisors will be rated on their ability to rate employees fairly, accurately, and according to the procedures outlined in policy.

D. CORRECTIONAL OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM

A performance evaluation within the context of the Correctional Officer Performance Evaluation System is an objective, structured evaluation of an employee's performance, for a specified period, of the essential functions which make up the employee's position description. The measurement of the employee's performance is gauged against established standards, as defined in this section.

The Correctional Officer Performance Appraisal Rating Form #119 will be used to document the performance of all non-commissioned correctional officers the rank of sergeant and below. The form is completed by the employee's supervisor to document quarterly evaluations, annual evaluations, and progress reports.

At a minimum, the employee will be rated on the first fourteen (14) categories which are reflective of the job functions of all correctional officers. Corporals will be rated on the first seventeen (17) categories. Supervisors will also be rated on two additional categories which evaluate their management and supervision skills.

Each rating category will be developed by the Deputy Director, Human Resources in conjunction with the Director, CCDC and the Assistant Sheriff of Administration.



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Quarterly Evaluation

All entry-level probationary correctional officers will be rated quarterly during their probationary period. This will be accomplished through the use of the Correctional Officer Performance Evaluation Rating Form #119. Quarterly evaluations will also be completed, utilizing Form #119, during any approved extensions to an employee's probationary period.

Annual Evaluation

Once a correctional officer has gained permanent status, the supervisor will evaluate the officer's performance annually, coinciding with the anniversary of their employment with the Agency. The Rater will prepare the Performance Evaluation by utilizing the Correctional Officer Performance Evaluation Rating Form #119.

Progress Report

A Progress Report is an informal tool which may be used at any time during the course of the rating period by a supervisor to address specific areas of an employee's performance that have been identified as Needs Improvement. Progress Reports are instruments of early intervention. They can be used in conjunction with the Remedial Training Worksheet as a means of monitoring, to increase documentation for Entry Level Probationary employees, or to address behavior or performance prior to the need for a Special Evaluation. The progress report will be for a 30-day period. A supervisor and employee conference will be held at the end of the 30-day period. This will be accomplished through the use of the Correctional Officer Performance Evaluation Rating Form.

Action Plan

An action plan is a proposed program agreed upon by the supervisor and employee to improve performance to an Acceptable performance level or above. Action Plans will be documented to address all areas rated below Acceptable. Action Plans will be documented on the Correctional Officer Performance Evaluation Rating Form. Action Plans will include:

1. Goal setting: what will be accomplished
2. Specific tasks: what will be done and by whom
3. Time horizon: when will it be done
4. Resource allocation: what specific means are available for specific activities

Rating Categories and Factors

1. ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY, SUPERVISION & CRITICISM - Evaluates the way the employee holds oneself accountable for one's work or actions and strives for continuous improvement of the division's overall effectiveness. Evaluates the way the employee accepts criticism and/or suggestions for improvement as well as how the employee uses that feedback to further the learning process and improve performance.
2. ATTENDANCE (REGULAR & PROMPT) - Evaluates the employee's regular and prompt attendance in relation to Agency policies and procedures and impact on others.
3. DEMEANOR & FLEXIBILITY - Evaluates how the employee views their career in terms of personal motivation, goals and responsibilities of the job. The manner in which one outwardly displays feelings and thoughts concerning themselves, the division, and superiors, etc. Evaluates the ability and willingness to adapt to and work effectively in light of new information, changing situations and/or different environments. The ability to orient oneself to changing conditions.



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4. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS (ORAL)** - Evaluates the ability to gain and maintain control of situations through verbal command and instruction. Communicates openly and effectively with co-workers, supervisors, incarcerated individuals and the public. Uses effective (clear and concise) spoken communication skills. Satisfactorily adheres to policies concerning phone calls and voicemails.
5. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS (WRITTEN)** - Evaluates the ability to prepare written documents, without assistance, that accurately reflect the situation in a detailed, organized manner. Evaluates the employee's ability to use proper English and grammar, follow the rules for spelling, and to write neatly when necessary. Evaluates the ability to properly utilize departmental forms.
6. **COMPLETION OF WORK ON SCHEDULE / TIME MANAGEMENT** - Evaluates efficiency relative to the amount of time taken to complete a task. Efficiently organizes, coordinates and uses available time and resources to achieve division goals. Organizes, schedules and completes work by objectives and guidelines. Completes work in an organized and efficient manner.
7. **DECISION MAKING / PROBLEM SOLVING / JUDGEMENT** - Evaluates performance in terms of ability to perceive, form valid conclusions, arrive at sound judgements, and make proper decisions. The ability to think clearly and arrive at logical conclusions without supervision.
8. **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE / PERSONAL APPEARANCE** – Evaluates the degree of care and concern demonstrated toward Agency property and issued equipment (vehicles, weapons, uniforms, office equipment, etc.). Reports equipment malfunctions and discrepancies to the proper authority.
9. **INITIATIVE / MOTIVATION / TRAINING** - Evaluates interest and ability to initiate corrections-related activity. To notice and act on even low-priority situations. Evaluates the amount of acceptable work performed (includes all functions and activities within the employee's daily performance as described in the job description). Does not require daily supervision. Evaluates existing systems and techniques in an effort to be more efficient and effective. Has suggested new procedures, systems and/or devices that save time and/or Agency funds.
10. **JOB KNOWLEDGE** - Evaluates knowledge of departmental procedures and ability to apply this knowledge under field conditions. Fulfills expectations of job classification. Knows and reliably follows department's Standard Operating Procedures. Evaluates how employee understands and applies knowledge of their particular assigned position. Includes how that knowledge is used to achieve personal, unit and division goals. Evaluates the ability to perform routine, non-stress activities. Evaluates ability to perform tasks without injuring self or others or exposing self or others to unnecessary danger/risk.
11. **PERFORMANCE (STRESSFUL CIRCUMSTANCES)** - Evaluates the ability to perform in moderate and high stress situations in relation to the employee's job duties. For example, a use of force situation, skill in vehicle operation under emergency situations and preparing and presenting a significant presentation at meetings or in the media.
12. **QUALITY OF WORK** - Evaluates the degree of excellence of work performed. Includes all functions and activities within the employee's daily performance as described in the job description. Produces high quality of work with few errors and minimal supervision and direction. Does not require continuous oversight by supervisor.
13. **TEAM WORK / WORKING RELATIONSHIPS** - Evaluates the ability to effectively interact with citizens, members of diverse race, ethnicity, and gender groups, and other staff members of various ranks in an appropriate manner.
14. **COMMUNITY / OFFENDER RELATIONS**- Evaluates the ability to conduct job duties while maintaining effective customer service, using tact, patience and courtesy. Delivers quality customer service.



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15. **SUPERVISION AND LEADERSHIP** - Evaluates how well the supervisor provides effective guidance, direction and disciplinary control to staff. This includes the ability to establish clear, measurable goals for staff, and to effectively evaluate and monitor performance through verbal and written feedback. Demonstrates the ability to remain free from bias or favoritism. Completed evaluations are a sufficient depiction of staff's performance.

16. **DELEGATING** - Evaluates the ability to entrust employees with responsibilities and authority, and creates accountability for results. Evaluates the ability to provide clear and motivating direction for work assignments.

17. **PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION** - Evaluates the ability to multi-task and follow through on assignments despite setbacks. Evaluates the ability to plan and schedule work for self and others to meet objectives and goals.

18. **RATING** -This category is part of the evaluation only for supervisors who rate or evaluate other employees. Here they are evaluated on how much effort, how much documentation and how they communicate the evaluation to the employee.

19. **DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYEES** - Evaluates the ability to set performance goals and apply them in a timely, accurate, fair and consistent manner. Evaluates the ability to effectively coach, mentor and plan for development.

Rating Scale Definitions

1. **UNACCEPTABLE** – Performance fails to meet Agency standards and expectations. (Attached documentation required)
2. **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT** – Performance is inadequate, often requiring close supervision.
3. **ACCEPTABLE** – Performance fully meets standards and expectations.
4. **PROFICIENT** – Performance shows an advanced degree of competency.
5. **OUTSTANDING** – Performance significantly exceeds standards and expectations, generally recognized by peers, supervisors and commanders for their performance. (Attached documentation required)

Documentation for Unacceptable or Outstanding performance may include, but is not limited to, the following: awards; citations; corrective action forms; commendation forms; supervisor notes; work samples; official documents; third party letters, emails, and notes; magazine and newspaper publications.

E. SWORN POLICE OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM

Sworn police officers shall fall into one of four categories for purposes of evaluating their performance.

1. **Probationary Status, Recruit Officers:** Entry-level officers who are on probation and who are attending the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy (SMCJA).
2. **Probationary Status, Non-Solo Officer:** Entry-level officers, excluding Recruit Officers attending the SMCJA, who are on probation and have not yet completed the required formal entry-level training to be considered solo officers.
3. **Probationary Status, Solo Officer:** Officers who have successfully completed their formal entry-level training and are working as solo officers, however, are still in a probationary status.



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4. **Permanent Status:** Officers who are performing as solo officers and have reached permanent employment status.

Probationary, Recruit Officers will be rated on the performance measures established by the SMCJA. Probationary, non-solo officers will be rated on basic overall performance through performance measures established by the FTO program. Probationary solo officers and permanent status officers will be rated in four basic categories which are reflective of the job functions of all baseline police officers. Supervisors will also be rated on their management and supervision skills. Officers assigned to specialized functions of the Agency will also be evaluated on functions specific to those assignments.

PROBATIONARY RECRUIT OFFICER EVALUATIONS

While attending the Academy, recruit officers will be evaluated through the established procedures in place at SMCJA. Copies of those evaluations will be forwarded to Human Resources.

PROBATIONARY SWORN POLICE OFFICER EVALUATION (PROBATIONARY STATUS, NON-SOLO OFFICER)

Prior to completing all required formal entry-level training, the probationary sworn, non- solo officer will be rated on performance measures established by the FTO program. A copy of their successful completion of the FTO program will be forwarded to HR.

SWORN POLICE OFFICER EVALUATION (PROBATIONARY STATUS, SOLO-OFFICER)

Once an officer has completed all required formal entry-level training and is considered a solo police officer, he shall receive the same evaluation as a permanent status officer. Since the officer will still be in a probationary status, they shall be rated every quarter until reaching permanent status. Form #64 shall be utilized for this purpose.

NON-COMMISSIONED SWORN POLICE OFFICER EVALUATION (PERMANENT STATUS)

The evaluation system described in this section shall be used for permanent status, solo police officers of the Charles County Sheriff's Office the rank of POI through Sergeant. The evaluation shall be completed twice yearly for each officer and submitted, via the chain of command, to Human Resources within thirty (30) days of the close of the evaluation cycle. Form #64 shall be utilized for this purpose.

Evaluation Cycles

1. Evaluation Cycle 1: January 1 through June 30
2. Evaluation Cycle 2: July 1 through December 31

When completing the performance evaluation form, the Rater will circle the appropriate cycle (1 or 2).

Rating Categories

When rating the employee, the Rater may select one of three options to describe the employee's performance:

1. Acceptable (A),
2. Needs Improvement (NI), or
3. Outstanding (O).



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If the employee does not routinely perform the task as part of their assigned job function, the Rater should select the block labeled Not Applicable (N/A).

The Performance Evaluation form is comprised of four standard categories, one management category, and four special assignment categories. Listed under each category are tasks or job requirements related to the category. Each category will be developed by the Deputy Director, Human Resources Section in conjunction with the Assistant Sheriffs of Administration, Field and Support, and Operations.

Generally, all employees should be evaluated by the four standard categories:

1. **Fundamentals,**
2. **Officer Initiated Field Contacts/Traffic,**
3. **Report Writing and**
4. **Time Management and Job Knowledge.**

If the employee is the rank of Corporal or Sergeant, the Rater shall also complete the evaluation section titled **Management and Supervision**.

If the employee is assigned to one of the four specialized assignments, the Rater will complete the appropriate categories under the **Specialized Agency Assignments** section.

Rating Criteria

When considering the appropriate rating for a given task or job function, the Rater should consider the quality, frequency and/or proficiency of the standard being evaluated as demonstrated by the employee.

1. **Acceptable (A)** The employee performs the task satisfactorily most of the time or engages in an activity at an acceptable rate of frequency. If the employee is at a reasonable and acceptable level, the Rater should select the ACCEPTABLE rating.
2. **Needs Improvement (NI)** If the employee's proficiency or performance of the standard or task being measured requires improvement or additional training to rise to the level of acceptable, the Rater should select the NEEDS IMPROVEMENT rating.
 - a. The Rater must further explain any standard rated as NEEDS IMPROVEMENT in the section of the evaluation titled **Discuss Performance Weaknesses and Improvement Plan**. The explanation should be brief and include a plan to help the employee meet the standard during the next evaluation cycle.
3. **Outstanding (O)** The employee shows a strong understanding of a standard, performs a task with high frequency and at a more than above average level, or is highly skilled at a task beyond that of an average officer with similar years of service and rank.
 - a. The Rater must describe any standard rated as OUTSTANDING in the section of the evaluation titled **Discuss Performance Strengths**. The explanation should be brief but contain justification for the rating of OUTSTANDING.



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4. **Not Applicable (N/A)** The employee does not perform the listed job function or is not required to meet the listed standard due to a specialized assignment. This rating should not be used if the employee is expected, based on section or division assignment, to complete the task but fails to do so.

F. CIVILIAN PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM

Civilian quarterly probationary evaluations, annual performance evaluations and special evaluations will be documented using the Civilian Evaluation Form #64C.

Supervisors will evaluate civilians each quarter during the probationary period they serve after beginning employment or transferring to a new position within the Agency. Quarterly evaluations will also be completed during any approved extensions to an employee's probationary period.

Once the civilian employee has gained permanent status, the supervisor will evaluate the civilian's performance annually, coinciding with the anniversary of their employment with the Agency.

Rating Categories

Civilians will be evaluated on six basic categories, each of which provides both basic and specific feedback to the wide range of job tasks performed by the Agency's civilian staff. Each category will be developed by the Deputy Director, Human Resources in conjunction with the Assistant Sheriffs of Administration, Field and Support, and Operations.

These categories are:

1. Professional Demeanor,
2. Attitude,
3. Job Knowledge,
4. Quality of Work,
5. Dependability and Attendance, and
6. Communications Skills.

In addition, civilian supervisors will be rated on their management and supervisory skills.

Rating Criteria

When considering the appropriate rating for a given task or job function, the Rater should consider the quality, frequency and/or proficiency of the standard being evaluated as demonstrated by the employee.

1. **Acceptable (A)** The employee performs the task satisfactorily most of the time or engages in an activity at an acceptable rate of frequency. If the employee is at a reasonable and acceptable level, the Rater should select the ACCEPTABLE rating.
2. **Needs Improvement (NI)** The employee's proficiency or performance of the standard or task being measured requires improvement or additional training to rise to the level of acceptable, the Rater should select the NEEDS IMPROVEMENT rating.
 - a. The Rater must further explain any standard rated as NEEDS IMPROVEMENT in the section of the evaluation titled ***Level of performance expected, improvement plan (if applicable) and goals for upcoming rating period***. The explanation should be brief and include a plan to help the employee meet the standard during the next evaluation cycle.



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3. **Outstanding (O)** The employee shows a strong understanding of a standard, performs a task with high frequency and at a more than above average level, or is highly skilled at a task beyond that of an average employee with similar years of service and grade.
 - a. The Rater must describe any standard rated as OUTSTANDING in the section of the evaluation titled ***Level of performance expected, improvement plan (if applicable) and goals for upcoming rating period.*** The explanation should be brief but contain justification for the rating of OUTSTANDING.
4. **Not Observed (N/O)** The employee does not perform the listed job function or is not required to meet the listed standard due to a specialized assignment. This rating should not be used if the employee is expected, based on section or division assignment, to complete the task but fails to do so.

G. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND COMMANDERS

All commissioned officers the rank of lieutenant and above, the General Counsel and civilian directors and deputy directors who have attained permanent status will receive an annual evaluation of their performance. This evaluation will be to determine if the employee's overall performance is at a level that is satisfactory to their supervisor. This evaluation will be documented on Form #64B. These evaluations are exempt from the supervisor review process. In the event a commissioned officer the rank of lieutenant and above, the Office of General Counsel, civilian director, or deputy director is at risk of receiving or receives an unacceptable rating, the employee will be placed on a Special Evaluation. The special evaluation will be accomplished by using the performance evaluation form that corresponds with the employee's classification segment. (Form #64 for sworn police officers, form #64C for civilians and Form #119 for Corrections.) Refer to the Special Evaluation policy for further guidance.

H. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SUPERVISORY REVIEW

Upon completion of the performance evaluation form, the Rater shall meet with their supervisor (the Reviewer) to discuss each performance category as well as the employee's strengths, weaknesses and expectations. The Reviewer and the Rater will acknowledge the review process was completed by signing and dating the evaluation.

In cases of disagreement between the Rater and the Reviewer, they will discuss the discrepancy and reach an agreement on the performance evaluation prior to the presentation to the employee. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Reviewer has the authority to change ratings or make comments on the evaluation form and reflect a new overall rating. This new rating will be the official rating. However, before the Reviewer makes any rating changes, he will consult with the employee's division commander.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CONFERENCE

Each supervisor rating an employee shall meet with that employee to provide them a copy of the evaluation as well as discuss the employee's performance during that rating period.

During this conference, the supervisor (Rater) and the employee shall accomplish the following:

1. Review the position description;
2. Discuss results of performance evaluation;
3. Discuss level of performance expected and goals;
4. Review the employee's accomplishments during the covered evaluation period;



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5. Clearly define any deficiencies in the employee's performance and what is expected to be accomplished in order to bring performance to the expected level; and
6. Discuss career paths and opportunities for the employee on advancement, possible special assignments, and/or training opportunities.

The Rater will ensure the employee's job description and the Harassment and Beneficiary Annual Review Form #65 are presented, completed, signed and attached to the performance evaluation. For sworn police officers, this will be accomplished during the Evaluation Cycle 2.

At the conclusion of the conference, the employee may make written comments on the performance evaluation. The employee may take up to 48 hours to prepare and attach their comments or present additional documentation they deem appropriate.

The employee will sign the evaluation form acknowledging they have received the evaluation. The employee's signature will not indicate agreement or disagreement with the evaluation. The evaluation form will then be forwarded to the employee's Division Commander and then the Human Resources Section to be placed in the employee's personnel file.

Once all parties have signed the evaluation form and all appeals, if applicable, have been satisfied, the Human Resources Section will provide an electronic copy of the completed and signed evaluation form to the affected employee.

I. TRANSFERS AND REASSIGNMENTS DURING RATING PERIODS

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring interim evaluations are completed anytime the supervisor or a subordinate employee is transferred, reassigned or promoted during a rating cycle. This will be accomplished through the use of the appropriate rating form for that Agency segment and by indicating it is an interim evaluation at the top of the respective form.

Upon notice of the transfer or reassignment of an employee, the current supervisor will complete an interim evaluation covering the time elapsed in the employee's current evaluation cycle. The interim evaluation will be completed prior to the employee's transfer or reassignment. The current supervisor will communicate the results of the interim evaluation to the employee and the employee will sign the interim evaluation form to acknowledge he has received the evaluation. The current supervisor will provide the original, signed interim evaluation form to the employee's new supervisor to be used in completing the subordinate employee's next regularly scheduled performance evaluation. The interim evaluation form will be attached to the affected employee's next regular evaluation.

Should a supervisor responsible for evaluating subordinate employees be promoted or transferred to a new squad/unit, the outgoing supervisor will complete an interim performance evaluation for each employee they supervise. The interim evaluations will be completed prior to the supervisor's transfer or reassignment. The outgoing supervisor will communicate the results of the interim evaluation to each employee and each employee will sign their interim evaluation form to acknowledge they have received the evaluation. The outgoing supervisor will then provide the original, signed evaluation forms to the incoming supervisor to be used in completing the subordinate employees' next regularly scheduled performance evaluations. The interim evaluations will be attached to the affected employees' next regular evaluation.

J. USE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION RESULTS

Performance evaluation rating results may be used in the following instances:



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1. Gaining permanent status for employees in a probationary status;
2. Granting or denying salary step/merit increases for those employees whose salary increases are dependent on the performance evaluation;
3. Consideration for transfer to or from a particular division, section, or unit, or special assignment;
4. Consideration for promotion; and/or
5. Retention or termination.

An employee will be denied a salary step/merit increase if the employee has received two or more rating factors which have been deemed below acceptable standards on the employee's most recent performance evaluation or special evaluation.

The employee will be eligible for the salary step/merit increase at the beginning of the next pay period following the successful achievement of Acceptable ratings in the deficient categories. Salary increases will not be retroactive.

An employee may be denied transfer or assignment to a specialized unit if they do not receive an Acceptable rating or better in all factors as documented in the employee's most recent performance evaluation. Once an employee is qualified for the promotional process, they must maintain an Acceptable rating or above in all factors to remain eligible for promotion.

3-651 RATING APPEAL PROCESS

Employees receiving a performance evaluation are eligible to appeal their rating if there is a disagreement between the employee and the Rater and a consensus could not be reached. Probationary quarterly evaluations are not subject to appeal.

If an employee has elected to appeal their evaluation, the first step is to meet with the Reviewer listed on the evaluation form. The Reviewer will discuss the evaluation with the employee. If the employee still wishes to appeal their evaluation, the employee must file their appeal with the Human Resources Section within seven (7) days of the meeting with the reviewer.

The appeal will be in form of a memorandum addressed to Deputy Director, Human Resources Section. The memorandum will specifically list the portions of the evaluation which are being appealed. The specific reasons the employee believes the rating is in error shall be stated. The specific relief sought (i.e., "the rating on a particular factor should be changed to...") shall be stated. A summary of any evidence to be presented shall be given and a copy of any supporting documents shall be attached to the appeal memorandum. The appeal hearing shall be narrowly and specifically limited to the matters and points raised in the appeal memorandum. No general "I think I deserve a higher evaluation" type of appeals will be entertained.

The Assistant Sheriff of Administration will appoint a Rating Appeal Board, consisting of three employees, at least one of whom will be from the same segment of the Agency as the appealing employee. The board will be formed and hold the rating appeal hearing in accordance with the policy outlined in the Administrative Services SOP.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the board shall make a determination as to the validity of the appeal. The determination of the Board will be by majority vote (two or more members). In cases when the decision of the Board is to amend a performance evaluation, the Chairman shall make the appropriate entry on the performance evaluation. In all cases, a memorandum to the employee's personnel file, explaining the Board's actions, will be generated by the Chairman and forwarded with the performance evaluation to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division.

The Commander / Director, Administrative Services will advise the appealing employee, rater, reviewer, division commander and the Assistant Sheriff, by memorandum, as to the Board's action. The decision of the Appeal



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Board shall be final.

3-652 ADDRESSING UNACCEPTABLE EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE

- A. SPECIAL EVALUATIONS
- B. EMPLOYEE CORRECTIVE ACTION

A. SPECIAL EVALUATIONS

A Special Evaluation is a formal tool to be used to document employee performance which is unacceptable or needs improvement. Special Evaluations are not to be used for entrance level probationary employees. The Special Evaluation may be used during probationary periods after receiving a promotion. The receipt of a Special Evaluation is not grounds for filing a grievance.

At any point during an employee's rating period when an employee's performance diminishes to Unacceptable or Needs Improvement, the supervisor must take corrective action in a timely manner. Generally, when a supervisor identifies a subordinate with an ongoing performance problem, the corrective action will be documented in a Special Evaluation.

The following guidelines shall be followed:

1. When an employee is deemed Unacceptable or Needs Improvement in one rating category, then it is at the supervisor's discretion as to whether or not a Special Evaluation is initiated.
2. When an employee's performance is deemed Unacceptable or Needs Improvement in two or more rating factors, a formal process becomes necessary, and the supervisor shall initiate a Special Evaluation.
3. Additionally, if a **sworn police officer** is rated Needs Improvement in the same rating category on two consecutive performance evaluations, a formal process becomes necessary and the supervisor shall initiate a Special Evaluation.

This policy does not prevent a Rater, with proper documentation of an employee's poor performance, from giving a "Needs Improvement" or "Unacceptable" rating on an evaluation. It does also not prevent a supervisor from initiating a Special Evaluation if the employee is performing below acceptable standards in one rating factor.

The Special Evaluation is accomplished by using the performance evaluation form that corresponds with the employee's classification segment (Form #64 for sworn police officers, Form #64C for civilians and Form #119 for Corrections) and by indicating that it is a Special Evaluation on the form. The completion of the form notifies the subordinate of the specific below standard performance and directs them to improve their performance in these areas during the special evaluation period. To initiate the Special Evaluation, the supervisor shall:

1. Prepare a full evaluation for the employee;
2. Indicate the evaluation will be used as a Special Evaluation;
3. Explain in detail the performance which is not acceptable;
4. Explain the expected level of performance and offer guidance on how to achieve it;
5. Outline any prior corrective actions taken; and
6. Forward the form through the chain of command to the division commander / director for authorization.

If the Special Evaluation is authorized, it will be returned to the Rater, who will coordinate with Human Resources to properly implement the Special Evaluation process.

During the special evaluation cycle, the supervisor must ensure they are providing the proper direction to the



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employee to ensure they are clear on the supervisor's expectations. The supervisor shall then meet with the employee every thirty (30) days to review and document the employee's progress. These meetings may occur up to ninety (90) days or until the employee's performance improves to an acceptable level. These conferences are to be recorded on the corresponding evaluation form.

The Rater will indicate the start date and end date of the Special Evaluation Cycle in on the evaluation form. If the Special Evaluation is the first of the Special Evaluation series, the Rater will select **Initial** for the Special Evaluation period. If the form is being used to document employee progress during the Special Evaluation process, the Rater will select the appropriate progress interval (30/60/90 days).

Each form is then forwarded through the chain of command to the division commander / director for review. The commander / director will forward the evaluation to Human Resources. Human Resources shall place the Special Evaluation in the employee's personnel file. Once the employee's performance has improved to at least an Acceptable level, the supervisor shall forward a memorandum and a memorandum cover sheet (Inter-Office Memorandum, Form #144) through the chain of command recommending the employee be removed from the Special Evaluation process. If progress has not been made on the Special Evaluation Progress Report in any area of deficiency noted in the special evaluation, the Division Commander / Director will forward the Progress Report to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff and the Chief of Staff, as well as Human Resources.

If the 90-day special evaluation period coincides with the date for a regular performance evaluation, there will be no need for the regular evaluation. The special evaluation will serve as the evaluation for that cycle.

During the time an employee is in a Special Evaluation status, they will not be eligible for advancement by promotion, a requested transfer, or for reassignment.

During the time a supervisor or above is placed in a Special Evaluation status all rating responsibilities will be suspended. During this period, the division commander / director will designate an alternate Rater.

Upon the successful conclusion of the Special Evaluation, the employee will obtain the eligibility status held prior to the Special Evaluation.

Eligibility for step increases originally scheduled during the time of the Special Evaluation will start with the pay period following the successful conclusion of the Special Evaluation period. Salary increases will not be retroactive.

If at the conclusion of the 90-day Special Evaluation period the employee's performance has not improved to a rating of Acceptable in all factors, the employee's division commander / director shall meet with Human Resources and, based on the circumstances, make a joint recommendation to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff. A recommendation may include, but not be limited to, the following courses of action:

1. Extension of the Special Evaluation period;
2. Formal remedial training; or
3. Transfer / reassignment.

In situations where demotion or termination of employment may be considered, the appropriate Assistant Sheriff and Chief of Staff will present the findings of the special evaluation period to the Sheriff for review.

For guidance on procedures for demotions and terminations, refer to the organizational discipline policy.

B. EMPLOYEE CORRECTIVE ACTION

When a supervisor recognizes an employee displaying concerning negative actions or behaviors that need



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immediate correction, the supervisor will meet with the employee in private to counsel the employee and attempt to correct the negative actions or behaviors. Supervisors may take corrective action such as policy review, remedial training, referral for assistance through EAP or similar services or other remedial action. The Corrective Action Form #180B may be utilized to document the actions taken by the supervisor and acknowledges the employee was notified of the concerning actions or behavior.

An Employee Corrective Action Form is not a form of discipline. The corrective action process is intended to identify and correct negative actions or behaviors to prevent them from escalating to the level of disciplinary action.

When applicable, the issuing supervisor and commander will ensure that all internal reviews and investigations (relative to the incident discussed in the form) have been completed prior to issuance of the corrective action form to the employee.

The original Employee Corrective Action form and any responses and / or attachments will be forwarded through the employee's chain of command to the Sheriff, with an attached Chain of Command Cover Sheet, Form #144. Upon the Sheriff's review, the Executive Office Administrator will send the original to Human Resources and copies to OPR, the employee's immediate supervisor, and the employee.

Employee Corrective Action forms shall be placed in the respective employee's personnel file, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Employee Corrective Action Forms shall be removed from the employee's personnel file one year from the date of its placement. When removed, Employee Corrective Action forms will be sealed and forwarded to the respective employee.
2. Employee Corrective Action Forms that are attached to another document within the employee's personnel file, such as an employee performance evaluation, will remain part of that document and will not be subject to removal.

3-653 ANNUAL HARASSMENT AND BENEFICIARY REVIEW

Supervisors will provide each employee with an electronic copy of the Agency's harassment policy as well as ensure the employee knows and understands the process for reporting any instances of harassment within the workplace. In addition to the harassment policy, supervisors shall also ensure the employee understands the importance of updating their beneficiary information as well as their personal contact information within Human Resources.

The supervisor should conduct this review annually while meeting with the employee at the conclusion of the evaluation conference and document this review on CCSO Form #65.

- For **probationary sworn police officers, correctional officers and civilian employees**, this process will be conducted during the employee conference following the fourth quarter performance evaluation.
- For **non-probationary sworn police officers**, this process will be conducted during the Cycle 2 performance evaluation employee conference.
- For **non-probationary civilians and correctional officers**, this process will be conducted during the annual performance evaluation employee conference.

If an employee indicates they are unsure of any of the processes referenced, the supervisor will provide the employee with directions or resources to assist them. The resources/guidance provided will be documented in the



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comments section of the form.

3-654 PROMOTIONS - SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

This system of advancement for police and correctional officers is created at the direction of the Sheriff by the Agency Promotional Process Development Committee and in collaboration with a vendor specializing in first responder promotional testing and assessment chosen by the agency. The system is established as the formal framework for the selection and promotion of employees within the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. The goal is to manage, with the partnership of the vendor, a promotional process using proven methods that guarantee fairness, integrity, and successful outcomes for personnel and the agency as a whole. As appointing authority of the merit system, the Sheriff will authorize all promotions and permanent status.

3-654.1 SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Sheriff will appoint an agency employee as Chairman of the Agency Promotional Process Development Committee. The Chairman shall be responsible for the administration of the promotional process. This will be accomplished with the assistance of the Human Resources Section, along with input and direction which will be provided by the Agency Promotional Process Development Committee members and the vendor specializing in first responder promotional testing and assessment that was chosen by the agency.

It is essential that all portions of the promotional process remain fair and equitable for all participants. To ensure this, employees shall not disclose information pertaining to any portion of the promotional process to any participants if doing so would provide an unfair advantage over other participants. Anyone providing or receiving such information will be subject to disciplinary action.

The agency strives to provide for an open and honest system and to ensure the integrity of the entire process. All elements of the promotional process are promulgated, scored, and the results recorded by the vendor. The results are then provided to the agency and all tests, resume results, assessment center results, answer keys, and numerical ranking of candidates will be secured in the offices of the Human Resources Section. Access to these files shall be controlled and recorded and is limited to the Sheriff, the Assistant Sheriff of Administration, the Commander / Director of Administrative Services, and specifically designated Human Resources personnel. Access to secured files by anyone other than the employees listed above will be granted only upon written approval of the Sheriff.

3-654.2 APPLICATION FOR PROMOTION

For promotion to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, the candidate must submit an Agency Application for Promotion Form #645. The application must be received by Human Resources no later than 1600 hours on the first Friday of October preceding the start of the promotional cycle. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure delivery to the Human Resources Section by the due date; therefore, hand delivery is recommended. Applicants are responsible for taking into account weather-related closures, which will not be considered an excuse for late submission.

3-654.3 REQUIRED ELEMENTS

For all ranks (sworn / corrections) within the promotional process there are several required elements. Each element must be satisfied in order for the officer to meet eligibility requirements and be placed on the promotional eligibility list.



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Most elements consist of a single compliance date, and the officer must meet the requirements on or before the specific due date of that element. Elements include:

- Application for Promotion - First Friday in October by 1600 hours, odd numbered year;
- Submission of Resume - Close of business the second Friday following the written examination date;
- Written Examination - First Sunday in April, even-numbered year, unless the first Sunday is a holiday, in which case it will be moved to the second Sunday in April;
- Assessment Center Exercises - completed as soon as practical after the written examination date.

For each rank (sworn / corrections) a maximum of 100 percent may be accumulated in the following categories:

• Resume	10 percent
• Written Examination	40 percent
• Oral Assessment Center Exercise	30 percent
• Written Assessment Center Exercise	20 percent

In the event of unforeseen weather-related or other emergencies, the process may be delayed for up to two weeks. A predetermined “rain / snow” date will be established. Candidates will be responsible for being available for those dates.

3-654.4 COMPETITIVE PROCESS

Candidates for all ranks, both sworn and corrections, must complete each of the four competitive requirements: Resume, Written Examination, and two Assessment Centers in order to be placed on the promotional eligibility list.

Based on the agency’s projected needs and the candidate pool sizes, the agency may institute a “cutoff” point for certain ranks. If this is implemented, the “cutoff point” will be announced before the written exam and any candidate not scoring above the “cutoff point” on the written exam will not be able to progress in the process.

3-654.4.1 RESUME COMPONENT

For promotion to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, a resume must be provided to Human Resources. Depending on the vendor that was chosen by the agency, the “resume” could be titled something other than a resume; for example, it could be titled “Body of Work” or “Accomplishment Record” but will be referred to as “resume” for purposes of this section of policy. The vendor will provide a template and instructions on how to prepare the resume.

The resumes will be evaluated by an outside entity contracted by the Promotional Committee.

Candidates are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in their resumes. In order to ensure the integrity of the process for everyone, the candidates will provide the completed resume to their immediate supervisor for review. The resume shall be reviewed by a supervisor and / or other appropriate personnel to ensure the accuracy of its content. The applicants may submit the completed original resume to Human Resources any time prior to the deadline; however, the supervisory review must be accomplished prior to the resume being forwarded for scoring. The reviewing supervisor shall complete the Supervisory Review of Resume Form #306 and forward to HR.



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The supervisor's responsibility will be to assess the resume for any obvious inaccuracies, note the inaccuracies, and return to the candidate. The supervisor may consult with prior supervisors or review the candidate's personnel file to verify information he may not be familiar with. Any blatantly dishonest information found during the review raises an integrity issue and shall be reported up the chain of command to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. Such an issue may lead to the candidate's disqualification from the promotional process and further disciplinary action.

The resume must be submitted no later than 1600 hours on the second Friday following the written examination date. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure delivery to Human Resources by the due date; therefore, hand delivery is recommended. Applicants are responsible to take into account weather-related closures, which will not be considered as an excuse for late submission. Human Resources will date and time stamp the resume front page upon receipt.

3-654.4.2 WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written examination is prepared by the vendor specializing in first responder promotional testing and assessment that the agency has selected, based on information and study materials submitted by the Promotional Process Committee.

3-654.4.3 ASSESSMENT CENTER COMPONENT

The assessment center component will be scheduled as soon as practical after the written examination date. The assessment center component will consist of one written exercise and one oral exercise designed to evaluate critical Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs).

3-654.5 APPEAL PROCESS

The written examination portion of the promotional procedures does have an appeal process; however, the final scores for the resume, and assessment centers do not have an appeal process.

3-654.6 PROMOTIONAL PROCEDURES

Nothing in this promotional policy shall be construed to require the promotion of any officer because eligibility requirements are met. Many factors including, but not limited to, budget and Agency administrative considerations, impact the decision of the Sheriff to authorize promotions.

In-grade service must be within the Agency segment, position, rank, or grade specified. For example, service in the rank of Corporal within Corrections would not qualify for promotion to the rank of Sergeant within the Sheriff's police officer ranks.

Sworn court security officers have no avenues of advancement through the sworn or correctional ranks. However, they may apply for a position as an entry level police or correctional officer if they meet the established qualifications. In cases where the officer is the subject of an Agency internal investigation, or any criminal investigation, the Sheriff, with input from the officer's division commander and the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, will determine, based on the nature of the allegations and available information, the officer's eligibility.

Human Resources is responsible for providing candidates with information pertaining to the promotional process. This information, provided by the vendor chosen by the agency, includes, but is not limited to: a study materials list, resume guidelines / training, and assessment center guidelines/ training.



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3-654.7 PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER TO POLICE OFFICER II

To be eligible for promotion to PO II, the officer must achieve permanent status. The employee's release from entry level probation and promotion to PO II will take place only after authorization of the Sheriff.

- There is no probationary period for the rank of PO II and therefore permanent status is automatic upon promotion.

In the event a probationary officer has not achieved sufficient proficiency to justify permanent status and promotion to Police Officer II at the end of the probationary period, the Sheriff may:

- terminate the officer's employment; or
- extend the officer's probation to allow for an interim rating process to gauge whether or not sufficient progress has been made to warrant permanent status.

3-654.7.1 PROBATIONARY CORRECTIONAL OFFICER I TO PROBATIONARY CORRECTIONAL OFFICER II

To be eligible for promotion to CO II, the officer must successfully complete formal entry level training as outlined under AOM 3-602.6 Probationary Periods, be recommended for promotion and approved for promotion by the Sheriff. Additionally, lateral certified correctional officers must receive a rating of acceptable in each rating category on a quarterly evaluation, before being eligible for promotion to CO II. The CO I promoted to CO II will continue probation for one year following the completion of formal entry level training. Once the probationary period has been successfully completed the CO II will be eligible for permanent status. Permanent status will take place only after authorization of the Sheriff.

In the event a probationary officer has not achieved sufficient proficiency to justify permanent status at the end of the probationary period, the Sheriff may:

- terminate the officer's employment; or
- extend the officer's probation to allow for an interim rating process to gauge whether or not sufficient progress has been made to warrant permanent status.

3-654.7.2 PROMOTION TO PFC/ CFC

In order to be eligible for promotion to PFC, a PO II must have served three (3) years as a police officer with the Charles County Sheriff's Office within their current segment and scored a minimum of 70% on a written exam.

In order to be eligible for promotion to CFC, a CO II must have served two (2) years as a correctional officer with the Charles County Sheriff's Office within their current segment and scored a minimum of 70% on a written exam.

PFC / CFC testing will take place approximately two months before their eligibility for promotion to PFC / CFC. If the minimum score of 70% is not achieved, the officer may request a make-up exam through Human Resources. The make-up exam must be taken within thirty (30) days of the first exam and will be scheduled by Human Resources. The minimum passing score for the make-up exam is 70%. If a score of 70% is not obtained on the make-up exam, the officer must wait six (6) months before being eligible to test once again.

3-654.7.3 PROMOTION TO CORPORAL

In order to be eligible to compete for promotion to the rank of Corporal, the PFC / CFC must be eligible for permanent



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status and have or will have served five (5) years with the Agency within his current segment by July 1 of the even numbered year of the promotional cycle; or the PFC/ CFC must be eligible for permanent status and have or will have served five (5) years with the Agency within his current segment by July 1 of the odd numbered year of the promotional cycle. If the officer does not meet either of these requirements, he will not be eligible to participate in the promotional process.

3-654.7.4 PROMOTION TO SERGEANT

In order to be eligible to compete for promotion to the rank of Sergeant, the Corporal must be eligible for permanent status by the beginning of the promotional cycle. If the Corporal is not granted permanent status by the beginning of the promotional cycle, he will not be placed on the eligibility list for promotion.

3-654.7.5 PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT

In order to be eligible to compete for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, the Sergeant must have gained permanent status. The sworn Sergeant must have served a minimum of twelve (12) calendar months as a permanent status Sergeant by the beginning of the promotional cycle (July 1, even-numbered year). Correctional Sergeants are not required to serve a minimum time in permanent status.

3-654.8 ELIGIBILITY LIST

For promotion to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, a two (2) year eligibility list will be maintained. This promotional cycle will be effective from July 1 of an even numbered year, through June 30 of the next even numbered year.

Once established, the total score of those officers on the eligibility list will remain constant and will not change during the life of the promotional cycle.

Officers meeting all eligibility requirements will remain on the respective eligibility list until removed by promotion or as directed by a notice of final disciplinary action.

In the event of a tie, officers will be placed on the eligibility list first by time in grade in current rank. If not resolved at that point, then resolution will be by seniority as a police / correctional officer with the Agency. If the tie is not broken, the Sheriff may, in his sole discretion, rank the tied officer candidates.

Should a sworn officer whose name appears on the respective eligibility list receive disciplinary action for any offense which results in demotion (temporary or permanent) or suspension without pay for any period, the name of that officer will be removed from consideration for promotion during the period of demotion and/or suspension, as specified in the final disciplinary action. Those PFCs/ CFCs who have met all eligibility requirements by July 1 of an even numbered year will be placed on the eligibility list effective July 1 of that even numbered year. Those PFCs/ CFCs who will meet all eligibility requirements by July 1 of the odd numbered year will be permitted to participate in the promotional process, but will not be eligible for placement on the promotional list until July 1 of the odd numbered year. The recalculated eligibility list for promotion will become effective on July 1 of odd numbered years and will consist of all eligible candidates listed in descending order in relation to total points earned.

For promotion to the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant, a competing officer must have gained permanent status in his current rank and meet all other eligibility requirements by the beginning of the promotional cycle (July 1 of even numbered year) in order to be eligible to participate in the promotional process.

3-654.9 SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION



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An officer who fails to comply or who will not be able to comply with the time frame established for a specific element(s) may request a special accommodation. The request must specifically state the reason for non-compliance and the remedy that is being sought.

The request must be submitted to the Chairman of the Agency Promotional Process Development Committee, who will convene the Promotional Process Development Committee. The Committee will review the request and forward their written recommendation to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Assistant Sheriff's decision will be final. The requesting officer will be notified in writing of the final decision.

In the event an officer has a conflict with the written exam / review date due to a conflicting agency assignment, the commander under whose authority the conflict exists will request, in writing, an accommodation. The request will be processed in the same manner as an officer's request; however, once validated that the conflict was Agency specific, the officer will be accommodated. Commanders are cautioned to avoid this type of conflict and only emergency situations should apply.

Those conflicts that are agency specific or resulting from activation to military service will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Committee, and a recommendation regarding special accommodations will be presented to the Assistant Sheriff of Administration.

3-654.10 SELECTION PROCESS

In making promotions from the respective competitive eligibility list, the Sheriff shall select for each position an officer whose score is included in the five highest, exclusive of those officers who decline promotion, request they not be considered, or are removed from the list in accordance with this policy.

3-654.11 PROMOTION WHILE ON EXTENDED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE, INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY LEAVE, NON-OFFICER STATUS, OR MODIFIED DUTY - SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Those officers who become eligible for promotion to PO II / CO II or PFC / CFC will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to:

7. the nature of the officer's temporary disability and prognosis for return to duty;
8. whether the officer is going to return to work;
9. when the officer is going to return to work; and
10. whether the officer meets all eligibility requirements.

Officers certified for promotion by their participation in the competitive process and placement on the respective eligibility list for promotion will be considered for promotion to Corporal, Sergeant, or Lieutenant on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will be given to the nature of the officer's temporary disability and prognosis for return to duty.

3-655 EMPLOYEE COMMENDATIONS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

Employee commendations may be initiated by any citizen or Agency employee. When a commendation is initiated for an employee, the employee's supervisor may meet in private with the employee to formally commend and provide positive feedback to the employee. In these cases, the supervisor may utilize the Employee Commendation Form #180A to summarize the reason for recognizing the employee.

When applicable, the issuing supervisor and commander will ensure that all internal reviews and investigations



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(relative to the incident discussed in the form) have been completed prior to issuance of the commendation form to the employee.

The original Employee Commendation Form and any response and / or attachments will be forwarded through the employee's chain of command to the Sheriff, with an attached Chain of Command Cover Sheet, Form #144. Upon the Sheriff's review, the Executive Office Administrator will send the original to Human Resources and copies to OPR, the employee's immediate supervisor, and the employee.

Employee Commendation Forms shall be placed in the employee's personnel file, in accordance with policy governing personnel files, and shall remain in the employee's personnel file indefinitely.

3-656 AGENCY AWARDS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. AWARD NOMINATIONS
- C. AWARDS COMMITTEE- ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES
- D. AWARD SELECTION PROCESS
- E. AWARDS CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION
- F. TYPES OF AWARDS
- G. AWARDS ACCOUTERMENTS
- H. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS
- I. AWARDS FROM OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- J. AWARDS PRESENTED TO THE AGENCY

A. PURPOSE

Agency awards are a manner in which the Agency recognizes extraordinary efforts of its employees in the performance of their duties. They also provide a means of recognizing the heroic acts of employees whenever and wherever they may occur. This policy provides guidance and procedures regarding nomination of employees for Agency awards, the award selection process, and the Agency Awards and Retirement Banquet.

B. AWARD NOMINATIONS

Any employee may nominate another employee or a citizen for an award; however, criteria for each award must be strictly observed.

The Award Nomination Form #176 shall be used for all nominations. An Employee Commendation Form #180A or supporting documentation (such as Officer/ Correctional Officer of the Quarter nominations) shall be included with the Award Nomination Form and forwarded through the employee's chain of command to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee, who will retain until the Awards Committee meets for screening and selection. The individual submitting the nomination shall include the suggested award type on the Award Nomination Form. Award nominations must be submitted as soon as possible after the incident, but no later than forty-five (45) days before the annual Awards and Retirement Banquet date.

The nomination process for citizens is identical to the process for Agency employees.

C. AWARDS COMMITTEE - ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

The Awards Committee shall consist of the commander/ director or designee from each division, as well as the following personnel:



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1. The Chairperson of the Awards and Retirement Banquet Committee.
2. The President of FOP Lodge 24 or designee.
3. The President of the Charles County Correctional Officers Association or designee.
4. Anyone the Assistant Sheriffs appoint to the Committee.

The members of the Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Assistant Sheriff of Administration. The Committee may conduct business if seven (7) or more members are present. The Assistant Sheriff of Administration will designate the Chairperson. The Chairperson will only vote in the selection process to break ties.

D. AWARD SELECTION PROCESS

The Awards Committee Chairperson shall convene the Committee as required to efficiently complete its responsibilities. The Committee shall impartially evaluate all nominations and supporting documentation. The Chairperson shall record the Committee consensus on the Award Nomination Form #176, affix his or her signature, and review the results with the Sheriff within 30 days of the date of the Awards and Retirement Banquet.

Copies of all nominations for awards, as well as those receiving awards, will be placed in the respective member's personnel file.

E. AWARDS BANQUET AND PRESENTATION

The Awards and Retirement Banquet is held annually. The purpose of the ceremony is to recognize award recipients and retirees from the previous year.

An additional awards ceremony will be held after the Awards and Retirement Banquet and prior to the end of the calendar year. This ceremony will honor award-nominated employees receiving commendations. This ceremony will be arranged by the Chairperson of the Awards Committee and will be held at the Charles County Sheriff's Office Headquarters building or a venue of the Sheriff's choosing.

F. TYPES OF AWARDS

Medals of Valor

Medals of Valor are presented for acts of courage which are beyond the normal call of duty for sworn / correctional officers. In highly unusual incidents, civilian employees and citizens may be awarded a Medal of Valor, with the concurrent approval of the Sheriff and the Awards Committee. The Agency recognizes three valor awards, which are detailed as follows:

1. **Gold Medal of Valor** (the highest Agency award)
 - a) The officer performs a courageous act far above and beyond the call of duty.
 - b) No other recourse for the successful performance of the police / corrections service exists.
 - c) The officer is knowingly and voluntarily exposed to danger.
 - d) The danger is so extreme that the officer's death or serious injury is a predictable, reasonable expected result.
2. **Silver Medal of Valor** (the second highest Agency award)
 - a) The officer performs a courageous act far above and beyond the call of duty.



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- b) No other recourse for successful performance of the police / corrections service is readily apparent to the officer.
- c) The officer is knowingly and voluntarily exposed to danger.
- d) The danger is so extreme that the officer's death or serious injury, while not expected, is still a very high possibility.

3. **Bronze Medal of Valor** (the third highest Agency award)

- a) The officer performs a courageous act beyond that normally expected of a dedicated officer in a similar position.
- b) The officer's actions are sound and appropriate.
- c) The officer, either through his own actions or those of others, is exposed to an unusually high level of danger.
- d) The danger is such that the officer's death or serious injury is a realistic possibility.

Heroism Award

This award shall be presented to a citizen who encounters an extraordinary hazard and risks his / her life in performing an act of heroism (life-saving, apprehension of dangerous criminals). The act must be of an extraordinary nature above and beyond the normal expectations of a citizen.

Memorial Medal

The Memorial Medal is posthumously awarded to a sworn or correctional officer in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This medal shall be presented to the family of the officer as a display unit and will not have a corresponding ribbon.

At the discretion of the Sheriff, the Memorial Medal may be awarded to any officer who was killed or dies, accidentally or otherwise. Awarding of the Memorial Medal does not necessarily preclude a posthumous Award of Valor if the appropriate requirements are met.

Agency Injury Citation

The Agency Injury Citation is awarded under the following circumstances:

- 1. An officer has suffered a serious injury inflicted by an armed or dangerous adversary.
- 2. An officer has been seriously injured in an effort to save the life of another, whether successful or not in the attempt.
- 3. Heart attack, communicable disease, or other serious ailment clearly resulting from the direct performance of duty.

The seriousness of the injury or illness must be substantiated by physical evidence or a reliable witness.

Meritorious Service Award

The Meritorious Service Award is awarded to any employee or citizen who performs an extraordinary act beyond that which is normally expected. The acts include:

- 1. Attempting to render aid or save the life of a person in which the degree of expected risk is moderate but is not likely to be life-threatening.
- 2. Demonstrating a high level of expertise, initiative, resourcefulness or dedication in the solution of a crime or the apprehension of an offender.



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Sheriff's Award

The Sheriff's Award is awarded to an Agency employee for outstanding achievement reflecting well on the recipient or the Agency. It is associated with administrative career development, general public service, or community relations achievements rather than with patrol or investigative performance. An example would be an employee making a suggestion / recommendation resulting in a measurable monetary savings to the Agency. The Awards Committee may recommend persons for the Sheriff's Award, but the recipients will be selected solely by the Sheriff.

Life-Saving Award

This award is presented to any employee or citizen who, while on- or off-duty, preserves the life of any person or who rescues someone from a life-threatening environment. Circumstances shall have been such that had the person's actions not been taken, death to the victim certainly or most probably would have resulted.

Safe Driving Award

The Safe Driving Award is given to recognize those employees who have driven pre-established continuous strings of miles without a preventable collision. Awards are given at 50,000 and 100,000 miles and at every 50,000 miles thereafter.

Certificate of Commendation

This is awarded to any employee or citizen who performs a remarkable act, not normally expected. The acts include:

1. Acts intended to provide aid to an injured person or prevent a person from being harmed. The degree of risk or danger was minimal.
2. Acts which lend a high degree of cooperation or assistance in an operational, administrative or community service. This may include an internal, job-related action worthy of recognition, clearance of unusual cases, significant recoveries of stolen property, or discovery of unreported crimes.

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate may be awarded to any person, group, or organization who/ which displays exceptional effort and dedication to the Sheriff's Office by providing assistance to help the Agency carry forward its mission to serve the community. Certificates of Appreciation are awarded to citizens only and not Agency employees.

G. AWARDS ACCOUTERMENTS

All Valor Awards will be designated by a gold, silver, or bronze medal with corresponding ribbon. Medals may be worn only on the uniform full dress blouse. The ribbons may be worn either on the blouse or uniform shirt, centered parallel 1/8" above the name plate. When worn, the medals or ribbons will be worn in descending order (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Agency Injury Citation, Meritorious Service Award, Sheriff's Award, Life-saving and Safe Driving) from left to right as viewed from the front with a maximum of three ribbons per row.

Ribbon awards will be as follows:

1. **Gold Medal of Valor**—a gold star centered on a purple and white ribbon.
2. **Silver Medal of Valor**—a gold star centered on a blue and white ribbon.
3. **Bronze Medal of Valor**—a gold star centered on a red and white ribbon.
4. **Agency Injury Citation**—a gold star centered on a purple ribbon.
5. **Meritorious Service Award**—a gold star centered on a white ribbon.
6. **Sheriff's Award**—a gold star centered on a green ribbon.



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7. **Life-Saving Award**—a gold star centered on a yellow ribbon.
8. **Safe Driving Award**—a gold star centered on a blue ribbon.

When a citizen is the recipient of an award, the award will be displayed on an appropriate plaque.

H. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS

Only one ribbon will be worn to represent each class of medal received. When a second medal is received, the corresponding ribbon will display a second star. When worn, the star will be positioned to the left of the centered star. A third star will be placed to the left of the second star. A fourth (and fifth) star will be placed to the right of the centered star. A sixth award (for the same medal) will be denoted with an oak leaf cluster, displayed on the left side of the centered star.

I. AWARDS FROM OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

On occasion, employees are recognized by allied agencies for acts of valor, meritorious service and/or conduct which brings credit upon the individual, the Agency, and the profession. Consequently, recipients of such recognition may display medals received from other law enforcement agencies, after providing a copy of certification of such awards and subsequent approval of the Sheriff.

1. Certificate of award and subsequent approval shall be placed in the member's personnel file.
2. Award accouterments shall be worn in compliance with the Uniform and Grooming Standards SOP.

J. AWARDS PRESENTED TO THE AGENCY

The Charles County Sheriff's Office frequently receives awards, commendations, and other recognition from allied agencies, community groups and civic organizations. In many cases these awards are presented to individual employees who may be representing the Sheriff and the Agency or who may be the presenter's point of contact with the Agency. Any employee who receives or who presently possesses such items will deliver them to the Charles County Sheriff's Office Media Relations Office. The Media Relations Office will be responsible for maintaining these items for archival and display purposes.

3-657 AGENCY MEMORIAL (Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEMORIAL
- C. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
- D. MINIMUM SERVICE TIME
- E. KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY
- F. DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY
- G. SHERIFFS OF CHARLES COUNTY
- H. AGENCY RETIREES
- I. MULTIPLE NAME APPEARANCE ON THE MEMORIAL
- J. MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND EXPANSION OF THE MEMORIAL

A. PURPOSE

The Agency has established a memorial on the grounds of the Headquarters building to honor those employees who have been killed in the line of duty, died in the line of duty, served as Sheriff, retired after being required to do so because of an on-duty injury or disease, or who have retired from the Agency after significant service.



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B. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEMORIAL

The Memorial consists of granite panels for the names of employees. The Agency Logo is in the foreground of these panels. There is a walkway to the Memorial with benches for rest and reflection and landscaping to supplement the beauty of the overall design. The walkway consists of bricks and tiles engraved with names of those, or at the request of those, who contributed to the construction of the Memorial.

C. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Committee is made up of current Agency employees who have been appointed by the Assistant Sheriff of Administration to serve in this capacity. The Committee Chairperson is appointed by the Assistant Sheriff of Administration and makes recommendations, within the scope of the Committee's purpose, to the Sheriff, through the Assistant Sheriff of Administration, for approval and authority to act.

The Committee shall include at least six and not more than ten members. An attempt will be made by the Assistant Sheriff of Administration to include representation from all segments of the Agency, to include sworn, correctional, and civilian employees. In all matters before the Committee which require a vote of the members, the Chairperson will vote only when necessary to break a tie vote.

The Assistant Sheriff of Administration is the appointing and removing authority for membership on the Committee. All appointments to and removals from the Committee, including the position of Chairman of the Committee, will be made by memorandum from the Assistant Sheriff.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee meets at the pleasure of the Committee Chairman to consider matters pertaining to the Memorial and the names to be engraved on it. Generally, it should be clear from the contents of this policy the names which should be placed upon the Memorial. However, an employee, retired employee, or other person on behalf of one of these, may make application to the Committee to clarify issues pertaining to names placed on the Memorial.

Application shall be in the form of a letter or memorandum addressed to the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee, upon majority vote, shall decide the proper response to all applications. With the approval of the Sheriff, the Committee Chairman will respond to the person making application with the decision.

The Committee shall be responsible for oversight of all care, maintenance, and expansion of the Memorial. It is anticipated that some future expansion will be necessary to support the addition of names of retirees as that group continues to grow. The Committee will explore various options of accomplishing this need.

D. MINIMUM SERVICE TIME

The minimum service time as an employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office in order to normally qualify to be included as a retiree is at least 20 years of service.

The case of an employee who meets the minimum service time but who has left the Agency on less than favorable terms is subject for review by the Memorial Committee. It will be incumbent upon the employee to petition the Memorial Committee for a meeting to determine eligibility to be placed on the Memorial. The Memorial Committee will then make a determination of the facts presented and make a written recommendation to the Sheriff regarding the possible inclusion to the Memorial.



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E. KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

An employee is to be added to the Memorial panel for “Killed In The Line Of Duty” if that employee is killed or dies as a result of actions taken to fulfill a Sheriff’s Office official responsibility. This action may be taken at a time when the employee is considered on duty, or while off duty, voluntarily performing an activity which can be considered to be a normally expected action in service to the community by any employee of the Agency. The employee’s death in these cases will be the result of some unlawful act, intentionally committed by someone who causes the employee’s death.

Some examples would be that the employee was shot, stabbed, beaten, rundown by a vehicle, or the object of some other force. The employee could also be overcome by some disease or chemical element used by a criminal or terrorist in the furtherance of that person’s aims.

F. DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

An employee is considered to have died in the line of duty if that employee suffers an event which immediately, or at a later time, results in the employee’s death. The event which causes or leads to death may occur at a time when the employee is considered on duty, or while off duty, voluntarily performing an activity which can be considered to be a normally expected action, by any employee of the Agency, in service to the community.

Some examples would include a heart attack not precipitated by a struggle or activity involving a criminal or other violator of the law, death as a result of an unintentional motor vehicle collision, natural death as a result of a disease, or physical condition the employee is overcome by.

The placement of a name in the Killed in the Line of Duty or Died in the Line of Duty section of the Memorial may be decided by vote and recommendation of the Committee. Such recommendations will be made to the Sheriff in writing by the Chairman for final approval.

G. SHERIFFS OF CHARLES COUNTY

The names of those persons who are elected to, or appointed by the Governor of Maryland to fill the remainder of a term of, the position of Sheriff of Charles County, Maryland, are to be inscribed in the panel for Sheriff. Persons who act temporally as acting Sheriff, for whatever period or reason, are not entitled to be placed on the Memorial as Sheriff.

H. AGENCY RETIREES

Employees who have retired from the Charles County Sheriff’s Office may qualify to be placed on the Memorial as retirees if they fall within one of the following qualifying categories:

1. Have met the minimum service time requirement; or
2. Have been forced to leave employment after suffering an injury in the line of duty or contracting a debilitating disease in the line of duty.

I. MULTIPLE NAME APPEARANCE ON THE MEMORIAL

No employee who otherwise qualifies for appearance on the wall will be placed in more than one place on the wall. An exception is that of a Sheriff who is killed in the line of duty. In this one specific case the Sheriff’s name will be placed on the Sheriffs of Charles County panel and upon the Killed In The Line Of Duty panel. In a case where other employees might otherwise qualify for placement on more than one panel, the employee’s name will be placed



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in the highest place of honor (as determined by the Memorial Committee).

Another exception to this rule might be in the case of an employee who has retired and whose name has been placed upon the Memorial, and subsequently comes back to work for the Agency and is killed in the line of duty. That employee's name may then be also placed on the Killed In The Line Of Duty panel. Such other events that may in the opinion of the Committee require a departure from this policy will be decided by a majority vote of the Committee and, upon approval of the Sheriff, acted upon.

J. MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND EXPANSION OF THE MEMORIAL

The Chairman of the Memorial Committee will see that the Memorial is maintained in a manner to the credit of all of the employees whose names appear thereon. The Chairman, through the use of the Committee members and otherwise, will arrange for any upkeep necessary beyond that provided by the County Government as a normal part of grounds maintenance.

It is envisioned there will be a future need to expand the Memorial in order to accommodate a growing list of retirees. The Chairman, with the assistance of the Committee and the approval of the Sheriff, will create a plan for the expansion and its funding. Based upon experience over time, the Chairman will ensure the need is met in advance of retirees' panel space being used up.

3-658 ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL CIVIL SUITS

3-658.1 EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

The Attorney General's Office and/or insurance carrier provided by the County shall be responsible for protecting the legal interests of Agency members and the Sheriff in any matter involving either actual or potential civil litigation arising out of the performance of the employee's duties.

3-658.2 LITIGATION AND AGENCY EMPLOYEES

Employees of the Sheriff's Office must notify the Office of the General Counsel in writing within 24 hours of being served as a court witness or defendant, requesting legal representation for any reason from the Attorney General's Office or the County Attorney's Office, and/or filing a lawsuit.

Any employee of the Sheriff's Office served as a defendant in a lawsuit related to their official duties as a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office may request appropriate legal representation through the Office of the General Counsel. The employee should attach to the request copies of all court documents received. The request for representation should be made through proper channels in memorandum format on Agency letterhead. The employee should note in the request the date, time, and manner of service. The request for representation will be reviewed by the employee's division commander who will then forward the request to the Office of the General Counsel. The General Counsel will review the request and may forward it to the Attorney General's Office and/or the County Attorney's Office. If a determination is made that the Attorney General's Office will be the representing entity, the employee may need to fill out additional forms as mandated by the Attorney General's Office.

Employees will not make any statements, or otherwise furnish information regarding an incident or allegation of liability against the Sheriff, the Office of the Sheriff or Charles County to anyone outside of the Agency without first notifying an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel, the Attorney General's Office or the appropriate attorney representing the County. Approval must be obtained from the Office of the General Counsel, the Attorney General's Office or the appropriate attorney representing the County to make the statement or to furnish the information.

An employee filing a lawsuit as a plaintiff must provide sufficient written information at the time of notification so that a determination can be made as to whether the cause of action arose during the course of employment.



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Employees will not compromise, discharge, or settle any claim arising from the performance of their duties of employment against their personal or property interests, or against the state or county's property or interests, without the consent of the Sheriff, the Attorney General, or the appropriate attorney representing the County.

When an employee is summoned / requested or voluntarily acting to testify, write correspondence, or make statements on behalf of a criminal defendant, the employee will:

- notify his commander and the appropriate prosecutor as soon as possible;
- if no summons is received, advise the person making the request that a summons or subpoena is necessary, unless acting voluntarily;
- not, if acting outside the line-of-duty when testifying or otherwise making statements, make voluntary reference to his position or employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office.
- When an employee is summoned / requested or voluntarily acting to testify, write correspondence, or make statements on behalf of a civil plaintiff or defendant, the employee will:
- notify his commander and the Office of the General Counsel as soon as possible;
- if no summons is received, advise the person making the request that a summons or subpoena is necessary, unless acting voluntarily.
- not, if acting outside the line-of-duty when testifying or otherwise making statements, make voluntary reference to his position or employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

3-659 CONTRACT SERVICES BENEFITS

Any employee who provides police services under a contract which the CCSO has entered into with another government entity will be protected and receive the same benefits as if the services were rendered to the CCSO without such a contract in existence.

3-680 PERSONNEL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. REVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES
- D. INTERVENTION PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- E. INITIATING THE ACTION PLAN
- F. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
- G. ANNUAL REVIEW

A. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the components of the Agency's Personnel Early Warning System. It describes the roles and responsibilities supervisors and other Agency personnel have in identifying employees who may be experiencing difficulties as well as intervention actions and resources that can be utilized to attempt to correct the employee's negative actions or behavior.

A comprehensive Personnel Early Warning System is an essential component of good discipline in a well-managed



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law enforcement agency. The early identification of potential problem employees and a menu of remedial actions can increase Agency accountability and offer employees assistance in correcting a problem.

The system can help reduce instances of the Agency and the employee being faced with investigations of serious cases of misconduct, only to find that there was an escalating pattern of less serious misconduct which could have been abated through earlier intervention. To unnecessarily lose an employee from the profession because no measures to detect and assist employees with problems or to correct and/or improve work performance were taken is devastating, not only to the employee, but also to the Agency and the community.

Employees are the most important and crucial resource of the Agency. Supervisors will make every effort to identify employees who have issues that negatively impact their ability to effectively do their jobs and will make every effort to help employees to resolve such issues in an appropriate manner, consistent with Agency policy and procedures.

This policy will be administered through Human Resources and, in those cases involving potential disciplinary problems, coordinated with the Commander, OPR.

B. DEFINITIONS

ACTION PLAN- A written series of intervention efforts designed to assist employees experiencing difficulties, and to improve Agency efficiency and accountability. An action plan will be developed and may include additional intervention efforts or referrals, recommendation for reassignment or may progress to disciplinary action.

AGENCY INTERVENTION- Actions taken by the Agency either prior to, or as part of the administration of the Action Plan.

PERSONNEL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM- A non-disciplinary personnel management tool designed to identify potential employee concerns or problems at the earliest stages so intervention and support can be offered, if necessary, to correct negative actions or behaviors before they escalate to disciplinary action.

C. REVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES

The identification of an employee who may need Agency intervention or support is the basis of the Personnel Early Warning System. Employee behaviors or actions that may indicate a need for review include, but are not limited to:

1. Changes in attitude or work habits
2. Insubordination
3. Tardiness or failure to report for duty
4. Excessive use of leave
5. Poor work performance or failure to complete assignments
6. Increase in citizen complaints
7. Increase in preventable Agency vehicle crashes
8. Increase in use of force incidents
9. Disciplinary actions

FIRST LINE SUPERVISOR REVIEW

An employee displaying negative actions or behaviors, who may potentially be in need of intervention efforts, is most often identified by a supervisor through daily observation and review of work assignments and job performance. First line supervisors must be attuned to potential problems or any escalating pattern of misconduct that may negatively affect an employee's work performance. Supervisors, in addition to day-to-day contact and observation, may evaluate regularly collected material to determine whether there is a pattern of activity that indicates the existence of a problem. These regularly collected materials may include, but are not limited to:



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1. performance evaluations;
2. leave records;
3. use of force incidents;
4. vehicle crashes;
5. injuries; and
6. the employee's personnel file.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW

The Office of Professional Responsibility monitors collected employee data, including complaints against employees and involvement in certain types of incidents, such as use of force, pursuits and vehicle crashes. This data is collected and tracked in a confidential data management software system. The software system has pre-configured thresholds in place for each type of incident tracked.

The OPR software system thresholds are as follows:

1. Three (3) or more use of force incidents in a twelve (12) month period.
2. Two (2) vehicle crashes in a twelve (12) month period.
3. Three (3) or more Internal Affairs investigations in a twelve (12) month period.
4. A combination of eight (8) or more of use of force, vehicle crash or Internal Affairs investigations in a twelve (12) month period.

If an employee meets or exceeds any of the thresholds, the system sends an alert. The Assistant Commander, OPR reviews each alert. If a negative pattern is observed, the Assistant Commander, OPR will make notification to the employee's Division Commander / Director, to review the employee's history and to determine if there are any concerns that need to be addressed.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS REVIEW

The Agency's Mental Health Liaison receives alerts through OPR's data management software system when employees are involved in critical incidents, such as homicides, fatal accidents and other traumatic events. The Mental Health Liaison will contact employees directly to offer counseling or other resources. The employee's participation in services offered by the Mental Health Liaison is voluntary.

D. INTERVENTION PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

When an employee has been identified to be displaying a pattern of negative actions or behaviors and may be in need of intervention, the following procedures will be followed. Incidents should be handled at the lowest level of supervision possible, depending on the severity of the situation.

FIRST LINE SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When a supervisor directly observes or is made aware of an employee displaying negative actions or behavior, the supervisor shall take immediate appropriate action, consistent with Agency policies and procedures.

Intervention actions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Informal counseling
2. Corrective Action (Form #180B)
3. Special Evaluation
4. Remedial training



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5. EAP referral
6. Referral for a Fit for Duty Evaluation
7. Referral to Agency's Mental Health Liaison to coordinate additional services

In many cases, the supervisor's initial intervention efforts are effective and there is no need for any further action.

When the supervisor's actions are ineffective or when a supervisor becomes aware of a pattern of behaviors or actions that require additional intervention efforts the supervisor will forward a memorandum through the chain of command to the first line administrator. The memorandum shall include:

1. Details of the pattern of behavior that raised the concern.
2. Details of any informal intervention efforts already attempted by the supervisor.
3. A list of any other witnesses to the behavior.

FIRST LINE ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receipt of a memorandum requesting intervention action, the employee's first line administrator will meet with the supervisor to evaluate the perceived problem. The first line administrator will review all records, reports, and other relevant files. He will interview any witnesses and interview the involved employee to discuss possible courses of action. After this review of the matter, the first line administrator will decide if the supervisor should continue to monitor the problem, should further investigate the problem, or that immediate action needs to be taken.

If the first line administrator determines that immediate action needs to be taken, he will then meet with the division commander / director to review the matter and determine an appropriate action plan.

DIVISION COMMANDER / DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The division commander / director may consult with Human Resources and, in cases involving potential disciplinary problems, with the Commander, OPR, to assist in developing an action plan. The action plan may include additional intervention efforts or referrals, recommendation for reassignment or may progress to disciplinary action.

E. INITIATING THE ACTION PLAN

After an action plan is decided upon, the first line administrator and supervisor will meet with the employee to further discuss the proposed course of action. A finalized action plan will be presented in writing to the employee, via memorandum. The employee will receive a copy and sign a receipt acknowledging acceptance of the terms and conditions.

No action in regard to the Personnel Early Warning System is subject to either the grievance or disciplinary process. However, if the action plan includes any recommended disciplinary action, such action will be taken in accordance with established policy concerning discipline.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the first line administrator will forward the finalized action plan, along with a chain of command cover memorandum, to the division commander / director.

The division commander / director will forward a memorandum detailing the problem and the finalized action plan to Human Resources, and/or the Commander, OPR and the appropriate Assistant Sheriff. Follow-up reports or other related documents will also be forwarded as they become available.

In situations when demotion or termination of employment may be considered as part of the action plan, the appropriate Assistant Sheriff and Chief of Staff will present the findings to the Sheriff for review.



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F. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The employee's first line administrator will conduct monthly follow-ups by meeting with the employee and the employee's supervisor for a minimum of three months following the initial meeting. The first line administrator, after each such meeting, will forward a memorandum detailing the progress being made toward a solution of the problem to the employee's Division Commander / Director; Commander / Director, Administrative Services; Commander, OPR; and the appropriate Assistant Sheriff. At the conclusion of the three-month follow-up period, the first line administrator will prepare a final memorandum in which he will evaluate the results and recommend whether to conclude or continue the action plan and follow-up.

Copies of all memorandums will be forwarded to Human Resources for placement in the employee's personnel file.

The Commander / Director, Administrative Services shall be responsible for coordinating all intervention services both within and outside of the Agency and for tracking follow-ups.

G. ANNUAL REVIEW

The Commander / Director, Administrative Services in conjunction with the Commander, OPR will ensure a review and evaluation of the Personnel Early Warning System is conducted on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of the system. Refer to the Administrative Reporting Program policy for specific reporting requirements.

3-700 ORGANIZATIONAL DISCIPLINE – ALL EMPLOYEES

As an Agency, we are committed to our collective integrity; such integrity is dependent upon the personal conduct, integrity, discipline, accountability, and responsibility of each employee. The Charles County Sheriff's Office holds these values in high esteem, and through fairness and objectivity, has created Agency guidelines. When employees do not perform or behave in a manner consistent with Agency philosophies, expectations, and guidelines, their behavior should be addressed through the disciplinary process.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is committed to a progressive disciplinary process. This will be accomplished by following and implementing the Maryland state guidelines contained in the Maryland Statewide Model Disciplinary Matrix (required by the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, Public Safety Article, 3-105, Annotated Code of Maryland). Further, it is the policy of the Sheriff's Office to apply the state matrix and guidelines (located elsewhere in the AOM) to all sworn officers, correctional officers and full time / full time reduced hours civilian employees. Probationary, part-time, temporary, emergency, contractual and appointed civilian employees serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff and may receive discipline, up to and including termination, as determined by the Sheriff without consultation of this policy. The focus of the disciplinary process is corrective action through individual employee responsibility and accountability.

Remedial discipline, such as problem solving and behavior changes, should be the primary emphasis while punitive discipline is secondary. Punitive discipline shall be for cause and shall follow the basic concepts of due process.

The Agency is also committed to maintaining an effective complaint process. Such a system maintains high professional standards and improves morale by establishing a fair and thorough means to process complaints, while eliminating arbitrary disciplinary applications.

Employees are responsible for complying with CCSO guidelines including all additions and amendments that may be promulgated and with all other orders and directives, either verbal or written, which may be issued by competent authority. Ignorance of the guidelines, procedures, and orders of the CCSO is not justification for any violation. Further, employees are responsible and accountable for their own actions or failure to act and may not transfer the responsibility for executing or failing to execute any lawful order or police duty.



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The Charles County Sheriff's Office does not discriminate in any manner against current members, potential members, or member groups on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military status or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of employment.

3-700.1 DEFINITIONS

Absent Without Authorization (AWOL): An employee who is absent without authorization (AWOL) may be placed in an off-duty status without compensation (Leave Without Pay). Placing an employee on leave without pay when the employee is absent without approval is not a disciplinary action. However, an employee who is AWOL may be subject to disciplinary action. An employee who is AWOL may also be considered to have abandoned their position, thereby forfeiting any rights to his employment and any protections or rights afforded by the disciplinary process.

Administrative Charging Committee: The designated entity as part of the Charles County Police Accountability Board process to review complaints of police misconduct made by a member of the public and issue administrative charges.

Administrative Hearing Board: A hearing board that serves as the appeals process when a correctional officer does not accept disciplinary recommendation presented in the Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR).

Business Days: Refers to weekdays, Monday through Friday, and excludes Saturdays, Sundays and County Government/CCSO holidays.

Calendar Days: Refers to every day of the week including weekends and holidays.

Charles County Trial Board: A hearing board that serves as the appeals process when a sworn police officer does not accept disciplinary recommendation presented in the Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR).

Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR): The administrative charging document utilized by the Agency.

False Statement: Any statement made or given by a person, in response to a question or interrogatory which is part of an inquiry, investigation or proceeding, or a written statement made as part of a report or official document of any kind, when the person making the statement knows the statement, or any material part thereof, to be not true.

Field Investigation: A formal investigation completed at the division level and assigned by the Commander, OPR.

Grievance: A dispute, claimed violations, misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules or regulations governing the employee's terms and conditions of employment. Certain exclusions are listed in the Employee Grievance Process policy.

Grievance Review Board: A hearing board convened to decide allegations of misconduct by eligible civilian employees and determine the outcome of grievable complaints for applicable sworn, corrections and civilian employees.

Inquiry: The answering of a citizen's questions(s) regarding the law, tactics, and Agency policies and procedures.

Lawful Order: any order issued by a superior employee, or relayed from a superior employee by an employee of the same or lesser rank to any subordinate, which is not in violation of any law, ordinance, or any written directive.

Police Accountability and Discipline Act: Title 3, Subtitle 100, of the Maryland Public Safety Article relating to



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the discipline of officers.

Police Misconduct: A pattern, a practice, or conduct by a police officer that includes: 1) depriving persons of rights protected by the constitution or laws of the State or the United States; 2) a violation of a criminal statute; or 3) a violation of Agency standards and practices.

Respondent: Any employee who is the subject of an internal inquiry or investigation.

Restitution: Restitution is the required reimbursement to the Sheriff's Office or the County for loss or damage to Agency or County property. Requiring an employee to make restitution to the Sheriff's Office or the County for lost or damaged property is not disciplinary action. An employee is not required to pay restitution exceeding three percent (3%) of the employee's annual base pay. An employee required to make restitution may also be subject to disciplinary action and/or civil or criminal prosecution.

3-700.2 AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Sheriff, as the elected State Constitutional Officer responsible for the Agency, is empowered to initiate and / or administer discipline within this Agency and to authorize subordinate supervisory personnel to initiate, administer, or recommend disciplinary action. Complaints filed by members of the public against sworn police officers are controlled by the Police Accountability and Discipline Act, Title 3, Subtitle 100, of the Public Safety Article.

The Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is hereby specifically assigned and delegated the responsibility to oversee and administer the disciplinary process within the Charles County Sheriff's Office. In this regard, the Commander, OPR may report directly to the Sheriff. Any officer assigned to the OPR will assist the Commander in this assignment and will have the authority of the Commander when acting on their behalf. Any supervisor, when accomplishing the discipline requirements of this section, is acting on behalf of the Commander, OPR and in such matters has the authority to require employees to give truthful and accurate statements.

As the Commander responsible for all investigations of Agency employees, the Commander, OPR is responsible for assuring the fair and equitable administration of discipline, to include progressive discipline and equal punishment for equal infractions. The Commander is charged with maintaining files, records, and a personal awareness of all disciplinary matters. This includes the responsibility for:

1. supervising the Internal Affairs Section;
2. briefing the Sheriff or his designee of any alleged serious misconduct or patterns of misconduct occurring within the Agency;
3. issuing Internal Affairs case numbers to track all formal complaints and sending a letter acknowledging that the complaint has been received for processing to the complainant;
4. an awareness and review of all current Internal Affairs cases;
5. knowledge of the past history of discipline within the Agency;
6. an awareness of current legal developments regarding the disciplinary process;
7. maintaining the security and confidentiality of all disciplinary and investigatory records;
8. establishing and coordinating administrative hearing boards and Charles County Trial Boards;
9. preparing and presenting, in conjunction with the Agency General Counsel, the Agency's case during administrative hearing and Charles County Trial Board procedures;
10. providing for the notification and summoning of witnesses in administrative hearing and Charles County Trial Board procedures;
11. the maintenance of a current photograph of each employee which would be suitable for a photographic lineup;
12. the maintenance of statistical data relating to complaints and employee misconduct;
13. the continuous appraisal of trends in employee misconduct to the end that policies and procedures are modified and training programs are created to rectify such trends;
14. ensuring that complainants are notified in writing the results of the investigation upon the conclusion of the



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case;

15. the management and administration of the Agency's drug testing policy;

16. Providing completed investigations of complaints of police misconduct involving a citizen and acting as the Agency liaison to the County Administrative Charging Committee.

The Commander, OPR is authorized to use any of the resources of the Agency in carrying forward these responsibilities. Division Commanders / Directors will assign such personnel as are needed to aid in any internal investigation. Commanders / Directors conducting parts of such investigations will consult with the Commander, OPR and keep them informed concerning their part of any investigation.

3-700.3 CONFIDENTIALITY

All information and material pertaining to internal investigations and disciplinary actions is considered confidential. Only those persons involved in the investigation, or some other formal activity of the instant case, are permitted access to information concerning that case, and then only to the degree that there is a legitimate need to know such information. Any person who obtains, seeks to obtain, or distributes confidential information or material, or fails to take reasonable measures required to guard the security of information and materials, as required by this section, is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Any requests for information about an internal investigation by a member of the public through a public information act request must be forwarded to the Records Management Section. Records will notify the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of General Counsel of the request.

3-700.4 DISCIPLINARY DISPOSITION REPORT (DDR)

The Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR) is the administrative charging document used for all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. There are three versions of the DDR form:

- The Form #633 is used for sworn, correctional and civilian employees who are not subject to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). The Form #633 must be accompanied by Formal Written Counseling (Form #342) or Letter of Reprimand (Form #633B).
- The Form #633A is used for sworn officers subject to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). A Form #633A must be accompanied by an ACC Charging Document.
- The Form #633C is used for sworn officers at the conclusion of a Charles County Trial Board when the trial board sustains charges against the officer. A Form #633C must be accompanied by a copy of the final written decision of the trial board.

The DDR formally charges the employee and outlines disciplinary action including the following: Formal Written Counseling, Letter of Reprimand, loss of leave, loss of pay, suspension, demotion and termination. The proposed disciplinary action must be indicated on the DDR before it is presented to the Respondent. The DDR (Form 633 & 633A) shall also inform the Respondent they have five (5) business days to decide whether to accept or dispute the disposition. The Respondent may have a collective bargaining unit representative or an administrative sergeant present when the DDR is presented.

The issuing of a DDR (Form 633) permits Agency employees to accept disciplinary action for infractions without a formal investigation or interrogation through OPR, thus allowing a single disciplinary event to be quickly settled at the division level. If the employee does not agree to the disciplinary action recommended in the DDR, the matter will be referred to OPR to initiate a formal investigation. The Commander, OPR or designee shall assign an IA case number to be assigned as a Field or IA investigation. If the subsequent investigation sustains the alleged violation, the disciplinary action proposed on the original DDR may be increased. Upon completion of a formal investigation, if the Respondent declines to accept the final disposition, the matter will move to the appropriate appeal process.



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(detailed elsewhere in policy).

In any case where an employee refuses to sign the written Disciplinary Disposition Report, the person presenting the notice will write "refused to sign" in the Respondent's signature space. A witness to an employee's refusal to sign a written Disciplinary Disposition Report must initial the written notice.

If the Respondent fails to return the form (Forms 633 & 633A) within the specified five (5) business days, it is considered a waiver of the right to the appeal process and the offered discipline will be imposed.

Employees must be informed of the following if they accept the disciplinary action recommended in the DDR:

- They are not disputing the violation occurred;
- They are waiving their rights to a Charles County Trial Board (Sworn) / Administrative Hearing Board (Correctional Officers) / the Grievance Process (Civilians), their rights under the COBOR (if applicable) and the AOM; and
- They are accepting the punishment which is imposed by the highest-ranking officer of their respective division.

The DDR satisfies the requirements of COBOR §11-1106. Administrative charges are considered "filed" for purposes of §11-1106 of the COBOR when signed by the respondent officer's Division Commander / Director, the Commander of OPR, or the Sheriff's designee.

Prior to taking disciplinary action, Division Commanders / Directors will refer to the Disciplinary Matrix contained within this policy. This section of policy categorizes offenses to provide a uniform recommended disciplinary action range. Division Commanders / Directors will also confer with the Commander, OPR prior to the issuing of any final dispositions which are related to investigations.

The Agency reserves the right to increase the proposed punishment if a Respondent declines disposition by DDR and a formal investigation sustains an Agency violation, subject to the procedures of the Police Accountability and Discipline Act, COBOR, and / or Agency policy.

AGENCY COLLISION COMMITTEE DDRs

The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) or his designee shall sit on the Agency's Collision Committee. DDRs issued as a result of a recommendation by the Collision Committee may be issued without further consultation with the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility. The remainder of the DDR review process, however, shall be followed.

3-701 COMPLAINTS

- A. PURPOSE
- B. RECEIVING COMPLAINTS
- C. HANDLING COMPLAINTS
- D. COMPLAINTS HANDLED AS INQUIRIES
- E. COMPLAINTS HANDLED AT THE DIVISION LEVEL – SUPERVISOR'S INVESTIGATIONS
- F. COMPLAINTS HANDLED BY OPR
- G. RESPONDENT STATEMENTS
- H. ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS
- I. EXCESSIVE FORCE COMPLAINTS
- J. CITIZEN COMPLAINT VICTIMS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE
- K. HARASSMENT OF WITNESSES



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A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office shall strive to ensure the highest level of integrity is achieved and maintained by properly receiving and investigating all complaints against the Agency or its members, including anonymous complaints, in a thorough, fair, and expeditious manner. The complaint process should be viewed as one of building confidence and credibility between the Agency and the citizens it serves as well as internally between Agency employees.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office receives complaints in two main categories: external and internal. External complaints originate from outside of the Agency when a citizen makes a complaint against an employee of the Sheriff's Office. Internal complaints originate from inside of the Agency when an Agency employee makes a complaint about another employee.

A complaint may be a result of:

1. a violation of Agency rules, policies, or procedures, or of vehicle / criminal law(s);
2. other improper action(s) on the part of Agency employees;
3. a misunderstanding between an employee and some other person;
4. a flawed organizational policy; or
5. an unrealistic view held by a citizen of the abilities and/or resources of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and its personnel.

B. RECEIVING COMPLAINTS

Complaints can be submitted verbally or in writing. The use of the Officer / Employee Complaint Form #145 is the preferred method to submit external and internal complaints. However, a completed Complaint Form is not a necessary prerequisite for an investigation. If an employee becomes aware of information which would indicate the need for an internal investigation of any personnel or activities of the Agency, the employee shall contact the Commander, OPR who shall initiate the Complaint Form on behalf of, or in place of, a complainant.

To assist individuals in submitting complaints and educating them regarding the complaint process, the Complaint Form #145 and Officer / Employee Complaint Reporting Process instructional guide Form #145A will be available, in English and Spanish, at all Sheriff's Office facilities, public libraries, the County Government Building, the CCSO intranet and the CCSO public website. If submitted by a civilian complainant, the completed form may be delivered to the OPR in person, sent to the OPR via U.S. Postal Service, or emailed directly to OPR@ccso.us. The Commander, OPR, will be responsible for the design and availability of complaint forms.

The processing of the initial receipt of complaints should, absent a specific request by the complainant, be handled as follows. Nothing in this policy precludes an employee from listening to a complainant's account of events before a referral is made. However, a complainant should not have to repeat their narrative to several different employees before reaching the correct person to address the complaint.

1. If received by phone, the receiving employee will obtain the caller's name, a call-back number and, if known, the name of the involved employee(s). The employee taking the call will assure the caller a supervisor or commander will return their call. The employee taking the call will immediately contact the supervisor(s) of the involved employee(s), if available, or any available supervisor or command officer to respond to the caller. The contacted supervisor or command officer will contact the complainant promptly.
2. If received by mail or electronic correspondence, the receiving employee will immediately forward the complaint up the chain of command to OPR.
3. Walk-in complainants will be immediately referred to the most immediately available on-duty supervisor or command officer. If needed, a supervisor or command officer will be contacted to respond to the location



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of the complaint. Absent exigent circumstances, a complainant should never be required to go to a different location to report a complaint.

4. If a complaint is made in the field, an on-duty patrol supervisor will be notified to respond to the location of the complainant.
5. An employee receiving an anonymous complaint will document the receipt, with as much information as possible, in writing, and forward it up the chain of command to OPR.
6. Complaints by members of the public may be received by the Police Accountability Board.
7. A complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public and a police officer – either received directly by the Agency or referred to the Agency by the Charles County Police Accountability Board – must include: 1) the name of the officer accused of misconduct; 2) a description of the facts on which the complaint is based; and 3) contact information of the complainant or a person filing on behalf of the complainant for investigative follow-up. The complaints need not be notarized.
8. Complaints involving harassment, arbitrary discrimination and / or sexual harassment shall be handled in accordance with procedures outlined elsewhere in the AOM.

The OPR maintains a flow chart to aid each Division Commander with the complaint handling process, including receiving complaints, the investigative process and the final discipline involving allegations of employee misconduct. A copy of the flow chart is also located on the Agency intranet site under the “Resources” drop down menu titled “Initial Complaint Handling Process.”

C. HANDLING COMPLAINTS

Investigations of complaints can be handled at different levels of the Agency, depending on the nature and severity of the complaint. The method of investigation can also vary. Minor complaints, including those identified as “inquiries,” may be investigated at the division level. These investigations may be assigned to a supervisor or commander in the employee’s chain of command with a minimum rank of Sergeant / Civilian Supervisor. More severe or complex complaints may require a formal investigation by the Internal Affairs (IA) Section of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). In some cases, IA investigations can be assigned as Field Investigations, as determined by the Commander, OPR. OPR reserves the right to assume case responsibility for any complaint.

Regardless of where the investigative responsibility is placed, the complainant will be kept informed of the progress of the case and there will be a formal closure to each investigation.

For complaints of police misconduct involving a member of the public, the Commander of OPR will forward the completed investigation to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee for review and possible administrative charges.

D. COMPLAINTS HANDLED AS INQUIRIES

Sometimes a perceived complaint may be a question about Agency practices or a question or misunderstanding between persons involved or about how an incident was handled. Often complainants just want the opportunity to express themselves, ask questions, and have someone listen to them. Such complaints may be identified as inquiries that can frequently be handled informally by an employee’s supervisor.

Inquiries not leading to a formal investigation should generally only be documented within supervisory notes. While each inquiry is unique, supervisors should understand that a pattern of inquiries regarding a particular employee may reveal the need for further supervisory action, possibly including the use of the Personnel Early Warning System, remedial training, or disciplinary action.



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If, based on the information provided, an inquiry is determined to be a complaint of a more serious nature needing further action, the supervisor will confer with their Division Commander / Director and OPR through their chain of command for a determination as to how to proceed. Whether a complaint is handled as an inquiry or as a formal investigation will be determined by the nature and seriousness of the complaint and with consideration for how the complainant wants to proceed.

If a Division Commander / Director, upon reviewing a forwarded complaint, deems the allegations require immediate action or that the early involvement of OPR would be beneficial to the investigation, they shall contact the Commander, OPR directly.

E. COMPLAINTS HANDLED AT THE DIVISION LEVEL – SUPERVISOR’S INVESTIGATIONS

Inquiries that require further action and all minor complaints – except for complaints of misconduct involving a member of the public and a police officer – should be handled at the lowest level possible, preferably by the involved employee’s immediate supervisor. In all cases, the supervisor handling the investigation must be a minimum rank of Sergeant / Civilian Supervisor. These investigations may be documented on a Supervisor’s Investigation Form #226.

Any superior of the employee, the rank of Sergeant / Civilian Supervisor or above, has the authority to:

1. Conduct the investigation,
2. Make recommendations as to the disposition of the case, including recommendations for remedial training,
3. Conduct counseling with subordinate employees,
4. Issue administrative charges via a Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR) once the DDR has been reviewed and approved by their Division Commander / Director, Assistant Sheriff, and the Commander, OPR. This shall be done to ensure the proposed discipline is consistent with others who have been charged with similar violations.

In all cases when a supervisor is assigned to investigate an allegation of misconduct, before taking any disciplinary action, the supervisor will:

1. meet with the employee to allow the employee to respond to the allegations;
2. consider any mitigating circumstances;
3. review the employee’s personnel history;
4. consult with their chain of command and OPR in reference to the investigation; and
5. forward, through the chain of command, the results of the investigation once completed.

Division Commanders / Directors will be involved in the review and recommendation phase of the final disposition of cases. Captains / Directors will normally carry out the service of administrative charges (DDRs) on employees under their commands. Captains / Directors will confer with the Commander, OPR prior to the issuing of any final dispositions which are related to investigations. Prior to final service of the DDR, the Division Commander / Director shall also confer with their Assistant Sheriff regarding the allegations and recommended disciplinary action, to include disciplinary recommendations resulting from the Agency Collision Committee.

All supervisors/commanders must be sensitive to the concerns of the complainant and the needs of the employee throughout the investigative process.

Division Commanders / Directors have the ultimate responsibility of ensuring the integrity and reputation of the CCSO through fair and equitable investigations of internal matters and application of disciplinary procedures where warranted.

Any superior of the employee, the rank of Sergeant / Civilian Supervisor or above, may initiate an emergency



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suspension. Procedures for emergency suspensions are located elsewhere in the AOM.

F. COMPLAINTS HANDLED BY OPR

In cases where there is possible criminal activity on the part of the subject employee, or the nature of the activities would require an investigation of a magnitude greater than could be reasonably accomplished by the supervisor, the OPR will assume the major responsibility for the completion of a formal investigation and the recommendation of disciplinary action. Any officer, supervisor, or commander who receives information regarding an incident described under this section will immediately notify the Commander, OPR or their designee by the most expeditious means possible, generally by phone.

Complaints requiring investigation by the OPR are normally to be recorded, either by the complainant or the handling supervisor / commander on a Complaint Form #145 and forwarded through the chain of command to OPR, and will include the following at a minimum:

1. the name of the respondent employee,
2. the nature of the probable offense(s) or complaint(s),
3. the name of any complainant(s) (this could be the supervisor),
4. the date and time (or a range of dates or times),
5. place(s) of occurrence, and
6. a synopsis of their investigation.

The Commander, OPR, or their designee, will review all complaints received by the OPR. When appropriate, the complaint will be assigned to an Internal Affairs investigator for investigation. The Section's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. investigating allegations of graft, corruption, and serious misconduct by Agency employee(s);
2. participating with CID in the investigation of all complaints of criminal misconduct by Agency employee(s);
3. investigating police shootings when an officer intentionally discharges a firearm and wounds or fatally injures another person. In such cases, Internal Affairs monitors the CID, appropriate specialized unit, or the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division investigation and addresses the administrative aspects of the shootings. Internal Affairs is not responsible for investigating the primary offense that led to a firearm discharge by an officer. The investigation of the primary incident remains the responsibility of the appropriate specialized unit or the IID. For example, if the officer responds to a citizen armed robbery and intentionally discharges his or her firearm at a suspect who is not injured, the robbery shall be investigated by CID (if the IID declines the case);
4. participating with CID, appropriate specialized unit, or the IID in the investigation of all cases in which employee actions result in the death of another person, or such serious injuries as are likely to cause death;
5. conducting other inquiries as directed by the Sheriff and Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility. Such investigations may not be limited to Agency employees.

The Commander, OPR will report the receipt of all complaints to the Chief of Staff and Assistant Sheriffs who will make appropriate notifications to the Sheriff. If necessary, due to the sensitivity of the complaint, notifications of the receipt of the complaint may be limited.

The Commander, OPR will ensure each person submitting a complaint against the Agency or Agency personnel is contacted acknowledging receipt of the complaint. The Commander will also ensure the complainant is provided periodic progress reports of the investigation status and a notification of the results of the investigation upon its conclusion.

The Sheriff agrees to publish, on a quarterly basis on the Agency Intranet, a synopsis of Internal Affairs investigations concluded during the quarter. The synopsis shall include the officers' ranks, violations, findings, and dispositions (including any penalties). The officers' names will not be identified by publication (per MOU).



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G. RESPONDENT STATEMENTS

For the purposes of taking statements from respondent employees, the investigating supervisor is empowered to place the employee under duress and require a statement. Employees who refuse to make a statement after being ordered to do so are subject to additional disciplinary action for insubordination in the matter of refusing to make a statement.

Supervisors should be mindful duress statements are of value only in administrative cases. If criminal activity is involved in the matter under investigation, no duress statement should initially be taken. All cases involving criminal or possible criminal activities will be referred to the OPR for investigation. The OPR Commander will make a determination concerning the advisability of taking duress statements from any of the persons involved in a case where criminal activities are the focus. Duress statements should not be taken from persons against whom criminal charges are possible, unless the Commander, OPR (or his designee) has been consulted. Any statement from such persons, other than duress statements, will be handled in the same manner as are statements in any normal criminal investigation.

Correctional officers are entitled to the protections outlined in the Charles County Correctional Officer Bill of Rights. Absent exigent circumstances, civilian and sworn personnel should be given a reasonable opportunity to consult with an attorney and have an attorney present.

H. ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

Anonymous and other complaints that do not meet the definition of a complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public should not be excluded from investigation. Anonymous callers may be referred directly to OPR. If the anonymous complaint is made after normal business hours, the employee receiving the initial contact will document the complaint and forward that documentation to OPR. Where possible, a preliminary investigation of the substance of the complaint will be made. The investigation of anonymous complaints will be terminated when no additional information can be obtained. The case will be documented and the subject employee will be informed of the nature of the complaint and the result of the investigation.

I. EXCESSIVE FORCE COMPLAINTS

All excessive force complaints will be investigated in accordance with the Correctional Officers' Bill of Rights (COBOR).

J. CITIZEN COMPLAINT VICTIMS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Whether OPR or the division investigates an external complaint, the Citizen Complaint Victims' Rights Advocate (Assistant Commander, OPR) will send a letter notifying the complainant that the complaint has been received for processing. Within the letter the complainant will be informed of the case number assigned to the complaint, the name of the supervisor or investigator conducting the investigation and that he will be contacted in the near future for follow-up. If it is a complaint of police misconduct, the letter will also provide information about the investigative, administrative charging committee, and trial board processes.

K. HARASSMENT OF WITNESSES

Harassment of a witness is a serious offense. Any Agency employee who subjects a complainant or witness to harassment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination.

3-702 INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS FOR INCIDENTS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Upon receipt of a complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public, the Commander, OPR or their



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designee, will immediately review the complaint and assign the complaint for investigation. The completed investigation will be forwarded to the Administrative Charging Committee.

If, during the course of an investigation that did not begin as a complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public, OPR concludes that misconduct involving a member of the public and a police officer occurred, the completed investigation will be forwarded to the Administrative Charging Committee.

Investigation Process

Unless otherwise stated, investigations involving sworn officers will follow the procedures and restrictions that apply to Correctional Officers under the COBOR.

Report of Investigation

The concluded report of investigation will include:

1. a description of the evidence relating to the complaint;
2. a summary of the investigation including the investigator's recommended findings; and
3. the investigator's suggestions for which provisions of the AOM may be involved.

The Commander, OPR, will forward the concluded report, the investigatory file, the recommended findings and discipline (if applicable) to the Administrative Charging Committee for Charles County (ACC). OPR will notify the involved officer that the matter has been sent to the ACC.

Action by the Administrative Charging Committee for Charles County

The ACC must review the investigation and make a determination if the police officer who is the subject of the investigation will be administratively charged or not administratively charged within 30 calendar days of receipt of the investigatory file. The ACC may ask for further investigation.

The ACC may call an officer to appear before it. The police officer is entitled to be accompanied by a representative.

If the ACC issues administrative charges, the ACC will recommend discipline in accordance with the Uniform State Disciplinary Matrix.

The ACC is required to forward its opinion that describes in detail its findings, determinations and recommendations to the Sheriff, the involved police officer, and the complainant within five (5) business days of its completed deliberations and vote.

If the ACC determines a police officer should be administratively charged, the ACC will prepare an administrative charging document. The administrative charging document will include:

1. Each AOM section the police officer is accused of violating;
2. The factual basis for the violation;
3. The signature of the ACC chairman or designee;
4. A section for the Sheriff to agree to offer recommended discipline or higher discipline;
5. A section for the police officer to accept the discipline offered by the Sheriff or request a trial board.

Action Following Receipt of ACC Opinion or Charging Document

The ACC opinion will be distributed to the Chief of Staff, the Assistant Sheriffs, the Office of General Counsel, and the Commander of OPR.



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Within 15 calendar days of receipt of administrative charges against an officer, the Sheriff, through the officer's Division Commander / Director, shall offer discipline to the officer. The Division Commander / Director will provide the officer with the administrative charging document, the ACC report, and the Agency's recommended disposition and discipline. The officer may have a collective bargaining unit representative or an administrative sergeant present when the administrative charges are presented. The Sheriff may increase within the applicable range of the disciplinary matrix, but may not decrease, the discipline recommended by the ACC.

If, in the opinion of the Sheriff, the findings of the ACC are not supported by evidence or law, the Office of General Counsel will be directed to prepare a memorandum to the officer explaining the Sheriff's position. The memorandum will be provided to the officer with the administrative charges. The Office of General Counsel will also send a letter to the ACC informing them of the Agency's position.

The officer must either accept or reject the offered discipline and demand a Charles County Trial Board within 5 business days. Failure to demand a Charles County Trial Board within 5 business days is a waiver of the right to the Trial Board and the offered discipline will be imposed.

3-703 INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS FOR SWORN OFFICERS WITH INCIDENTS NOT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

The following subsections of this policy apply to correctional officers of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. These subsections also apply to sworn officers for investigations of complaints other than complaints of police misconduct involving a member of the public.

Information concerning the Correctional Officers' Bill of Rights is found in the Annotated Code of Maryland. Information concerning disciplinary matters and the Sheriff can be found in 210 of the Code of Charles County, Maryland.

Upon receipt of a complaint against a correctional officer or a sworn officer with an incident not involving a member of the public the Commander, OPR, or their designee, will immediately review the complaint and assign the complaint for investigation.

Investigation Process

Unless otherwise stated, investigations involving correctional officers and sworn officers will follow the procedures and restrictions detailed under the COBOR.

Report of Investigation

The concluded report of investigation will include:

1. a description of the evidence relating to the complaint;
2. a summary of the investigation including the investigator's recommended findings; and
3. the investigator's suggestions for which provisions of the AOM may be involved.

The Commander, OPR or designee, will forward the concluded investigatory file through the Respondent's chain of command for review, approval and recommendation of discipline (if applicable). If the approved investigatory file recommends discipline, the Respondent's Division Commander / Director will complete a Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR) for approval. Once approved, the Division Commander / Director will serve the Respondent with the offered discipline within the applicable range of the disciplinary matrix.

The Respondent must either accept or reject the offered discipline and demand an Administrative Hearing Board



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(Corrections) or Charles County Trial Board (Sworn) within 5 business days. Failure to demand an Administrative Hearing Board (Corrections) or Charles County Trial Board (Sworn) within 5 business days is a waiver of the right to the Appeal Process and the offered discipline will be imposed.

3-704 INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

This policy applies to full-time civilian employees of the Sheriff's Office. For purposes of this policy, a civilian employee is defined as any full-time or full-time reduced hours employee other than a sworn law enforcement / correctional officer. The term specifically includes Police Communications Officers. This policy does not apply to probationary, part-time, temporary, emergency or contractual employees. Nor does this policy apply to civilians serving in appointed positions. Probationary, part-time, temporary, emergency, contractual and appointed employees serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff and may receive discipline, up to and including termination, as determined by the Sheriff without consultation of this policy.

Investigation Process

Upon being notified or becoming aware of alleged misconduct involving a civilian employee, a Division Commander / Director may, depending on the circumstances, conduct an investigation of the matter personally, assign a supervisor to conduct an investigation, or request the Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate.

Unless otherwise stated, investigations involving civilians will follow the procedures and restrictions detailed under the COBOR.

When the recommendation for discipline is less than termination and is approved by the Division Commander / Director, the Commander, OPR, and the Assistant Sheriff, the investigating supervisor will provide the employee with:

1. a Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR);
2. information about the employee's appeal rights (Employee Grievance Process); and
3. the effective date and time of the disciplinary action.

If the employee accepts the disciplinary action, it will take effect after five business days. Eligible civilian employees will have the recourse to appeal the imposition of disciplinary action through the Employee Grievance Process. An appeal of the imposition of punitive disciplinary action begins with the procedures described in the Grievance Process policy, "Level Two," located elsewhere in policy. Non-punitive action outlined within the disciplinary process, including, but not limited to, remedial training and informal counseling is not subject to the grievance process.

Report of Investigation

The concluded report of investigation will include:

1. a description of the evidence relating to the complaint;
2. a summary of the investigation including the investigator's recommended findings; and
3. the investigator's suggestions for which provisions of the AOM may be involved.

The Commander, OPR or designee, will forward the concluded investigatory file through the Respondent's chain of command for review, approval and recommendation of discipline (if applicable). If the approved investigatory file recommends discipline, the Respondent's Division Commander / Director will complete a Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR) for approval. Once approved, the Division Commander / Director may serve the Respondent with the offered discipline within the applicable range of the disciplinary matrix.



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3-707 DISCIPLINE PROCESS - PROGRESSION OF DISCIPLINE

- A. PURPOSE
- B. FORMAL WRITTEN COUNSELING (FWC)
- C. LETTER OF REPRIMAND
- D. LOSS OF LEAVE / LOSS OF PAY (DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION)
- E. DEMOTION
- F. TERMINATION

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will follow the procedures outlined in the Statewide Disciplinary Matrix drafted by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions for the progression of discipline of all sworn, corrections and civilian employees. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Sheriff or designee.

B. FORMAL WRITTEN COUNSELING (FWC)

Formal Written Counseling is the least severe form of disciplinary action and serves as a warning for violations. Violations will be documented on the Formal Written Counseling form (CCSO Form #342). The Formal Written Counseling Form will be attached to the appropriate DDR. Further violations of same or similar conduct may result in more severe discipline. A copy of the formal written counseling form will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

C. LETTER OF REPRIMAND

A Letter of Reprimand (Form #633B) is a formal written document describing a violation of Agency policy which will be maintained in the employee's personnel file.

1. The Letter of Reprimand is considered a formal disciplinary action.
2. All Letters of Reprimand must be attached to a Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR) and reviewed by the employee's Division Commander/ Director, the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility or his designee, and the appropriate Assistant Sheriff prior to issuance.
3. Unless waived by the employee, the employee shall have the right to receive a copy of the Letter of Reprimand and to respond to the Letter of Reprimand in writing.
4. The employee has five (5) business days to respond in writing to the Letter of Reprimand (LOR)/ Disciplinary Disposition Report (DDR). The LOR / DDR shall be returned to the issuing supervisor.
5. If for any reason a sworn or correctional officer does not agree to the Letter of Reprimand recommended in the DDR, a formal investigation shall be completed and documented, if not already conducted. The Commander, OPR or his designee shall assign an Internal Affairs report number to be assigned as a field or internal investigation.
6. Civilian employees who do not agree with the Letter of Reprimand recommended in the DDR will have the recourse to appeal the imposition of punitive disciplinary action through the employee grievance process as outlined elsewhere in this policy.



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D. LOSS OF LEAVE / LOSS OF PAY (DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION)

A disciplinary suspension occurs when an employee is penalized with either a loss of accrued leave or loss of pay through suspension of duty. The total term of loss of leave or loss of pay will be noted in the appropriate section on the Disciplinary Disposition Report / ACC Charging Document. The Human Resources Section will schedule and maintain record of the loss of leave / loss of pay and make notification to the Office of Professional Responsibility when the term is completed.

DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION CRITERIA

To maintain continuity across Agency segments (sworn, corrections, civilian), suspensions resulting from disciplinary recommendations shall meet the following criteria:

1. A suspension day equals 8 hours regardless of the number of hours an employee typically works as a result of their specific duty assignment or schedule.
2. Suspension days shall be applied in 8-hour increments. If multiple suspension days are imposed, it is the total number of hours that must be satisfied.
3. Employees who work more than an 8-hour day must work or use accrued leave for any hours remaining in their shift.
4. Employees who work less than an 8-hour day will be required to satisfy any remaining suspension hours as soon as possible as scheduled by their Division Commander / Director. After serving the remaining suspension hours, the employee may work the remainder of their shift or use accrued leave.

Examples:

A sworn officer is suspended for 1 day (8 hours) but is assigned to the patrol division where a shift is 10 hours. The officer will be suspended for the first 8 hours and then work the remaining 2 hours or use accrued leave.

A sworn officer is suspended for 2 days (16 hours) but is assigned to the patrol division where a shift is 10 hours. The officer will be suspended for a total of 16 hours. The officer will be suspended for a 10-hour shift and serve the remaining 6 suspension hours as soon as possible as scheduled by their Division Commander / Director. After serving the additional 6 hours, the officer will work the remaining 4 hours of that shift or use accrued leave.

A corrections officer is suspended for 1 day (8 hours) but the regular schedule is 8.5 hours. The officer will be suspended for the first 8 hours and then work the remaining ½ hour or use accrued leave.

A civilian employee is suspended for 1 day (8 hours) but their regular schedule is 7.5 hours with a half hour unpaid lunch break. The civilian will be suspended for their 7.5-hour shift and serve the remaining ½ hour of their suspension as soon as possible as scheduled by their Division Commander/Director. After serving the additional ½ hour of suspension time, the employee will work the remaining hours of that shift or use accrued leave.

E. DEMOTION

A demotion is a compulsory reduction in an employee's rank or job title within the organizational hierarchy of the Agency. Demotion may only be considered as a discipline penalty if the misconduct is determined to be a Category D or E violation. Demotion may be the sole penalty or in addition to a penalty within the disciplinary range. For civilian employees, demotion may not be applicable depending on the position classification and/or availability of vacant positions.



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F. TERMINATION

Within this section of policy, termination refers to an employee being involuntarily separated from employment with the Agency. Termination is the most serious level of Agency discipline. Disciplinary incidents for which termination may be considered shall be documented by a formal investigation.

If an allegation of misconduct is of a serious nature for which the employee may be terminated, the employee's Division Commander / Director or the Commander, OPR, will immediately notify the appropriate Assistant Sheriff, the Office of General Counsel and the Chief of Staff, and keep them informed of the progress and outcome of the investigation.

Procedures involving employee termination are documented in the Separating from Employment policy elsewhere in this manual.

3-708 DISCIPLINARY MATRIX - ALL EMPLOYEES

The Charles County Sheriff's Office has adopted the Statewide Police Disciplinary Matrix to determine the level of discipline offered for an administrative violation for all sworn, correctional and applicable civilian employees. The full content of the Statewide Police Disciplinary Matrix Resource Guide will be posted on the CCSO intranet page. The sections listed below (aggravating factors, mitigating factors, and violation categories) are for quick reference. Commanders/Directors determining discipline will follow the procedures set forth in the complete resource guide.

Note- Any language in the Statewide Police Disciplinary Matrix Resource Guide referring to "officer" is applicable to sworn, correctional, and civilian employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Aggravating Factors – Conditions or events related to the violation that increase the seriousness of the violation and may increase the degree of penalty as specified in the Matrix below. Examples of aggravating factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The officer's prior disciplinary history.
- The officer's prior negative work history, including non-disciplinary corrective action
- The officer's rank.
- The violation was committed willfully or for personal gain.
- The officer's efforts to conceal the violation, or to be untruthful or dishonest.
- The officer's failure to cooperate with the investigation into the alleged misconduct.
- The violation was retaliatory in nature.
- The violation or behavior was motivated by bias against a member or group of a protected class under the State's hate crimes law, (Public Safety Article, §10-304, Annotated Code of Maryland).
- The officer's expressed unwillingness to comply with policy, tactics, or performance standards.
- The impact of the violation on the community or the department's ability to carry out its mission.
- The degree to which the violation caused or could have caused the loss of life or injury.
- The degree to which the violation caused loss or damage to public or private property.

Mitigating Factors – Conditions or events that relate to the violation, but do not excuse or justify the violation, that are considered in deciding the degree of penalty. Examples of mitigating factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The officer's actions are attributable to selfless concern for the well-being of others.
- The officer's lack of disciplinary history.
- The officer's complimentary work history.
- The officer's prior positive work history.
- The violation was the inadvertent result of reasonable, otherwise compliant performance.
- The officer's prompt acceptance of responsibility for the conduct and willingness to be held accountable.



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- The officer's commission of the violation at the direction of a superior (who might also be subject to separate discipline).
- Unusually serious workplace tensions / stressors.
- The violation is attributable to limitations beyond the control of the officer that are caused by legally protected physical or mental disabilities and/or conditions.

The violation category matrix for A,B,C,D,E,F, Special Circumstance, and Departmental Collisions listed for the remainder of this section.

VIOLATION CATEGORY – A

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
Category A: Conduct that has or may have a minimal negative impact on operations or professional image of the law enforcement agency.	ONE: 1 st Violation	Formal Written Counseling	→ Letter of Reprimand
	TWO: 2 nd Violation in 24 Months	Formal Written Counseling	→ Up to 1 Day Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	THREE: 3 rd Violation in 24 Months	GO TO CATEGORY B LEVEL 1	

Policy Violation Examples for Category A

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.
An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Violation associated with improper attire and grooming (uniformed/non-uniformed)

Late for duty assignment

Failure to properly care for agency vehicle, including but not limited to vehicle inspection and maintenance care

Failure of officer to provide identification when required

Failure to comply with traffic stop procedures

Loss of agency property (excluding weapon and radio)

Parking Violations



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VIOLATION CATEGORY – B

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
Category B: Conduct that has or may have a negative impact on the operations or professional image of law enforcement agency; or that negatively impacts relationships with other officers, agencies, or the public.	ONE: 1 st Violation	Letter of Reprimand	→ Up to 2 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	TWO: 2 nd Violation in 36 Months	1 Day Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay	→ Up to 3 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	THREE: 3 rd Violation in 36 Months	GO TO CATEGORY C LEVEL 1	

Violation Examples for Category B

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.
An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Rude, discourteous actions towards the public or other employees to include profanity and/or obscene gestures.
Failure to furnish name, ID number, and assignment
Officer using their official status, name, or photograph to endorse any product or service connected with law enforcement for personal gain without permission from agency
Failure to remain alert and awake on duty
Failure to notify supervisor of the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of driver's license
Unauthorized use or wearing agency issued equipment (or use of agency insignia) while working secondary employment
Failure to make required inspection of agency vehicle for weapons/contraband prior to and after transporting a prisoner
Operating an agency vehicle beyond jurisdictional boundaries without authorization
Altering or modifying agency equipment without approval
Operating an agency vehicle while on sick leave, light duty status, or suspension without authorization
Failure to submit required report
Failure to conduct preliminary and follow-up investigation/reporting
Improper use of Internet or other communications equipment
Working secondary employment without approval



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Violation of social media policy
Failure to accept a complaint against an officer
Failure to obey traffic laws – minor, while operating an agency vehicle

VIOLATION CATEGORY – C

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
Category C: Conduct that involves a risk to safety or that has or may have a pronounced negative impact on the operations or professional image of the law enforcement agency or a member, or on relationships with other officers, agencies, or the public.	ONE: 1 st Violation	2 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay	→ Up to 4 Days Loss of Pay
	TWO: 2 nd Violation in 48 Months	3 Days Loss of Pay or 3 Days Loss of Leave	→ Up to 5 Days Loss of Pay
	THREE: 3 rd Violation in 48 Months	GO TO CATEGORY D LEVEL 1	

Violation Examples for Category C

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.
An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Failure to notify or report to duty assignment – Absent without leave (AWOL)
Failure to notify agency that officer has become subject of a criminal investigation
Failure to properly secure a firearm
Unauthorized/careless use/handling/display of a weapon
Carrying an unauthorized firearm, ECD or other weapon in a vehicle or on the officer's person, on or off duty
Discharging of firearm in violation of policy – no injury
Failure to properly search a prisoner incident to arrest
Improper release/escape of a prisoner (no criminal intent)
Unnecessary force/excessive force resulting in unknown injury or minor injury
Failure to document or investigate a physical use of force
Engaged in secondary employment while on sick leave



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Unauthorized vehicle pursuit – no injury

Dissemination of confidential information related to a criminal investigation, Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) or Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to unauthorized persons

VIOLATION CATEGORY – D

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
Category D: Conduct substantially contrary to the values of the law enforcement agency or that substantially interferes with its mission, operations, or professional image, or that involves a serious risk to officer or public safety, or intentionally violates law enforcement agency policy.	ONE: 1 st Violation	5 Days Loss of Pay or 5 Days Loss of Leave	→ Up to 15 Days Loss of Pay
	TWO: 2 nd Violation in 60 Months	10 Days Loss of Pay	→ Up to 20 Days Loss of Pay
	THREE: 3 rd Violation in 60 Months	GO TO CATEGORY E LEVEL 1	

Note: Demotion and / or reduction in rank can also be considered as an independent sanction or in addition to another disciplinary penalty for Category D.

Violation Examples for Category D

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.

An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Reporting to work with a measurable amount of alcohol in system (no requirement to be legally intoxicated)

Failure to provide and/or request needed medical assistance (includes individuals not in custody)

Failure to notify agency that officer has been charged with a civil or criminal violation, whether by arrest or criminal summons.

Unauthorized vehicle pursuit – with injury

Failure to report a firearm or less lethal weapon discharge (includes accidental discharges)

Failure to report an agency collision



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VIOLATION CATEGORY – E

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
Category E: Conduct that involves misuse of authority, unethical behavior (not involving false reporting or false statements), or an act that could result in an adverse impact on an officer or public safety or to the professionalism of the law enforcement agency or a violation of any misdemeanor.	ONE: 1 st Violation	15 Days Loss of Pay →	25 Days Loss of Pay up to TERMINATION
	TWO: 2 nd Violation in 60 Months	15 Days Loss of Pay →	30 Days Loss of Pay up to TERMINATION
	THREE: 3 rd Violation in 60 Months	GO TO CATEGORY F LEVEL 1	

Note: Demotion and / or reduction in rank can also be considered as an independent sanction or in addition to another disciplinary penalty for Category E.

Violation Examples for Category E

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.
An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Using official position to avoid consequences of criminal laws and/or incarcerable traffic violations.

Unnecessary force/excessive force resulting in serious injury

Failure to report a use of force

Engaging in acts of retaliation

Discharging of firearm resulting in injury or death, non-criminal intent

Obstructing or hindering a criminal investigation

Obstructing or hindering internal affairs or an administrative investigation

Affiliation with any person or organization known to be involved in criminal activity

VIOLATION CATEGORY – F

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors



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Category F: Any violation of law, policy, rule or regulation which: foreseeably results in death or serious bodily injury; or constitutes a willful and wanton disregard of the law enforcement agency's mission, vision and values; or involves any act or omission which demonstrates a serious lack of the integrity, ethics or character related to an employee's fitness to hold their position; or involves egregious misconduct substantially contrary to the standards of conduct reasonably expected, to include those whose sworn duty is to uphold the law; or involves conduct which constitutes the failure to adhere to any condition of employment required or mandated by law, including any 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) (Lautenberg) violations.	ONE: ANY VIOLATION	TERMINATION

Violation Examples for Category F

Note: The below list represents violation examples that may fall into this category.
An agency policy violation must first be identified.

Truthfulness: Intentionally making any verbal or written false statement during an official investigation or on any official agency document.

Enforcement and/or detention of individuals based on discriminatory practices

Engaging in sexual behavior on duty

Engaging in sexual behavior in an agency vehicle or facility, on or off duty

Intentional malicious and unjustified use of force resulting in serious bodily injury or death

Intentional erasing video footage and/or audio transmissions from digital video camera equipment (BWC/In-Car Camera)

Converting property/evidence for personal use

Performing secondary employment while on-duty

Improper use of controlled dangerous substance (CDS), narcotic, or hallucinogen

Tampering or manufacturing of evidence

Knowingly participating or joining an organization that advocates, incites, or supports criminal acts or criminal conspiracies or that promotes hatred or discrimination toward racial, religious, ethnic, or other groups or classes of individuals protected by law.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE VIOLATIONS



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Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE Category 1: Any <u>off-duty</u> driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs which would constitute a violation of law.	ONE: 1 st Violation	15 Days Loss of Pay	→ TERMINATION*
	TWO: 2 nd Violation	30 Days Loss of Pay	→ TERMINATION*
	THREE: 3 rd Violation	TERMINATION*	
Category 1a: Any <u>on-duty</u> or off-duty in a departmental vehicle driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs which would constitute a violation of law.	ONE: 1 st Violation	TERMINATION*	

*Unless prohibited by Executive Order or Government Policy

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors
FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT/MVA HEARINGS Category 2: Intentional or purposeful failure to appear for any properly summoned court appearance which is the result of action taken as a law enforcement officer. This category also includes MVA hearings. *Resets 1 calendar year from the date of the first violation.	ONE: 2 violations in 1 year	Formal Written Counseling	→ Formal Written Counseling
	TWO: 2 additional violations in 2 years	Formal Written Counseling	→ Up to 2 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay

DEPARTMENTAL COLLISIONS

Categories and Descriptions	Level	Disciplinary Range	
		Mitigating Factors	→ Aggravating Factors



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DEPARTMENTAL COLLISIONS Category 1: Minor Damage ¹ to Police Vehicle and/or Other Property or Vehicle ¹ Law Enforcement Agencies may establish a dollar amount as a guideline for determining the level of severity (minor vs major). ² Driver Re-training can be imposed at any level but is mandatory for three or more at-fault departmental collisions.	ONE: ^{1st} Violation up to 12 months	Formal Written Counseling	→	Letter of Reprimand
	TWO: ^{2nd} Violation within 0-24 months	Formal Written Counseling	→	Up to 2 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	THREE²: ^{3rd} or more Violation within 0-36 months	Letter of Reprimand	→	Up to 5 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
Category 2: Major Damage to Police Vehicle and/or Other Property or Vehicle ¹ Law Enforcement Agencies may establish a dollar amount as a guideline for determining the level of severity (minor vs major). ² Driver Re-training can be imposed at any level but is mandatory for three or more at-fault departmental collisions.	ONE: ^{1st} Violation up to 12 months	Formal Written Counseling	→	Up to 1 Day Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	TWO: ^{2nd} Violation within 0-24 months	Letter of Reprimand	→	Up to 3 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	THREE²: ^{3rd} or more Violation within 0-36 months	Letter of Reprimand	→	Up to 10 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
Category 3: Injury to Law Enforcement Personnel and/or Civilian If gross negligence or reckless operation of a police vehicle is involved in any collision that results in serious injury or death the disciplinary range will increase up to and including termination.	ONE: ^{1st} Violation up to 12 months	Formal Written Counseling	→	Up to 2 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	TWO: ^{2nd} Violation within 0-24 months	Letter of Reprimand	→	Up to 5 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay
	THREE²: ^{3rd} or more Violation within 0-36 months	Letter of Reprimand	→	Up to 14 Days Loss of Leave or Loss of Pay



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3-709 DISCIPLINARY APPEAL PROCESS

When an employee of the Charles County Sheriff's Office determines they will not accept disciplinary action served to them via a Disciplinary Disposition Report the matter will move to one of the three appeal processes. Sworn officers' method of appeal, as mandated in the Police Accountability and Safety Act, is the Charles County Trial Board. Correctional officers method of appeal, as mandated in the Charles County Correctional Officer's Bill of Rights (COBOR), is the Administrative Hearing Board. Civilian Employee's method of appeal is the Grievance Process. Probationary, part-time, temporary, emergency, contractual and appointed civilian employees are not entitled to the Grievance Process for disciplinary appeal. When a probationary, part-time, temporary, emergency, contractual or appointed civilian employee is terminated, they are eligible for a Name Clearing Hearing.

3-709.1 CHARLES COUNTY TRIAL BOARD PROCESS- SWORN

If a sworn officer demands a hearing before a Charles County Trial Board, the Commander, OPR will coordinate the creation of the trial board with the County Commissioners and the head of the Charles County Police Accountability Board. The Commander, OPR, or their designee will be responsible for scheduling the hearing. The member selected by the County (retired judge or administrative law judge) serves as the chairperson.

The Commander, OPR, with the approval of the Sheriff, will select an officer of equal rank to the involved officer to serve on the trial board. Preference will be given to an officer from another agency.

The Office of General Counsel will represent the Agency's interests before the trial board as directed by the Sheriff, which may include presenting evidence and calling witnesses to prove police misconduct occurred.

The Charles County Trial Board is an independent process and is not bound by anything the Administrative Charging Committee may have recommended for disciplinary action. Except as provided below, the Trial Board is required to reach conclusions about whether misconduct occurred and, if so, the appropriate level and discipline within the Statewide Disciplinary Matrix.

The uniform of the day for respondent officers will be business attire and they shall not be armed in or during trial board proceedings.

Pre-Hearing Proceedings

Requests for subpoenas for the production of documents or appearance of witnesses must be submitted to the chairperson at least five business days before the hearing. Each party to the hearing will be responsible for service of the party's subpoenas. At the request of the Office of General Counsel, Agency employees with information relevant to the proceeding will be ordered by their Division Commander / Director to attend the hearing through the employee's chain of command. A notice for an employee to appear before a Trial Board is a direct order of the Sheriff. Failure to obey such an order is insubordination. Any employee who disobeys this notice to appear and testify specifically, directly, and narrowly to the facts at issue, may be suspended and charged with insubordination.

Requests for continuances must be made to the chairperson at least five business days before the hearing. The chairperson may reschedule a hearing for good cause shown or may fashion such appropriate relief as will allow the hearing to proceed (for example, allowing testimony to occur virtually). The chairperson may waive the time limit in the case of an emergency request.

The members of the trial board will be presented with the Administrative Charging Committee's or Agency's charging document in advance of the hearing.

The Office of General Counsel will provide a copy of the investigatory record to the officer at least 30 calendar days before the hearing. No other discovery is available or permitted, except that parties may exchange such



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additional information as they deem appropriate. No deposition requests, interrogatories, or requests for documents, or any like process will be honored.

The Information Technology Division will post the public notification of all Charles County Trial Boards on the Agency website. The posting will include:

- Internal Affairs Case Number;
- date, time, and hearing location;
- time and location of alleged incident;
- summary of the allegations;
- any applicable rules to the attending or viewing public, including:
 - the public will not be permitted to audio / video tape proceedings and no recording devices or cellphones will be permitted in the hearing room;
 - the public shall be excluded if sensitive or privileged evidence and / or testimony is offered, or undercover officers are required to testify;
 - any unruly conduct or any attempt to disrupt the hearing shall be grounds for removal;
 - limited number of persons allowed into the hearing, etc.;

Hearing Proceedings

The hearing will be scheduled to begin on a weekday during normal business hours. The hearing will occur in person. The Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility, with the assistance of the Information Technology Division, will ensure that the proceedings are audio recorded.

The appearance of the Respondent at the Trial Board is mandatory. The Respondent's Division Commander / Director or designee shall order the Respondent, in writing, to attend the Trial Board. Respondents will not be armed upon their arrival for the Trial Board. The Trial Board chair is responsible for the security of proceedings. If the responding officer does not appear, the hearing will go forward unless the Agency's counsel requests otherwise.

The hearing is open to the public. Information regarding the time, date, and place of the hearing will be posted on the Agency website. The hearing shall be closed at the request of either party or a member of the trial board when necessary to protect:

- a victim's identity
- the personal privacy of an individual
- medical records
- the identity of a confidential source
- an investigative technique or procedure
- the life or physical safety of an individual

If a portion of the hearing is closed, members of the public will be directed to leave the hearing room. Representatives of a recognized collective bargaining unit are not subject to the closure order. The public will be allowed to reenter the hearing room if closure is no longer necessary.



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The hearing is an administrative proceeding and Title 5 of the Maryland Rules do not apply except for rules relating to competency of witnesses. The Trial Board may receive as evidence anything of probative value that is commonly accepted by reasonable and prudent individuals in the conduct of their affairs, including information that a reasonable police officer would consider probative when conducting an investigation. The Agency and the officer may enter into stipulations of fact and any such stipulations will be regarded as proven. The Agency and the officer may also agree to the admission of portions of or all of reports by the Administrative Charging Committee or the Agency, except that the Trial Board is not required to accept any findings made in the reports.

Evidence admitted during the hearing does not become a disclosable public record solely by virtue of being entered into evidence. Disclosure of evidence is subject to the mandatory and discretionary redactions in the Maryland Public Information Act.

If the officer admits to one or more sustained findings of a policy violation, the officer and the Agency may submit a joint recommendation for discipline, including an agreement on which category of the Disciplinary Matrix is applicable. The Trial Board is required to accept the joint recommendation unless a majority of the board concludes the recommendation is arbitrary and capricious.

All Board members shall participate in deliberations to determine a verdict and recommendations. The chairman presides over the proceedings and shall:

- describe the reasons for the Board, under whose authority it is being convened, and the name of the Respondent;
- rule on procedural questions;
- determine the acceptability or relevance of evidence;
- rule on objections raised by either party; and
- notify the Sheriff and the Respondent, in writing, of the Board's decision, findings, and recommendation.

The following order of presentation will be followed when cases are heard by the Board unless the Agency and Respondent have agreed to a different process:

- opening remarks are allowed for the Agency;
- opening remarks are allowed for the Respondent;
- the Agency's case is presented;
- cross examination by the Respondent is allowed;
- examination by Board members is allowed;
- the Respondent's case is presented;
- cross examination by the Agency is allowed;
- examination by Board members is allowed;
- a summation by the Agency is allowed;
- a summation by the Respondent is allowed; and
- a final rebuttal by the Agency is allowed.

At the conclusion of this process, the Board members will meet in closed session to deliberate. This meeting will not be a matter of record. The Board, at the conclusion of its deliberations, will return a finding of guilty or not guilty for each of the charges before the Board. A finding of not guilty on all charges terminates the action.

If a finding of guilt is made on one or more charges, the Board shall reconvene the hearing and hear argument on the appropriate application of the Discipline Matrix. Either party may offer evidence on aggravating or mitigating factors.



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A copy of the decision or order and accompanying findings and conclusions, along with written recommendations for action, shall be delivered or mailed promptly to the Respondent or to his attorney or representative of record, the Office of General Counsel, and to the Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). The Commander of the OPR, using CCSO Form #144, will forward the report through the chain of command to the Sheriff. Upon receipt of the report to the Sheriff, the Sheriff will sign and date the Form #144 indicating receipt of the report.

The Agency has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence to establish whether misconduct occurred and the appropriate matrix level.

A decision by the Trial Board to sustain a finding of misconduct must be by a majority of the Trial Board. The Trial Board's decisions on the appropriate matrix level and discipline must also be by a majority. The chair is responsible for preparing the written decision of the Trial Board, including the findings, conclusions, and discipline.

The written decision of the Trial Board must be delivered to the commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility, the Office of General Counsel, and the officer within 45 calendar days of the hearing. Delivery may occur by e-mail. Delivery to the officer's attorney is considered delivery to the officer. The date the e-mail is sent is the date the decision has been issued.

Post- Hearing Proceedings

Within 30 calendar days of the issuance of the report, the officer may appeal the decision to the circuit court. Any discipline directed by the Trial Board will be imposed either when the appeal period has passed, the appeal has been resolved against the officer, or the officer has provided a signed statement that no appeal will be filed or has been withdrawn.

The Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of General Counsel will jointly prepare the record of proceedings to be filed in circuit court. The Agency will be represented by counsel from the Attorney General's Office unless otherwise agreed to by the Agency and the Attorney General's Office.

3-709.2 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING BOARD- CORRECTIONS

The Administrative Hearing Board (AHB) process described here only applies to correctional officers entitled to the protections of COBOR. The AHB is convened at the direction of the Sheriff and conducts hearings of charges against employees and presents a finding of facts to the Sheriff. The AHB is an administrative process where the rules of evidence need not be as strictly adhered to as in a court of law. Evidence with probative value that is commonly accepted by reasonable and prudent individuals in the conduct of their affairs is admissible and shall be given probative effect. However, the AHB is a quasi-judicial proceeding and should be conducted with adherence to the established guidelines within this policy, COBOR and with an atmosphere affording a degree of formality.

Administrative Hearings shall be audio recorded and open to the public, unless the Sheriff finds a hearing must be closed for good cause, including to protect:

- a confidential informant;
- an undercover officer; or
- a child witness.

AHBs will normally be scheduled for Monday through Friday business hours, but may occur on a weekend or be extended to such other hours as are necessary in the opinion of the chairman. All disciplinary matters shall be presented to an AHB unless the employee and the employer agree on the disposition, and the employee waives this process.



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The uniform of the day for respondent officers will be business attire.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR)

The Commander, OPR or their designee will schedule and manage all logistics associated with the AHB. These duties include:

- coordination with the Agency General Counsel as needed to present the Sheriff's Office case;
- making records, investigative reports, and evidence available to the General Counsel;
- preparation of the AHB location to allow members of the public to view the proceedings in person when appropriate, and/or through audio / video conferencing;
- the notification of prosecution witnesses and members of the AHB of the time, date, and location of the AHB;
- on written request by the Respondent or his attorney, notify Agency defense witnesses utilizing the same methods used to notify prosecution witnesses, provided the request is made no less than ten business days prior to the hearing;
- monitor the selection process of the AHB, including the process of selection of the member of equal rank;
- provide for clerical assistance to the AHB; and
- such other actions as may be necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the AHB proceedings.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Director, Information Technology Division will coordinate audio and video recording of proceedings and post the public notification of all Administrative Hearings on the Agency Internet website www.ccsso.us, as soon as possible prior to the hearing, including:

- Internal Affairs Case Number;
- Date, time, and hearing location;
- Time and location of alleged incident;
- Summary of the allegations;
- Any applicable rules to the attending or viewing public, including:
 - the public will not be permitted to audio / video tape proceedings;
 - the public shall be excluded if sensitive or privileged evidence and/or testimony is offered, or undercover officers are required to testify;
 - any unruly conduct or any attempt to disrupt the hearing shall be grounds for removal;
 - limited number of persons allowed into the hearing, etc.

CONTINUANCES

Requests for continuances must be made to the Commander, OPR in writing, no less than 72 hours prior to the beginning of the scheduled start of the hearing. The Commander, OPR may waive this 72-hour requirement in the case of an emergency request.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE AHB

The Sheriff or designee shall convene an AHB composed of at least 3 voting members with no involvement in the matter pending before the AHB. At least one AHB member shall be of equal rank as the Respondent. One member shall be the rank of Lieutenant or above who shall act as the AHB chairman.

The Respondent may petition the Sheriff to remove any member of the AHB for just cause. The Sheriff or designee



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shall be the sole judge of the ability of members to serve on the Board. In order for any petition for removal to be considered, it must be presented to the Sheriff or designee within five (5) business days of the mailing of notification of the formation of the AHB to the Respondent and/or the Respondent's attorney.

DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

All Board members shall participate in deliberations to determine a verdict and recommendations. In rendering a verdict, a majority opinion of the AHB members shall prevail. The chairman presides over the proceedings and shall:

- describe the reasons for the AHB, under whose authority it is being convened, and the name of the Respondent;
- rule on procedural questions;
- determine the acceptability or relevance of evidence;
- rule on objections raised by either party; and
- notify the Sheriff and the Respondent, in writing, of the AHB's decision, findings, and recommendation.

RESPONDENT PRIVILEGES

The Respondent to an AHB shall be notified by his Division Commander / Director in writing, of the AHB and the charges to be presented no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing. The Respondent may call defense witnesses and cross-examine opposing witnesses. The Respondent has the right to be represented by counsel of his choosing.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

A Respondent may ask to waive the AHB and be directly disciplined by the Sheriff. A Respondent may waive any other right granted by the COBOR. Any waiver of rights will be granted only upon the written request of the Respondent, presented to the Sheriff or designee in a timely fashion.

AHB ORDER OF PRESENTATION AND PROCESSES

The following order of presentation will be followed when cases are heard by an AHB. The Administrative Hearing Board Procedure Form #12 will be used as a guide and to document the proceedings.

- opening remarks are allowed for the prosecution;
- opening remarks are allowed for the defense;
- the prosecution's case is presented;
- cross examination by the defense is allowed;
- examination by AHB members is allowed;
- the defense case is presented;
- cross examination by the prosecution is allowed;
- examination by AHB members is allowed;
- a summation by the prosecution is allowed;
- a summation by the defense is allowed; and
- a final rebuttal by the prosecution is allowed.

At the conclusion of this process, the AHB members will meet in closed session to deliberate. This meeting will not be a matter of record. The AHB, at the conclusion of its deliberations, will return a finding of guilty or not guilty for each of the charges before the AHB. A finding of not guilty on all charges terminates the action.



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If a finding of guilt is made on one or more charges, the AHB shall reconvene the hearing, receive evidence, and consider the Respondent's past performance and other relevant information as factors before making its recommendations to the Sheriff. The AHB will render a verdict and recommendation on each of the charges.

A copy of the decision or order and accompanying findings and conclusions, along with written recommendations for action, shall be delivered or mailed promptly to the Respondent or to his attorney or representative of record, the Office of General Counsel, and to the Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) within 45 calendar days. The Commander of the OPR, using CCSO Form #144, will forward the report through the chain of command to the Sheriff. Upon receipt of the report to the Sheriff, the Sheriff will sign and date the Form #144 indicating receipt of the report.

In determining guilty or not guilty, the standard of proof shall be a preponderance of the evidence.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION

If the AHB recommends suspension of the officer as part of the final disposition, the officer is not entitled to a hearing as set forth in the section of this policy governing emergency suspension.

RECOMMENDATION FOR TERMINATION

If the AHB recommends termination of a Correctional Respondent, the Respondent shall be immediately suspended. The Respondent's correctional authority shall be suspended by the Respondent's Division Commander / Director, who shall recover the Respondent's Agency owned firearms, badges, identification cards, and magnetic door access key cards. The recovery of all other Agency property shall be coordinated through the Human Resources Section and the Quartermaster's Office.

The Commander, OPR shall coordinate with Human Resources for a Personnel Order to be transmitted throughout the Agency, concerning the Respondent's status.

FINAL ORDER OF THE SHERIFF

Written recommendations as to punishment are not binding upon the Sheriff. Within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Hearing Board's recommendations, the Sheriff shall review the findings, conclusions, and recommendations and shall then issue his final order. The Sheriff's final order and decision are binding. Before the Sheriff may increase the recommended penalty of the AHB, he personally shall:

- review the entire record of the Hearing Board proceedings;
- meet with the Respondent and permit the Respondent to be heard on the record;
- disclose and provide to the Respondent in writing, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting, any oral or written communication, not included in the Hearing Board record, and on which the decision to consider increasing the penalty is based, in whole or in part; and
- state on the record the reason for increasing the recommended penalty.

APPEAL OF FINAL ORDER

Correctional officers covered under the COBOR may appeal the decisions of the final order to the Circuit Court of Charles County, Maryland. Any party aggrieved by a decision of a court may appeal to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

WITNESS FEES



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Witness fees and mileage, if claimed, shall be paid in accordance with the criteria used by the Circuit Court. All requests for witness fees, mileage, and other actual expenses necessarily incurred in securing attendance of witnesses and their testimony shall be itemized and submitted along with receipts and proper documentation to the Agency for payment. The AHB Chairman must validate applications.

3-709.2.1 RESPONDENT APPEARANCE AT AHB

The appearance of the Respondent at the AHB is mandatory. The Respondent's Division Commander / Director or designee shall order the Respondent, in writing, to attend the AHB. Respondents will not be armed upon their arrival for the AHB. The AHB chair is responsible for the security of proceedings.

3-709.2.2 REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BEFORE THE AHB

A notice for an employee to appear before an AHB is a direct order of the Sheriff. Failure to obey such an order is insubordination. Any employee who disobeys this notice to appear and testify specifically, directly, and narrowly to the facts at issue, may be suspended and charged with insubordination.

3-709.3 EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

The grievance process is designed to allow an organizational method of identifying problems and personnel dissatisfaction within the Agency and resolving differences between the employee(s) and the management structure of the Agency. The employee grievance process serves as the appeal process for civilian disciplinary matters. The process shall not serve as an appeal process for sworn or corrections disciplinary action and shall not be applicable to any issue which is subject to the provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the section commonly referred to as the Charles County Correctional Officers' Bill of Rights.

It is in the best interest of all segments of the organization to resolve differences expeditiously. Division Commanders / Directors, managers, and administrators should seriously consider each grievance brought to their attention with the purpose of arriving at an equitable settlement of the matter at their level of authority. If that is not possible because of the limits of their authority or an impasse in negotiations, the matter should be referred cordially to the next level of the grievance process.

The Deputy Director, Human Resources shall be responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the grievance process as well as maintaining all records resulting from filed grievances. The Deputy Director will provide an annual analysis report outlining grievances filed for that time period and disposition of each grievance filed. Copies of the annual report will be forwarded to the Office of General Counsel, the Chief of Staff, the Assistant Sheriffs and the Sheriff.

EXCLUSIONS

The employee grievance procedure shall not be available in the following circumstances:

- terms and conditions of employment for part-time, temporary or probationary employees;
- terms and conditions of employment for appointed positions;
- terms and conditions of employment for contractual or emergency employees;
- position classifications;
- actions taken by the Sheriff which are policy decisions and are not management / administrative actions;
- non-selection for promotion when the sole reason for the grievance is based on personal opinion, and is not substantiated by fact;
- performance ratings, which are governed by separate appeal procedures; or
- oral counseling.



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GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Employees are required to be familiar with the grievance process defined by this section and invoke the formal process when informal methods have failed to resolve conflicts. Employees should initially discuss problems and differences with their immediate supervisors. It is important to develop a dialogue between supervisors and employees which deters misunderstandings and solves problems before they become significant.

INFORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The grievable subject shall be discussed with the employee's supervisor and / or first-level manager within ten (10) business days of the occurrence. The supervisor or first-level manager shall attempt to resolve the issue and respond in writing to the employee within five (5) business days of the discussion. The response shall state the proposed resolution and inform the employee of the employee's right to pursue this matter through the formal grievance procedure. A copy of this letter shall be sent to the Deputy Director, Human Resources. If the supervisor or first-level manager does not respond within 5 business days, the employee may proceed to Level One as described elsewhere in this policy.

FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Level One

The formal grievance process will be initiated through written memorandum to the Division Commander / Director of the grievated employee and only after participation in the informal grievance procedures. The grievance must be filed within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the informal grievance process.

The written grievance shall contain all of the points of contention for which the employee desires resolution in the particular instance. A written grievance must contain the following information:

- A statement of the facts upon which it is based;
- The identification of a specific wrongful act(s) committed and harm done;
- A statement of the remedy or adjustment sought.

No consideration shall be given to any issue not raised in this original written grievance to the Division Commander / Director. This rule is necessary in order that some resolution may be reached. As a practical necessity, if the nature of the original grievance was allowed to change, develop and / or reform during the process, no matter would ever likely be resolved.

The Division Commander / Director will review the written grievance to determine if it meets all eligibility requirements as depicted in this policy. When the grievance meets eligibility criteria, the Division Commander / Director shall meet with the grievant, investigate the grievance and provide a written decision to the grievant no later than five (5) business days after receiving the grievance. A copy of the complete file shall be sent to the Deputy Director, Human Resources immediately following conclusion of this step.

If the Division Commander / Director does not provide a written decision within 5 business days, the employee can proceed to Level Two.

Level Two

If the grievance has not been resolved at the division level, the employee must contact the Deputy Director, Human Resources in writing within five (5) business days of the response provided by the Division Commander / Director requesting that the grievance be heard by the Grievance Review Board.



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For non-disciplinary appeals, it is not necessary for the employee to repeat the facts of the grievance. Only those points in the original written grievance to the Division Commander / Director will be addressed by the Board.

For civilian employee disciplinary appeals, the employee's written notice to the Deputy Director, Human Resources must explain the employee's dispute with the proposed disciplinary action. The employee may dispute the factual basis for the imposition of discipline or the nature of the proposed discipline.

The Deputy Director, Human Resources will determine whether to accept, remand or reject, in whole or in part, any grievance presented. A grievance may be rejected if the aggrieved employee has not completed action under the informal grievance procedure, if the grievance is not presented within the five (5) business day time limit, or if it does not provide a clear statement of the issue and does not indicate the specific corrective action desired. The Deputy Director may remand the grievance to the grievant for clarification or additional information.

GRIEVANCE REVIEW BOARD

The Deputy Director, Human Resources will coordinate the operation of the Grievance Review Board. The Grievance Review Board shall convene for a hearing within ten (10) business days of the acceptance of the grievance by the Deputy Director.

The Grievance Review Board will consist of:

- a Captain or director from a division other than the aggrieved employee's division (this person will act as chairman);
- a Lieutenant or civilian manager or supervisor from the same Agency segment as the aggrieved employee; and
- a non-management employee from a division other than the aggrieved employee's division.

The following persons shall have access to all Grievance Review Board proceedings:

- the Deputy Director, Human Resources or designee, who will be responsible for process evaluation and who will be the custodian of the Board's records; and
- the Office of General Counsel, which will advise the Board and / or the Deputy Director of Human Resources. Except when given during the hearing itself, the advice of the Office of General Counsel is confidential and subject to the attorney / client privilege.

Hearing Board Proceedings

Prior to the hearing, the Deputy Director, Human Resources will provide each Board member with a copy of the employee's grievance and a copy of any investigation related to the grievance. Members of the Board may not conduct their own investigation into the grievance.

The Deputy Director, Human Resources will establish the procedures for the hearing to include the setting of time limitations. The Deputy Director may at any time during the proceedings, limit or extend the scheduled time constraints if the hearing is not progressing according to schedule.

The hearing will be closed to anyone other than those participants noted.

The Board will request the grievant to restate his grievance, to present additional information relevant to the grievance and to call any witnesses who can be expected to contribute materially to the issue. The grievant may not compel the attendance of any witness. An Agency employee who agrees to testify for the employee shall be granted reasonable administrative leave in order to attend the hearing, providing there is no disruption to Agency



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operations. The grievant may not call as witnesses members of the Board, the involved Division Commander / Director, the Deputy Director, Human Resources, or Office of General Counsel.

The Board will request the Division Commander / Director of the employee to represent management in these proceedings and to present all facts and evidence available to them which bear on the grievance.

The Board will have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify information throughout the hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the employee will have the opportunity to present closing remarks and the Division Commander / Director will have the opportunity to present closing remarks. The Board will then adjourn to consider the case.

The determination of the Board shall be by majority vote. At the conclusion of their deliberations, and within five (5) business days of the hearing, the Board will provide a written report of its findings and recommendations for actions by management to the Deputy Director of Human Resources. The Grievance Review Board has wide discretion in determining a resolution. The Grievance Review Board may increase or decrease any previously recommended action.

The Deputy Director, Human Resources will serve a copy of the Board's written report on the grievant and the management representative. The Deputy Director, Human Resources will further advise the grievant of his right to appeal the findings of the Board to an Assistant Sheriff if the grievant so desires.

The Deputy Director, Human Resources will make a record of the proceedings and the findings of the Board. This record, with all attendant documents, will be preserved for not less than three (3) years in the Human Resources records.

Level Three

In all cases, the Deputy Director, Human Resources shall, upon receipt of the Grievance Review Board findings, forward them to the Commander / Director, Administrative Services. The Commander / Director shall meet with the Assistant Sheriff of Administration to present the facts of the grievance and the recommended resolution. This meeting will take place as soon after receipt of the Board's findings as possible. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Grievance Review Board's findings and in the absence of any appeal, the Board's findings will be acted upon.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

In the event the action of the Grievance Review Board does not satisfy the employee, they may, within five (5) business days of receiving the Board's findings in writing, appeal the findings of the Grievance Review Board to an Assistant Sheriff. Such appeal will be made in writing to an Assistant Sheriff who is not in the employee's chain of command. The Assistant Sheriff will review the record of the case and, at the Assistant Sheriff's discretion, meet with the employee. The Assistant Sheriff will notify the employee in writing, within ten (10) business days, of his findings and decision which will be final.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS TIME LIMITS

Time limits may be extended by the Deputy Director, Human Resources, upon written request and for good cause. If the grievant fails to pursue any steps within the time limits, they shall have no further right to continue the grievance.

REPRESENTATION

A grievant may request a Sheriff's Office employee, or other advocate of the employee's choice (at the employee's expense if other than an employee of the Sheriff's Office), be present and represent the grievant at any step of the



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procedure. Any Sheriff's Office employee who assists another employee in this manner shall be granted reasonable administrative leave to participate in the grievance process during working hours, providing there is no disruption to Agency operations. Stenographic assistance may be involved at any step of the procedure at the expense of the grievant, if involved on behalf of the grievant, or at the expense of the CCSO, if on its behalf.

ADMINISTRATION

Written grievances, appeals, decisions and all associated records or correspondence shall be forwarded to the Deputy Director, Human Resources for review and filing. These records are sensitive and shall be maintained in a secured file. Access to the files shall be limited to the Deputy Director and Commander / Director, Administrative Services, or the Office of General Counsel.

Any Agency employee involved in the grievance process shall not be subjected to reprisal, discrimination or jeopardy as a result of having invoked the grievance process or for his involvement in the grievance process.

3-711 NAME CLEARING HEARINGS FOR EMPLOYEES NOT ENTITLED TO THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS

This policy shall serve as notice to Agency employees that a name-clearing hearing is, under certain circumstances, provided for and it outlines the procedures to be followed for an employee to be able to offer information into his personnel record. These procedures shall be separate and apart from all other disciplinary and grievance procedures and will not serve as an appeal of any disciplinary action or to gain reinstatement.

The procedures outlined in this policy provide for the conduct of a name clearing hearing when an employee not entitled to the discipline process is terminated. To request a hearing, the employee must claim false charges are damaging to the employee's reputation and are included in his personnel file, and that there is a likelihood the information will be made available to prospective employers, thus depriving the employee of the freedom to take advantage of other employment opportunities.

A name clearing hearing is not available every time an employee not entitled to the discipline process is terminated. A hearing is available only when any charges relating to the termination may stigmatize the employee's reputation, and the employee denies the truth of the charges. A charge is stigmatizing if it involves allegations of dishonesty, immorality or other conduct which may damage the employee's reputation and impair his ability to obtain other employment. Examples of stigmatizing charges may include: falsifying records; misappropriating property or funds; or charges the employee is untruthful, untrustworthy, unethical, or has committed a crime or other immoral act.

A request for a name clearing hearing must be filed by the employee in writing with the Deputy Director, Human Resources within fifteen (15) calendar days from the effective date of the termination of employment. The employee requesting the name clearing hearing must do so in writing. The employee must articulate what specific information contained in his personnel file would justify a hearing. The failure of an employee to request this hearing within the designated time frame shall be considered as a waiver of the employee's rights under this policy.

Upon receipt of an employee's request for a name clearing hearing, the Deputy Director, Human Resources shall notify, via the chain of command, the Sheriff and the Office of General Counsel. The Deputy Director, Human Resources shall coordinate the arrangements for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within fifteen (15) calendar days of the employee's request. The hearing shall be conducted by the Commander/ Director of Administrative Services. If the Commander/ Director of Administrative Services is unable to conduct the hearing because of personal involvement in the matter that led to termination, the hearing shall be conducted by a commander selected by the General Counsel.

The conduct of the hearing shall be informal. The sole purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for the employee to present information for the record to clear his name. The employee shall be allowed to present



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testimony, witnesses and documents to support the employee's position the charges in question are untrue. The employee may have witnesses testify on their behalf and may have legal representation present. The employee may not compel the attendance of any witness, however an Agency employee who agrees to testify for the employee shall be granted reasonable administrative leave in order to attend the hearing providing there is no disruption to Agency operations. In addition to accepting live testimony, the hearing officer(s) may also accept other documents which are relevant to the proceeding. A representative from the Office of Professional Responsibility designated by the Commander of OPR may provide a response to employee's presentation. The hearing officer(s) shall ensure a complete record of the hearing is made.

Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the hearing, the hearing officer(s) will issue a written report summarizing the information presented. A copy of the hearing officer's report and any other documentation provided by the employee shall be placed in the employee's personnel file. A copy of the report and any record of the hearing shall be provided to the terminated employee. The Deputy Director, Human Resources shall ensure a cover page is placed on top of the hearing information stating a name-clearing hearing was conducted.

If the hearing officer finds in the employee's favor, the contested information will be sealed. Sealed information will not be disclosed outside the Agency except pursuant to operation of law or court order.

The role of the Office of General Counsel during a name-clearing hearing and process is to advise the Deputy Director of Human Resources and the hearing officer. Except when given during the hearing itself, the advice of the Office of General Counsel is confidential and subject to the attorney/client privilege.

3-712 EXPUNGEMENT PROCEDURES

Expungement is the process by which a record of disciplinary action and/or investigation is permanently removed from an employee's disciplinary record. Each segment of the Agency has a different expungement procedure as dictated by state statute and / or Agency policy.

SWORN OFFICERS

Administrative or criminal records relating to alleged police misconduct may not be expunged or destroyed, as dictated by the Police Accountability and Discipline Act §3-112 Annotated Code of Maryland.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Expungement of disciplinary actions and investigations of Correctional Officers will be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of the COBOR in the Annotated Code of Maryland. Under that section, the following conditions must be met:

- three years must have elapsed since the final disposition of the action and there must have been a finding of unfounded, unsustained or exonerated for each and every allegation in the case; or
- an Administrative Hearing Board acquits, dismisses, or makes a finding of not guilty on each and every charge in the case.

If these conditions are met and the officer makes written request to the Sheriff via memo through their chain of command for expungement, the Sheriff may cause the record of the complaint to be expunged.

The Commander, OPR in accordance with COBOR, shall handle expungement requests. No expungement will be made of files where a court action is pending. In instances where one respondent in a multiple respondent case is found not guilty, only references to the respondent who is found not guilty will be deleted from the case file.



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CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Expungement of disciplinary actions and investigations of civilian employees will be accomplished in accordance with the following:

- three years must have elapsed since the final disposition of the action; and
- there must have been a finding of unfounded, unsustained or exonerated for each and every charge in the case; or
- a Grievance Review Board or appeal to an Assistant Sheriff acquitted, dismissed, or made a finding of not guilty on each and every charge in the case.

If these conditions are met and the employee makes written request via memo through the chain of command to the Sheriff for expungement, the Sheriff may cause the record of the complaint to be expunged.

The Commander, OPR shall handle expungement requests. No expungement will be made of files where a court action is pending. In instances where one respondent in a multiple respondent case is found not guilty, only references to the respondent who is found not guilty will be deleted from the case file.

3-713 EMERGENCY SUSPENSIONS

- A. PURPOSE
- B. MANDATORY SUSPENSION
- C. DISCRETIONARY SUSPENSION
- D. SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS
- E. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

A. PURPOSE

An emergency suspension occurs when an Agency employee's authority, powers and / or privileges are temporarily revoked whenever it is in the best interest of the public, the employee, or the Office of the Sheriff prior to a final disciplinary action. The two main subcategories of emergency suspensions are mandatory suspensions and discretionary suspensions.

B. MANDATORY SUSPENSION

An employee shall be suspended when:

1. Charged with a felony in any jurisdiction.
2. For alleged conduct as determined by the Sheriff to warrant suspension.

C. DISCRETIONARY SUSPENSION

An employee may be suspended if it is in the best interest of the public, the employee, or the Agency, for circumstances including but not limited to:

1. reporting to work unfit or unprepared for duty;
2. unsatisfactory performance;
3. conviction of a crime;
4. AWOL;
5. mishandling, abuse, or theft of County property;
6. knowingly giving a false statement;
7. misrepresentation of facts;
8. violations of written directives;
9. consuming alcoholic beverages or being intoxicated on the job;



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10. immoral or unethical conduct reflecting unfavorably on the Agency;
11. membership in any organization advocating the overthrow of the U.S. Government by force or violence;
12. accepting gratuities in violation of policy;
13. refusing to be examined by an Agency physician when ordered;
14. loss of job requirements, driver's license, or ability which prevent an employee from satisfactorily executing job tasks or fulfilling mandated training or certification requirements;
15. on- or off-duty conduct detrimental to the performance of essential duties.

D. SWORN AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

This section provides guidance on temporarily suspending a sworn officer's police powers or removing a correctional officer's authority whenever it is in the best interest of the public, an officer, or the Office of the Sheriff.

1. An officer ranked Sergeant or above (or equivalent civilian supervisor), or the Commander, OPR, may initiate an emergency suspension.
2. The suspending supervisor will make immediate verbal notification of the emergency suspension through the chain of command.
3. Suspensions will take one of three forms: suspension with pay working in an administrative capacity, suspension with pay on administrative leave or suspension without pay.
4. When considering whether to apply discretionary suspension, the suspending supervisor must weigh the gravity of the offense against the officer's continued duty status pending an internal investigation.
5. Suspensions shall be documented on the Notification of Suspension Form #391.
6. If the officer chooses to waive the suspension hearing, the Waiver of Right to Suspension Hearing Form #6A will be completed and attached to the Notification of Suspension Form #391.
7. Prior to imposing suspension without pay, approval must first be obtained from the Sheriff or his designee. A sworn officer may be suspended without pay if the Sheriff determines such a suspension is in the best interest of the public. For correctional officers, the suspension may be without pay if the officer is charged with a felony. Once a suspension without pay is approved by the Sheriff, Human Resources and Accounting sections will be notified.
8. The Commander, OPR shall be responsible for convening and administering the emergency suspension hearing on the next available business day or as soon as possible.
9. An emergency suspension may be imposed as a phase in the disciplinary investigation process
10. An emergency suspension of a sworn officer without pay cannot exceed 30 days unless the officer has been charged with:
 - a) a crime of violence, a felony, or a misdemeanor that carries a statutory penalty of more than two years;
 - b) A misdemeanor committed in the performance of duties as a police officer; or
 - c) A misdemeanor involving dishonesty, fraud, theft, or misrepresentation.

In cases where an officer is suspended with pay and on administrative leave or suspended without pay, during weekdays between 0800 and 1600 hours, the suspended officer shall be available to respond to a requested location within approximately one hour. Reasonable consideration will be given for the location of the officer's residence. The suspended officer will contact their Division Commander / Director at the beginning of each week



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and apprise them of any appointments or plans for the upcoming week that could make them unavailable to respond within that time frame.

METHOD OF SUSPENSION

Supervisors will suspend employees with or without pay, in writing, using Notification of Suspension Form #391 and inform them their police power / correctional authority is suspended. In some cases, an employee may be assigned to administrative duties; however, this will be done in writing and not occur until after the initial suspension hearing for those who qualify for one. In most cases, the suspension will be with pay pending the recommendation at the conclusion of the suspension hearing. Officers can waive their right to a hearing and accept the suspension.

The supervisor will collect any Agency issued firearms, badge(s) of office, identification card(s), assigned vehicle and keys, and any other sensitive Agency property. The supervisor will inventory the collected property and provide a receipt to the suspended employee. The inventory shall be documented on Form #393 Suspension Checklist. HR will disseminate a Personnel Order notifying Agency members of the suspension.

The Notification of Suspension will briefly describe the events that transpired resulting in the suspension of the employee. The notification is not a charging document.

For suspensions due to potential misconduct, the suspending supervisor will:

1. Immediately notify the Commander, OPR who will establish a prompt suspension hearing.
2. Complete an initial report (on an Agency memorandum Form #144A) of the circumstances surrounding the suspension and submit it to the Commander, OPR by 0800 hours on the next business day following the suspension.
3. Consult with the Commander, OPR and provide the suspended employee the date, time, and place of the scheduled suspension hearing.

SUSPENSION HEARINGS

A sworn police or correctional officer suspended for alleged misconduct may request a suspension hearing, which is a formal administrative process. While not a judicial proceeding, the suspension hearing will follow a structured process and allow the Agency and suspended employee the opportunity to present facts relevant to the suspension. The hearing will be conducted by the Hearing Officer who is a command officer appointed by the Assistant Sheriff of the affected division and rules on all matters relevant to the suspension. The hearing will be audio and / or video recorded. The Office of Professional Responsibility will maintain the recording.

The suspension hearing will only be concerned with whether the suspension should continue and the conditions. The suspended officer may be present and represented by counsel if desired, however there is no requirement for either to attend, and the hearing may proceed without the officer or counsel present.

The suspending supervisor and the Commander, OPR or his designee will attend the suspension hearing. The suspending supervisor will present his/her position. The Hearing Officer will be the final authority concerning the proceedings and decide what testimony, evidence or other information is relevant.

Suspensions will generally be with pay except when in the opinion of the Sheriff, suspension without pay is in the best interest of the public. Should an officer be suspended and circumstances change that warrant a reconsideration to suspension without pay or to suspension with pay, an additional suspension hearing will be held.

The suspension hearing is not a public process and only those persons required for the hearing and presenting testimony are permitted to attend. The proceedings of the suspension hearing are confidential and will be



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handled as such by all employees.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEARING OFFICER

The Hearing Officer has the responsibility for conducting the suspension hearing and will:

1. Hear/ review evidence and information
2. Determine if an officer will be placed on administrative leave without duties or if the employee will be maintained in a modified duty assignment.
3. Immediately prepare a written report of the findings and deliver it to the Sheriff and the Division Commander / Director of the suspended officer.

E. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

A Civilian Supervisor (or Sworn / Corrections officer the rank of Sergeant) or above may suspend a civilian employee and require the employee to temporarily leave the workplace immediately for engaging in certain conduct. The Notification of Suspension Form #391B will be used to document suspensions of civilian employees.

The supervisor will collect any Agency issued identification card(s), assigned vehicle and keys, and any other sensitive Agency property. The supervisor will inventory the collected property and provide a receipt to the suspended employee. The inventory shall be documented on Form #393 Suspension Checklist.

Emergency suspensions will be with pay and shall not exceed five calendar days without disposition. Within the five (5) day period, a meeting between the employee, the employee's Division Commander / Director, the supervising commander if not the Division Commander / Director, and the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services, will be held.

Emergency suspensions are not subject to the grievance process. However, prior to any loss of pay or other punitive action, an employee will be entitled to the due process set forth within the disciplinary policy.

Upon conclusion of the meeting with the employee, the Division Commander / Director, with concurrence from the Commander / Director, Administrative Services, will:

1. return the employee to work with no further action; or
2. charge the employee and inform them of the proposed disciplinary action and return them to work; or
3. continue the employee on suspension with pay pending further investigation and disposition; or
4. place the employee on suspension without pay pending further investigation and disposition.

Copies of documents detailing any emergency suspension must be submitted to the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services to be placed in the employee's personnel file.

Suspension without pay places an employee involuntarily in a non-duty, non-pay status. It is an extremely severe action imposed by a Division Commander / Director with the concurrence of Human Resources and only when a lesser penalty is inadequate. Where feasible under the circumstances, notice will be given to the employee prior to a suspension, proposing suspension without pay. It will be documented in writing via the Agency Memorandum Form #144A, noting the offense, when the offense occurred and the proposed amount of time the employee is to be suspended. It entitles the employee to five (5) business days (from receipt of notice) to respond. Where feasible, the employee will continue in a work status pending the final decision. If the intended disciplinary action is accepted, the suspension will be documented in writing, noting the amount of time for which the employee will be suspended and the date and time the employee is to report back to work.

Suspended employees will be afforded the opportunity to listen to the charges, respond to them and review the



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evidence prior to any loss of pay.

Copies of documents detailing the suspension will be submitted to the Human Resources Section to be placed in the employee's personnel record.

In cases where a civilian employee is suspended with pay and on administrative leave or suspended without pay, during weekdays between 0800 and 1600 hours, the suspended employee shall be available to respond to a requested location within approximately one hour. Reasonable consideration will be given for the location of the employee's residence. The suspended employee will contact their Division Commander / Director at the beginning of each week and apprise them of any appointments or plans for the upcoming week that could make them unavailable to respond within that time frame.

3-714 ARREST OF EMPLOYEES

Any employee arrested and / or charged with a crime or serious traffic violation which mandates a court appearance, or is served with, or becomes aware of the issuance of a warrant, criminal summons, statement of charges, criminal information or indictment naming the employee as a defendant, will immediately notify their supervisor. Following the notification, the employee shall immediately submit a memorandum to their supervisor outlining the date, time, and location of the incident, status of the case, any related court dates, and include copies of any related documentation in the possession of the employee. Employees are not required to provide any explanations, statements, or evidence in this memorandum. This will be forwarded to the Sheriff via the employee's chain of command without delay. Notification to the Commander, OPR will be made as necessary by the Lieutenant Colonel, or Chief of Staff.

In the event an employee of this Agency becomes the recipient of criminal charges, whether by warrant or summons, an investigation shall be conducted by the OPR.

3-800 USE OF FORCE POLICY

Decisions regarding the use of force, weapons, and lethal force must be made quickly. Therefore, the contents of the Manual regarding the use of force shall be committed to memory by all sworn and correctional officers. The employee is not required to recite the sections verbatim, but must be able to apply the information to situations encountered without physical reference to the Manual.

Employees may not use force against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, the force is necessary and proportional to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to a person or to effectuate a legitimate law enforcement objective. The use of excessive force, regardless of the provocation or action of the recipient, shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, and may result in criminal prosecution and civil action.

The Agency does not intend this policy to be so restrictive as to impose greater dangers to employees and innocent citizens than would exist without the policy.

3-800.1 DEFINITIONS

Active Aggression: the display of an immediate and serious physical threat to cause injury to an officer or another person. Active aggression may include, but is not limited to, a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons, or other actions which an officer reasonably believes present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another. Flight or non-violent resistance does not, in and of itself, equate to active aggression.

Agency Issued Rifles: rifles issued for on-duty use by the Agency. Current issue rifles will be based on the AR-



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15 platform. The rifle will be chambered for 5.56 / .223, and capable of semi-automatic fire only.

Alternate Duty Firearm: a firearm approved to be carried in lieu of the duty firearm under specific circumstances for a specific employee.

Alternate Duty Flashlight: a personally owned flashlight approved by the Agency.

Armorer: Agency personnel specially trained to inspect and conduct maintenance of an authorized, specified Agency weapon system.

ASR: Aerosol Subject Restraint. A pressurized chemical spray used to control or temporarily disable a person without long term effect.

Authorized Weapons: weapons which are approved by the Agency and which the officer has been trained and qualified to use.

Chief Firearms Instructor: the employee who is a certified firearms instructor responsible for all Agency firearms training, qualifications, records, and a certified range officer responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of the firearms range.

Collapsible Baton: a metal expandable baton designed to occupy minimum space on the duty belt.

Data-port: a built-in data-port of a TEW which allows internally recorded data from each firing of the device to be downloaded to a computer.

Deployment: The active use of an instrument.

K-9 Deployment: the use of a K-9 team for the purpose of criminal apprehension and/or to gain compliance.

Display: The sparking of a TEW or the showing of an instrument for the purpose of gaining compliance.

Drive Stun Mode: The application of a TEW directly onto the body as a pain compliance technique or to complete the circuit to achieve neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI) with a lodged probe.

Duty Firearm: an Agency-owned and issued firearm which is carried in the daily performance of the employee's specific duties.

Firearms Range: any facility designed for the discharging of firearms under the direct control of the Sheriff's Office by way of ownership or agreement.

Firearms Specialist: the Firearms Tracking Specialist assigned to the Property Management Division.

Imminent Threat of Physical Injury: The physical or verbal act by an individual which an officer reasonably believes indicates intent and a present ability to inflict immediate injury or poses a serious safety threat to the officer or another person. Consideration must be given to the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time.

Injury: damage to the body caused by external force, or a complaint of injury, whether visible or not.

Instrument: a weapon which is approved by the agency to be utilized by an officer when they need to use physical force in situations which cannot be otherwise controlled. These instruments include, but are not limited to: Impact weapon, ASR, TEW, Less Lethal Launcher (40mm LLL), or any other weapon which the agency



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utilizes.

Less Lethal Launcher (40mm LLL): a tactical single-shot launcher configured with a collapsible stock, pistol grip, a rifled barrel, picatinny rail mounting system, and agency approved optics

Lethal Force: force which is likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

NMI: Neuro Muscular Incapacitation.

Non-Lethal Force: force which is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury.

Non-Violent Resistance: refusal by an unnamed person to comply with an officer's verbal commands or physical control techniques resulting in non-violent resistance to a lawful seizure. The subject is not complying with an officer's commands and is uncooperative, but is taking non-violent action to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. Examples include, but are not limited to, standing stationary and not moving upon lawful direction, falling limply and refusing to use their own power to move (becoming "dead weight"), holding onto a fixed object, locking arms to another during a protest or demonstration.

Off-Duty Firearm: a firearm that is specifically approved for off-duty use by the Chief Firearms Instructor. The employee must qualify annually to receive approval.

Primary Duty Flashlight: an Agency issued flashlight to be worn on the duty belt.

Probe Mode: TEW setting in which two (2) probes are fired from a disposable cartridge which releases electrical pulses into the body.

Reasonable Belief: What a reasonable and prudent officer would believe based on the totality of the circumstances known to the officer.

Serious Physical Injury: Physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious permanent or serious protracted disfigurement; or results in long-term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ (Criminal Law, § 3-201(c)).

Taser Energy Weapon (TEW): a device that emits a non-lethal electronic energy charge which causes neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI).

Weapon Mounted Light: an Agency approved light mounted to any Agency-owned and issued weapon.

3-800.2 AUTHORIZATION TO USE FORCE, REQUIRED TRAINING AND POLICY/TRAINING REVIEW

Employees who use force shall use only that amount of force which is necessary to accomplish a lawful purpose.

All sworn and correctional officers will complete a recruit training program to include comprehensive training on all Agency use of force policies and all other related instruction prior to their assignment in any capacity which allows the carrying of lethal and/or non-lethal weapons / instruments or places the officer in a situation to effect an arrest. Officers can receive additional training that expands the types of use of force available to them in a particular circumstance. Completion of the initial training, as well as required refresher training, as defined in each individual weapon policy, will be documented by the Training Division.

Quarterly, the Office of Professional Responsibility, in conjunction with the Training Division, Corrections Division and the Office of General Counsel will conduct a review of Use of Force policy and lethal / less than lethal



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weapons training. The purpose of the review is to determine the need for any changes in training, equipment upgrades and/or policy modifications.

3-800.3 MEDICAL AID

When an employee uses force and a person is injured or complains of injury, the employee shall provide medical aid as quickly as practical. Medical aid may include:

- increased observation to detect obvious changes in condition;
- flushing chemical agents from the eyes;
- rendering first aid;
- applying Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) trained methods;
- contacting Communications for activation of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel; or
- for more serious or life-threatening incidents, providing for treatment by medical professionals.

Documentation of all injuries and the medical aid obtained or offered for the person injured shall be made on the appropriate reports associated with the instant case.

3-800.4 LETHAL FORCE

The use of lethal force is justified when lesser force is insufficient to accomplish a lawful purpose and such use is not specifically prohibited by law or Agency policy. Specifically, lethal force may be used:

- to protect oneself from death or serious physical injury; and/or
- to protect another from death or serious physical injury; and/or
- to apprehend a fleeing person when no reasonable alternative for apprehension exists and the officer has probable cause to believe that the person fleeing:
 - has committed or attempted to commit a life-threatening felony causing the death of another person or involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical injury to another person, **and**
 - poses an immediate and significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to others if he is not immediately apprehended.

The Agency will provide training for all sworn personnel on the Agency's use-of-lethal-force policies during annual in-service training.

3-800.5 PROHIBITED USE OF FORCE

Choke, strangle, or similar control techniques intended to reduce blood or oxygen to the brain for the purpose of gaining control of a subject are prohibited unless the use of deadly force is justified under this policy.

Targeted head strikes with any weapon are prohibited, unless the use of deadly force is justified under this policy. Warning shots of any type are prohibited. Additionally, firearms should not be used as an impact weapon, unless deadly force is authorized.

Employees of the CCSO are issued a collapsible baton as the Agency impact weapon. Therefore, blackjacks / slapjacks are obsolete weapons for all employees. No employee shall carry or use these obsolete weapons in the performance of their duties.

PR-24 Batons are also not permitted to be used.

3-810 USE OF FIREARMS



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An employee shall not draw or display a firearm except for official use as provided for in this policy. An employee should not draw a firearm unless the employee reasonably anticipates a need to use it. When necessary, the firearm shall be aimed center of mass, as taught in Agency firearms training. The employee will cease firing when the threat no longer exists.

3-810.1 AUTHORIZED USE OF FIREARMS

An employee who is authorized, trained and certified to carry firearms may discharge a firearm in connection with the performance of official duties, for the following reasons:

- for target practice or other activities at a range; or
- to kill an injured or dangerous animal when other alternatives are impractical or unavailable; or
- when deadly force is justified under Agency policy.

Recruit police and correctional officers who are in initial training at the Academy and employees who are being trained on various weapons platforms (such as shotguns, rifles, snipers, etc.) are not certified until successful completion of the requisite course. However, they are authorized to use the weapon while participating in training exercises and at the range during the course of the training.

3-810.2 SHOOTING AT OR FROM A MOVING VEHICLE

Discharging a firearm at or from a moving vehicle is rarely effective and can create substantial risks to other motorists, bystanders and other uninvolved parties within the target vehicle. Out of control vehicles and rounds that do not impact their intended target are the primary risks when shooting at or from a moving vehicle. These risks should be considered, along with all other factors, when making the decision to fire the weapon.

Officers are therefore generally discouraged from firing any weapon at or from a moving vehicle except when the justification exists to utilize lethal force, including the following circumstances:

- it reasonably appears the moving vehicle would endanger officers or the public,
- it is reasonably perceived the vehicle is being used as a weapon against the officer or others and other reasonable means of defense have been exhausted or are not present or practical, or
- to stop a fleeing suspect when the officer has probable cause to believe the suspect has committed, or intends to commit, a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death and the officer believes there is an imminent or potential risk of serious bodily injury or death to others if the suspect is not immediately apprehended.

When feasible, a loud verbal warning should be given prior to discharging the firearm. Officers should avoid positioning themselves in the path of a moving vehicle.

3-810.3 CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY PERSONS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

No person, other than sworn law enforcement officers or correctional officers as part of their assigned duties, will be allowed to carry a firearm on property or in buildings owned or controlled by the Sheriff without prior authorization from the Sheriff or his designee.

Non-sworn CCSO employees who desire to carry a firearm on property or in buildings controlled by the Sheriff must submit a Request to Carry Firearm, Form #935. The employee will obtain the endorsement of the Chief Firearms Instructor on Form #935. The employee will then forward the Form #935 through their chain of command via a Chain of Command Coversheet (Form #144) to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff or his designee for authorization. Employees making such a request will attach a copy of a valid Maryland Gun Permit or their most recent LEOSA



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certification, along with their retired police agency ID card. Authorization will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Once they have been approved, employees shall submit a request for authorization annually, by December 31 for the following calendar year. Along with the request for authorization, employees must submit the following:

- Copies of their valid Maryland Gun Permit and certification from the CCSO Training Division that they satisfactorily completed annual firearms training; or
- A copy of their most recent LEOSA certification.

3-820 SHERIFF'S AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY FIREARMS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. SWORN POLICE / CORRECTIONAL OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. FIREARMS ISSUANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- E. FIREARMS INSPECTIONS
- F. SHOTGUNS
- G. EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM FIREARMS
- H. PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS
- I. AUTHORIZED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
- J. MODIFICATIONS TO FIREARMS
- K. [REDACTED]
- L. FIREARMS RANGE USE
- M. FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS
- N. FIREARMS QUALIFICATION
- O. SHOOTER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
- P. MARKSMANSHIP BADGES
- Q. UNLOADING CONTAINMENT DEVICES
- R. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS
- S. STORAGE OF FIREARMS
- T. LOST, STOLEN, OR SEIZED FIREARMS
- U. TRANSFER OF AGENCY HANDGUNS TO EMPLOYEES

A. PURPOSE

This section defines when the Sheriff authorizes the carrying of a firearm. Any employee who possesses a firearm outside of the Sheriff's authorization must comply with State and federal law such as a carry permit or the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA).

B. DEFINITIONS

Alternate Duty Firearm – a firearm approved to be carried in lieu of the duty firearm under specific circumstances for a specific employee.

Authorized Weapons – weapons which are approved by the Agency and which the officer has been trained and qualified to use.

Duty Firearm – an Agency-owned and issued firearm which is carried in the daily performance of the employee's specific duties.



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Off-Duty Firearm – a personally owned firearm that is specifically approved for off-duty use by the Chief Firearms Instructor. The employee must qualify annually to receive approval.

Optical Sights / Optics – an optoelectronic aiming system that uses an optic that gives the user an image with an aligned aiming point superimposed over the target. Often referred to as a reflex sight or red dot sight (RDS).

Personally Owned Firearm – are firearms an employee owns that may require the Sheriff's authorization or Agency qualification to carry. Possession, carrying, and/or use of a personally owned firearm is controlled by federal and State law and the Sheriff's authorization if carried while operating an Agency vehicle.

C. SWORN POLICE/ CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Sworn police officers of the Agency are considered to be always available to perform their duties. Therefore, while on-duty or while operating an Agency vehicle (whether on-duty or off-duty), sworn police officers shall be armed with a duty, alternate duty or off-duty firearm, except in the circumstances identified below. While on-duty and wearing a uniform or authorized alternative apparel that readily identifies the sworn employee as a Police Officer, there is no requirement to conceal the employee's firearm. While off-duty in Charles County, sworn police officers are authorized, but not required to, be armed. Sworn police officers will wear their badge next to their holster or in an easily accessed area on their person, to be readily displayed, when carrying their firearm concealed.

In accordance with the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), 18 U.S.C. §926, sworn police officers who live or travel outside of Charles County or the state of Maryland are afforded the privilege to be armed but must comply with the laws of the state where they live or travel. Sworn police officers may carry their duty firearm outside of the State and must comply with LEOSA requirements.

Sworn police officers are not required to be armed if:

1. An officer's supervisor/ commander determines that the carrying of a weapon or Agency identification could jeopardize a covert operation or investigation. In these cases, commanders may make specific exceptions, or general exceptions, for certain situations or circumstances. These exceptions will be conveyed in writing within the unit SOP Manual, or will be given in writing to an individual member of the commander's component. Individual members who, because of covert circumstances which arise unexpectedly, decide to exercise the exception of this section must be prepared to provide sufficient justification for their actions.

All employees are prohibited from carrying an Agency-owned firearm under these circumstances:

1. Attending any court as a defendant in a criminal trial, a plaintiff or defendant in a civil trial, or while serving as a juror, or in any other circumstance where the court prohibits the carrying of a firearm. (In any case, employees must comply with the specific provisions of this Manual regarding firearms within the Charles County Courthouse).
2. While drinking or consuming alcohol.
3. While under the influence or impaired by alcohol, drugs, controlled dangerous substances, or any combination.
4. Whenever carrying a firearm is specifically prohibited by law.

The Sheriff's authorization to carry alternate duty or off-duty firearms, does not extend to these circumstances:

1. Attending any court as a defendant in a criminal trial, a plaintiff or defendant in a civil trial, or while serving as a juror, or in any other circumstance where the court prohibits the carrying of a firearm. (In any case,



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employees must comply with the specific provisions of this Manual regarding firearms within the Charles County Courthouse).

2. While drinking or consuming alcohol.
3. While under the influence or impaired by alcohol, drugs, controlled dangerous substances, or any combination.
4. Whenever carrying a firearm is specifically prohibited by law.

Firearms shall not be removed from concealment or from their holster unless there is intent to use them for a lawful purpose. Firearms may additionally be un-holstered:

1. when they are to be unloaded in a safe location; and/or
2. when they are presented unloaded for inspection by a superior; and /or
3. when they are placed in secure storage; and/ or
4. when they are presented unloaded for approved maintenance; and/ or
5. when they are to be fired on the firing line of an approved range; and/ or
6. when it is necessary because of an operational threat to be ready to use the firearm, even though the use is not eminent.

In the performance of their official duties, some correctional officers are authorized and required to be armed. These correctional officers may carry and use firearms only during duty hours. During these times, they will adhere to all policies contained in this Manual regarding the use of firearms.

D. FIREARMS ISSUANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Responsibility for inventory, control, issuance and accountability of all Agency firearms rests with the Commander, Training Division. All non-issued Agency firearms will be stored within the Agency Armory-system. The issuance of any firearm from the Armory, or the placement of any firearm within the Armory for storage, shall be accounted for by the Commander, Training Division.

Initial issuance of any firearm will be accomplished by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee only after the person being issued the firearm has completed all required recruit or other training programs and the Chief Firearms Instructor has certified the person has qualified with the firearm to be issued. The receiving person will sign a receipt for the firearm and the Weapon Inventory log will be completed.

Prior to any firearm being issued for use, the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee will inspect and approve it. Any firearm found to be unsafe for use will be tagged for repair or replacement.

The Weapon Inventory log is maintained by the Commander, Training Division, or designee and shall include the following information:

1. Weapon make/model;
2. Weapon type;
3. Weapon serial number;
4. Weapon issuance;
5. Weapon Location;
6. Date and time; and
7. The employee making the listed entries

The Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee may assign firearms from the Armory on a temporary basis in exchange for a firearm in need of repair or when firearms are needed for training. This exchange/ temporary issue will be documented in the Weapon Inventory log.



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E. FIREARMS INSPECTIONS

On-duty firearms shall be inspected by the member's supervisor at the time of the monthly vehicle inspection and, additionally, at any other time the supervisor deems appropriate. The inspecting officer shall use the following procedures to ensure the safety of the officer, supervisor and the general public.

The officer being inspected shall (with the firearm pointed in a safe direction or into an unloading containment device if available):

1. remove the magazine and secure it;
2. retract the slide and empty the chamber;
3. visually check the chamber and magazine well; and
4. present the firearm to the inspector with the slide locked to the rear and in accordance with training.

The inspecting officer shall:

1. examine the chamber and magazine well to ensure the firearm is unloaded;
2. examine the firearm for dents, burns, rust, modifications, etc.;
3. check the barrel for obstructions and powder fouling;
4. check the slide for proper lubrication;
5. remove the ammunition from the magazine(s) and ensure the magazine(s) and ammunition is of proper issue;
6. check for the proper operation and condition of the magazine;
7. return the firearm, magazines and ammunition to the officer; and
8. check to ensure the optical sights are operational and free from damage

Handgun, shotgun and patrol rifle armorer's evaluation shall be conducted and documented annually during the practice or qualification at the range by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee. The Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee shall verify the firearm is serviceable and in compliance with Agency policy. The serial number shall be verified and documented by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee. Points of inspection shall be as follows after unloading:

1. examination of exterior of the firearm for general overall appearance;
2. interior of the barrel for obstruction(s), dirt, rust, etc.;
3. the proper function of the safety, slide lock release, magazine follower, ejector, etc.; and
4. when the inspection is performed in conjunction with the monthly vehicle inspection, the serial number of the firearm will be recorded on the Monthly Personnel & Vehicle Inspection Form #75. If the inspection is of personnel only, it will also be recorded on the Form #75.

Notifications of identified firearm issues shall be forwarded to the appropriate division commander, Assistant Sheriff, Sheriff and Chief Firearms Instructor at the discretion of the armorer completing the evaluation.

F. SHOTGUNS

Any employee carrying a shotgun will have received a police shotgun basic training course. The shotgun shall be agency issued, of a pump/ slide action only, and shall be equipped with a sling which has been approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee. It shall be designed to chamber 12-gauge ammunition. The shotgun shall conform to the minimum length requirements set by the National Firearms Act and have a minimum magazine capacity of 4 rounds. A shotgun with a barrel of less than 18 inches or overall length of less than 26 inches is subject to the National Firearms Act.



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Ammunition carried for the shotgun by the employee shall be Agency issued ammunition. Members of the Emergency Services Team may have other ammunition approved for use in their capacity as Emergency Services Team members.

Shotguns shall be carried in the "cruiser safe" condition (magazine loaded, hammer down on an empty chamber, safety on) when they are being transported within a vehicle. All employees who use a shotgun in their official capacity will receive annual training and an annual qualification course.

G. EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM FIREARMS

Guidelines on EST procedures regarding firearms can be found in the EST SOP.

H. PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS

"Personally owned firearms" are firearms an employee owns that may require the Sheriff's authorization or Agency qualification to carry.

1. An officer who wishes to carry a personally owned firearm off-duty and while operating an Agency vehicle, must be specifically approved to carry that firearm by the Chief Firearms Instructor. The employee must qualify annually to receive approval and must follow the policies outlined in the Modifications to Firearms policy.
2. An officer who chooses to carry a personally owned firearm, without the Sheriff's authorization and Agency qualification, may not carry that firearm while operating an Agency vehicle and must comply with State and federal law, such as a carry permit or the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) 18 U.S.C. § 926.

LEOSA allows a "qualified law enforcement officer" to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States. A "qualified law enforcement officer" is any individual employed by a governmental agency who:

1. is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest, or apprehension under section 807(b) of title 10, United States Code (article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), including state and public college/university police officers;
2. is authorized to carry a firearm;
3. is not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency which could result in suspension or loss of police powers;
4. meets standards, if any, established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm;
5. is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and
6. is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

A law enforcement officer carrying a firearm under LEOSA must carry photographic identification issued by the Agency that identifies the officer as a law enforcement officer with the Agency.

Employees carrying a firearm under the authority of LEOSA are responsible for knowing and complying with LEOSA requirements and restrictions.



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Some states require an individual to obtain a carry permit or license to lawfully carry a handgun. Employees who choose to carry a firearm outside of the Sheriff's authorization are responsible for knowing and complying with state laws.

I. AUTHORIZED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

The Sig Sauer model P320 handgun, or any variant of the P320, is specifically **excluded** from use by agency employees in their official capacity and may not be carried in any agency facility or vehicles unless required due to evidence seizure or safekeeping under court order. In those circumstances, employees will make every effort to unload the weapon and separate it from the ammunition prior to transporting the firearm, and in accordance with policy regarding handling of firearms submitted to Property Management or the Forensic Science Section.

AUTHORIZED FIREARMS

No employee shall use a firearm in his official capacity with the Agency unless that firearm is issued to him or approved for use by him in his official capacity or as an off-duty firearm.

DUTY FIREARMS

The current issued handgun for all sworn officers and the Corrections Division of the CCSO, is the Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 9MM semi-automatic pistol. Duty firearms shall be carried in a fully loaded and ready to use condition as instructed during qualification and certification training. The duty firearm shall be carried in the issued holster, or one approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor.

A second handgun will not be worn by personnel while on duty.

ALTERNATE FIREARMS WHILE ON DUTY

Only officers assigned to the Narcotics Enforcement Section will be issued an alternate duty firearm, along with their primary duty firearm. The current alternate duty firearm is the Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 Compact 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Alternate duty firearms shall be carried in a fully loaded and ready to use condition as instructed during qualification and certification training. The alternate duty firearm shall be carried in the issued holster, or one approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor.

The issued weapon mounted light shall be attached to the alternate duty firearm.

During day-to-day functions officers may wear their alternate duty firearm. During operations, such as search warrants, open air takedowns, traffic stops, or other direct enforcement actions, officers shall wear their primary duty firearm.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR OFF-DUTY FIREARMS

This subsection applies to "off-duty firearms." Off-duty firearms are personally owned firearms that are specifically approved for off-duty use by the Chief Firearms Instructor. The employee must qualify annually.

Employees who carry a firearm off-duty will carry that firearm in accordance with state law and to policies within the AOM regarding firearms control. Off-duty firearms will be carried loaded and ready to use as instructed during a certification and qualification course. All Agency and off-duty handguns will be carried in a holster approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor; the holster shall have retention and cover the trigger of the firearm. An off-duty firearm may be equipped with an optical sight if the employee has completed initial training and qualification while using optics. The optical sight must be approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor for off duty use. Any firearm that does



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not meet the definition of Agency off-duty or alternate firearm will be considered a personal firearm.

All off-duty, semi-automatic pistols shall conform to the following specifications:

1. caliber of ammunition shall be .357 auto, 9mm, .40 caliber Smith and Wesson, .45 caliber ACP or .380 auto; and
2. the action of the handgun shall be either the Glock Safe Action, double action only, or striker fired action; and
3. a single ammunition magazine must be capable of containing 6 rounds or more; and
4. the slide shall lock open automatically upon firing the last round in the handgun.

All off-duty revolvers shall conform to the following specifications:

1. shall be either .38 or .357 caliber; and
2. shall be capable of double action firing; and
3. have a barrel length of 2 inches to 4 inches; and
4. shall have a cylinder capacity of at least five rounds.

Only those employees who have received entry level training and qualification in the use of revolvers shall be allowed to carry these off-duty weapons. Approval shall be contingent upon the continuous ability to annually qualify with the revolver.

If the firearm uses ammunition not stocked by the Agency, the employee is required to furnish, at his own expense, the ammunition required to practice and qualify with the firearm. Ammunition will be of a type and caliber approved by the Assistant Sheriff and the Chief Firearms Instructor.

AUTHORIZED AMMUNITION

Only ammunition which is issued or approved by the Agency shall be used in weapons carried and used while an employee is in a duty status. For the purposes of this section only, duty status includes those times when an employee is using an assigned vehicle or working part-time in a capacity allowed by his position with the Agency.

When off-duty, the employee may use any factory ammunition with similar characteristics as Agency issued duty ammunition designed for use in the particular weapon the employee has qualified with and is currently carrying. However, the following ammunition is restricted from use:

1. any ammunition designed as armor piercing (steel or tungsten core bullet with full metal jacket); and
2. any ammunition with explosive incendiary (percussion) heads, designed to explode on impact; and
3. any ammunition with fluid filled cavities in the head designed to fragment on impact.

Hand loaded ammunition is prohibited for use in Agency firearms and will not be used by an employee either on- or off-duty, or during Agency sponsored practice or qualifications.

This section is not intended to limit any ammunition approved for use by the Emergency Services Team by the Commander, Special Operations and Chief Firearms Instructor. Members who are unsure of the approval of any ammunition for use may request written approval from the Chief Firearms Instructor.

J. MODIFICATIONS TO FIREARMS

Firearms approved for duty use shall not be modified or have accessories added. Accessories which are not authorized may include but are not limited to: add-on handgrips, grip tape, battery assist levers, and scopes. The Emergency Services Team is exempt from the guidelines laid forth in this section. There are no other exceptions to



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this policy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

L. FIREARMS RANGE USE

In order to limit our Agency's exposure to liability, no employee, employee's family member or citizen shall enter an Agency operated firearms range facility without authorization. To seek authorization, an employee must prepare a memorandum to the Chief Firearms Instructor. The Chief Firearms Instructor will ensure a Range Safety Officer will be present during such events. The Range Safety Officer will provide for the overall safety of all personnel on the range. Prior approval does not apply to authorized Correctional Officers, the Firearms Tracking Specialist, the Forensic Science Section or for any previously approved programs such as "Retiree Certifications."

RANGE SAFETY

Firearms range safety can never be over-emphasized. It is the duty of all those utilizing the range, and the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office, to ensure the safety of all individuals at the range. The following criteria will be adhered to by all individuals utilizing the range whether they are shooters, line instructors, or spectators:

1. all shooters will wear appropriate eye and ear protection at all times;
2. there will be no handling of loaded firearms behind the firing line;
3. all long guns shall be placed in the designated weapons rack unless the shooter is on the firing line;
4. the Chief Firearms Instructor shall make a trauma kit readily available during all live fire exercises;
5. weapons will be 'charged' or loaded only on the firing line;
6. no alcoholic beverages are permitted in the range area;
7. no person may be present in the range area while under the influence of alcohol and/ or drugs;
8. during various training scenarios, all weapons will be pointed downrange unless approval from an instructor has been given; and
9. all instructors and shooters will ensure that all rounds fired will be directed into the impact area located directly behind the turning target system.



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Any firearm carried at the range and not on the firing line shall be carried in one of the following manners:

1. securely holstered;
2. in a weapons carrier or case; or
3. unloaded with the action, bolt, slide or cylinder open, depending on the specific firearm.

Only weapons, ammunition, targets and equipment authorized by the Commander, Training Division or the Chief Firearms Instructor shall be permitted for use during qualification and training events at the range. All firearms, ammunition and holsters at the firearms range are subject to a safety inspection by any firearms instructor or range officer at any time. Defective or unsafe firearms, ammunition or holsters shall not be used until repaired or replaced. During qualification or firearms training, range safety protocol will be reviewed, and firing will be done only on command from the on-duty range officer. The course of fire and safety regulations will be approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor.

M. FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS

Employees of the Agency who are designated as Firearms Instructors, including the Chief Firearms Instructor, shall be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to give firearms instruction. Additionally, they shall each maintain, as a minimum, the Agency certification of "Pistol Expert" (with iron sights and optics) and qualify with a score of at least 90% on any other firearm system they instruct to Agency personnel. All instructors shall have emergency medical response training to supervise operations on the Agency range.

N. FIREARMS QUALIFICATION

All officers are required to meet the minimum qualification requirements of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. Qualifications will be coordinated by the Chief Firearms Instructor. All proficiency training will be monitored by certified firearms instructors. Officers are limited to qualifying with their duty handgun, shotgun, patrol rifle, and one alternate firearm at a time. Officers may qualify with a maximum of two off-duty firearms during off-duty range dates. Officers who fail to qualify shall not be entitled to overtime or compensatory time for completing required qualifications.

Sworn officers will be required to qualify with and without the use of optical sights (with the exception of issued duty weapons not equipped with optics). Officers may choose whichever optic setting they are most proficient with when qualifying. At a minimum, sworn officers are required to qualify utilizing the iron sights with the optic installed on their issued duty handgun. If an officer is unable to qualify using the installed optical sights the officer will turn the optic off and utilize the iron sights while on duty.

Sworn officers who fail to qualify with their duty handgun are subject to the loss of police certification as mandated by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. Loss of police certification can result in termination of employment.

After two attempts utilizing the iron sights, if the officer fails to meet the minimum score in qualifying as established by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, and have no apparent physical handicap, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. the Chief Firearms Instructor shall immediately notify the Commander, Training Division or if unavailable, the officer's commander;
2. the notified commander will require the officer to surrender his firearm and the officer will be placed in a non-sworn status;
3. if the Commander, Training Division is notified, he will in turn notify the involved officer's commander of the actions taken;



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4. the Chief Firearms Instructor will coordinate the rescheduling of a range date and remedial training as needed;

If the involved officer continues to be unable to meet qualification requirements after remedial training, appropriate administrative action, to include suspension of police powers and/ or termination, shall be initiated by the officer's commander.

An employee who has been injured or who has recovered from an illness which may have had an effect upon the employee's ability to use a firearm, shall be required to re-qualify with the duty firearm before being allowed to return to duty. Failure to qualify shall be handled in the same manner as normal qualification.

The Chief Firearms Instructor will maintain qualification records by computer and will post the records on the Agency computer network. Supervisors or commanders may access employee qualification records on the network.

O. SHOOTER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

All officers will be offered the opportunity to participate in the shooter improvement program. The program is voluntary and is designed to improve the shooting skills of officers who have qualified with their Agency issued weapons per MPCTC standards. All officers who qualify with their handgun at a score below 80% (with or without the use of optical sights) will be encouraged to participate in the shooter improvement program. The Firearms Training Detail will offer training on a monthly basis to emphasize the basics of marksmanship. An officer may return to the program at any time or re-enter the program if they subsequently shoot a qualifying score below 80%. The shooter improvement program is for the betterment of officer shooting skills and in no way should be construed as remedial training.

P. MARKSMANSHIP BADGES

Pistol qualification badges shall be awarded based on daylight qualification with the Agency issued firearm with optics or iron sights, if preferred. The following scores will be used to designate the authorized badge:

1. Distinguished Pistol Expert	96% - 100%
2. Pistol Expert	90% - 94%
3. Pistol Sharpshooter	84% - 88%
4. Pistol Marksman	78% - 82%

Officers who fail to score 78% will not be awarded a pistol qualification badge.

The determination of which badge will be worn will be made upon completion of the forty hours basic recruit entry level class or the completion of re-qualification. In the case of entry level qualification, the final qualifying score shall be used to determine the appropriate badge. In the case of re-qualification, the first documented score shall be used. Officers shall wear the badge they have most currently qualified for.

When an employee qualifies for a badge different than the one currently issued to the employee, the employee shall respond within the first week of the following month to the Firearms Training Detail for a replacement badge. The Chief Firearms Instructor will exchange, at no cost to the employee, the former badge for the current qualification badge.

Q. UNLOADING CONTAINMENT DEVICES

An unloading containment device shall be installed in each location where firearms inspections take place within the Agency and in any location where firearms are routinely unloaded for maintenance or cleaning. This device



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shall be designed and constructed to reduce the possibility of injury to personnel in the event of an accidental discharge occurring during the process of loading and unloading firearms. Wherever such a device is provided, firearms shall be loaded and unloaded utilizing this device.

R. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

This policy applies to all cases of accidental discharge of an issued firearm or other firearm that a sworn/ correctional officer is qualified by the Agency to carry. This policy shall apply whether an injury occurs or not. Additionally, this policy applies to all firearms accidentally discharged while on duty.

Involved Officer's Responsibilities

1. When it occurs in Charles County:
 - a) The involved officer will immediately notify Communications.
 - b) The involved officer will complete a Firearm Discharge report in Blue Team.
2. When it occurs outside Charles County:
 - a) The involved officer will immediately notify Charles County Communications.
 - b) The involved officer will complete a Firearm Discharge report in Blue Team.

Communications Responsibilities

1. When it occurs in Charles County:
 - a) Communications will dispatch an on-duty supervisor or command officer to respond to the scene.
 - b) Communications will ensure the on-duty shift Commander is immediately notified.
2. When it occurs outside Charles County:
 - a) Communications will immediately notify the on-duty shift commander.

Shift Commander's Responsibilities

1. When it occurs in Charles County:
 - a) The Commander will ensure a supervisor is dispatched to the scene.
 - b) The Commander will immediately notify the employee's Division Commander/ Director.
2. When it occurs outside Charles County:
 - a) The Commander will determine, based on the circumstances and location of the incident, if the response of an agency supervisor or commander is necessary and/or feasible.
 - b) The Commander will immediately notify the employee's Division Commander/ Director.
 - c) The Commander will immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.

Division Commander/ Director's Responsibilities

1. The Division Commander/Director will immediately notify the appropriate Major/Assistant Sheriff, the Commander of O.P.R. and the Commander of the Training Division.

If the involved employee is unable to complete the Firearm Discharge report due to injury or other extenuating circumstance, it shall be completed by a supervisor or commander who either responded to the scene or who obtained information about the discharge occurring outside the County. The Commander, O.P.R. shall ensure a copy is forwarded to the Chief Firearms Instructor.

The involved employee's commander shall review the circumstances of each instance of an accidental discharge. The commander shall coordinate with the Training Division to ensure the employee receives remedial training. The Chief Firearms Instructor shall review the circumstances of each incident on a case-by-case basis to



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determine what level of remedial training is required. Upon completion, a Remedial Training Worksheet Form #775 shall be completed. This training shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A review of firearms safety rules.
2. A review of safe firearms handling procedures.
3. A review of Agency use of firearms and deadly force policy.
4. Live fire exercises.

Upon completion of the training the employee will submit a Report of Training Form #182, through the chain of command to the Training Division. The Chief Firearms Instructor will evaluate the effectiveness of the training and document his conclusions in memorandum form and forward it through the chain of command to the Commander, Training Division, the employee's commander and the Commander, OPR.

S. STORAGE OF FIREARMS

Firearms must be secured in a manner which prevents their casual access. Criminal Law, § 4-104 (c) of the Annotated Code of Maryland dictates that an unsupervised minor be denied access to a loaded firearm. Employees are required to prohibit access to Agency firearms by any unauthorized persons.

The Agency has provided gun cable locks to secure the employee's issued firearm, if that firearm is to be taken home with the employee. Even with a firearm unloaded and the cable lock applied, no employee shall leave an Agency firearm where it may be accessed by a minor or any unauthorized person.

Additional guidance on this policy can be found in the Vehicle Service Procedures policy.

T. LOST, STOLEN OR SEIZED FIREARMS

If an officer's firearm is lost or stolen, the officer shall report the incident in accordance with policy found elsewhere in this Manual. A copy of the investigation will be forwarded through the employee's chain of command to his respective Assistant Sheriff. Copies will also be forwarded to the Chief Firearms Instructor; Commander, OPR; and the Commander, Training. If an officer's issued firearm is collected as evidence, lost, or stolen, a replacement firearm will be issued by the Commander, Property Management or the Chief Firearms Instructor. The Loss/Damage Report Form #310 will be the controlling document for firearm replacement.

NOTE: This section does not require a firearm to be issued to an employee who has been suspended or otherwise relieved of his authority to carry a firearm.

U. TRANSFER OF AGENCY HANDGUNS TO EMPLOYEES

The Sheriff may consider the transfer of a handgun to the employee who carried it with the attached optic sight and weapons mounted light, when requested by the employee. If the handgun carried is not available, one similar may be considered. The employee shall request the transfer in writing through the chain of command including the make, model, and serial number of the handgun. If the transfer is approved the Commander, Special Services will verify the handgun and attached accessories availability and determine the associated costs, if applicable.

The Commander, Special Services, or his designee shall initiate the lawful transfer through the Agency Firearms Specialist who will ensure the submission of all required documents to the Maryland State Police.

All Agency handguns will be turned into the Chief Firearms Instructor and/or his designee to ensure the Employee Clearance Form #240 is properly completed and the firearm is removed from the Agency inventory. The Chief Firearms Instructor will be responsible for transporting the firearm to the Firearms Specialist for final processing



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and transfer to the employee.

For out-of-state firearms transfers, the employee shall submit to the Agency Firearms Specialist proper documentation for a federal firearms licensed dealer, from the state in which the employee will be residing and who will be processing the transfer of the firearm.

In all cases, the Agency Firearms Specialist will ensure transfers are conducted legally.

The Commander, Special Services or his designee shall deliver the handgun to the employee for in-state transfers or the federal firearms licensed dealer that is handling the out-of-state transfer upon completion of paperwork and required waiting period. The employee's copy of the MSP Form #77R or the out of state transfer paperwork from the federal firearms licensed dealer, will be considered their receipt for a transfer.

Once the transfer is complete, the Agency Firearms Specialist shall ensure copies of the documents are provided to the employee, the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services, for placement in the employee's personnel file, and the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, to document firearms transfer into the Internal Affairs tracking software program and the Commander of the Training Division for inventory purposes. The original documents will be kept with the Agency Firearms Specialist.

The Commander, Special Services, or his designee shall submit any funds collected for the handgun and, if applicable, accessories to the Deputy Director, Accounting.

3-821 AGENCY RIFLES

Carrying an Agency rifle is a voluntary, additional weapons platform available to sworn officers.

All rifles shall be Agency issued, iron sighted and, either 5.56 / .223, capable of semi-automatic fire only. The Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee will determine the acceptability of a specific rifle for Agency purchase. No Agency rifle shall be equipped with any form of silencing device or scope.

Rifles shall be equipped with a sling which has been approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee. A rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or overall length of less than 26 inches is subject to the National Firearms Act. All rifle magazines for duty use shall be loaded 2 less than maximum capacity (for example, 28 rounds in a 30-round magazine).

If an employee fails to comply with the required policy regarding carrying an Agency rifle, that employee's rifle shall be removed and reassigned as needed.

3-821.1 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

Officers who carry an agency rifle must successfully complete special weapons entry-level training as mandated by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. This entry-level training must include a minimum of six (6) hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of 350 practice / qualifying rounds before being authorized to carry an Agency assigned rifle. Upon rifle issuance, semi-annual qualification will commence consisting of 50-round courses of fire.

All sworn officers shall qualify with the rifle they are assigned and must qualify with a score of at least 90% accuracy. Any qualification score under 90% will result in the mandatory relinquishment of the rifle.

When officers fail to meet the minimum score in qualifying as established by the Charles County Sheriff's Office, the following procedures shall be followed:



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- the Chief Firearms Instructor shall notify the officer's commander;
- the Chief Firearms Instructor or his authorized designee will take possession of the officer's Agency rifle; and
- the Chief Firearms Instructor will coordinate the rescheduling of a range date and remedial training as needed.

Officers carrying an Agency rifle shall receive annual in-service rifle training as approved by the MPTSC. Supervisors not in the program will receive familiarization training on the rifle and the program.

All records of qualification and training will be maintained by the Chief Firearms Instructor and/or his authorized designee. All courses of fire will be in conjunction with the mandated Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission's qualification guidelines.

3-821.2 RIFLE DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

The decision to deploy a rifle shall be in conformance with the training provided and based upon the information and resources available to the officer at the time (the risks created by the use of the rifle and the danger posed by the suspect).

Scenarios in which trained and qualified officers may use rifles include, but are not restricted to:

- provide immediate tactical response to calls involving armed and/or violent offenders;
- increase citizen and officer safety during high-risk incidents;
- provide for more accurate and controlled shot placement;
- penetrate ballistic body armor;
- perimeter / containment situation involving a hostage situation and/or barricaded subject;
- response to an active shooter;
- high risk traffic stop;
- incident where an officer has reasonable expectation that there is a potential for an armed subject encounter;
- provide cover for a police K-9, or another officer, in the search for an armed subject;
- upon request of a supervisor for an extraordinary event.

Officers shall always consider the potential consequences of their actions when making the decision to use a rifle.

3-821.3 TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

Rifles will be kept in one of three ways:

Cruiser Ready Condition: The rifle will be kept in the cruiser ready condition on duty and at all times when not deployed and charged. The following describes the cruiser ready condition:

- magazine inserted or readily accessible;
- bolt forward on an empty chamber;
- selector switch on SAFE; and
- secured in an Agency issued or Agency approved case or gun box as approved by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee.

Charged Condition: The rifle will be placed in the charged condition when deployed for training or duty. The charged condition is as follows:



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- magazine inserted;
- round chambered in the rifle; and
- selector safety on SAFE until ready to fire.

Armory Condition: The rifle will be placed in the armory condition when the rifle is going to be inspected, checked for maintenance or on a break on the shooting line. The armory condition is as follows:

- magazine removed;
- bolt locked to the rear;
- selector switch to SAFE; and
- ejection port visible.

3-821.4 MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF RIFLES

Officers are responsible for the periodic cleaning and lubrication of their assigned rifles in accordance with their training.

Other than cleaning and lubrication, only the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee shall perform maintenance on any rifle.

Damage or mechanical failure will be reported to the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee so appropriate action can be taken.

Failure to properly maintain an assigned rifle may result in reassignment of the rifle.

All rifles will be required to be inspected by the Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee once a year. The Chief Firearms Instructor or his designee will be responsible for the collection and timely return of the rifles to the designated officers. The Chief Firearms instructor shall maintain written records of all maintenance and inspections of each rifle.

All rifles will be inspected monthly for cleanliness, visual damage and proper lubrication by the officers' supervisors, with the results being noted in the comment section on the bottom of the Monthly Inspection Form #75.

3-830 USE OF WEAPONS OTHER THAN FIREARMS

Except in deadly force situations, employees should only use the instruments provided by the Agency, in accordance with Agency training and policy. The employee shall be responsible for articulating the necessity of the use of any other instrument, and the use will be evaluated for compliance with Agency policy pertaining to the use of force.

3-830.1 BATONS

A collapsible baton is issued or approved by the Training Division and will be used in accordance with Agency training and policy. When applying force with a baton, employees shall utilize the techniques taught in the Agency training program for that weapon. Initial baton training will occur before the employee is authorized to carry and biennial training will occur for all authorized carriers.

3-830.2 AEROSOL SUBJECT RESTRAINTS (ASR)

Only Agency issued chemical ASRs will be used by employees.



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ASRs are authorized for use in circumstances where force is justified. The choice to use an ASR is to be based upon the evaluation of weapons and techniques available to accomplish the task at hand.

All ASR use shall be in accordance with the methods, techniques and policies of the training program for the weapon.

When an ASR has been used, it shall be immediately turned in for replacement.

3-830.3 CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Information concerning Chemical Weapons and the deployment of Chemical Weapons can be found in the EST and SERT SOP manuals.

3-831 TASER ENERGY WEAPONS (TEWs)

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. TRAINING
- C. WEAR AND CARRY / MAINTENANCE
- D. USE OF TEW
- E. POST DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

A. PURPOSE

The objective of this policy is to provide direction regarding use and reporting of the Taser Energy Weapon (TEW) as it applies to Agency Use of Force policies and when used in accordance with guidelines as taught in initial and in-service training. Only an Agency-owned TEW shall be authorized for use by the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

B. TRAINING

Only officers who have received the required training and certification are authorized to carry or use the TEW. Responsibility for the management of the Agency TEW program is assigned to the TEW Coordinator. The TEW Coordinator will be designated by the Commander, Training Division. The TEW Coordinator shall be a certified instructor with all TEW devices.

Re-certification will occur once a year as scheduled by the Commander, Training Division. An officer who cannot fulfill the training requirements will not be authorized to carry or use the device.

Officers shall take into consideration known physical or mental conditions which potentially could increase the likelihood of injury to the individual if the TEW is deployed.

C. WEAR AND CARRY / CARE AND MAINTENANCE

With the exception of EST personnel, who, due to tactical needs, are authorized to carry the TEW elsewhere, all authorized users shall carry the TEW in an Agency authorized holster on the weak hand side opposite from the duty firearm. The TEW, when not being worn by the officer, should be stored in the holster, and transported in a safe and secure location. When stored, the TEW should be secured in a safe location.

To ensure proper functioning and to ensure that the device is free of dirt and other debris that may affect its reliability, the TEW shall be subjected to a full 5-second "spark / functionality test" as defined in training to ensure that the device is functioning properly. This "spark / functionality test" shall be completed prior to the start of each officer's



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shift.

Only authorized individuals will make any modifications to the TEW or its holster.

D. USE OF A TEW

The most frequently utilized mode of the TEW is the Probe Mode, which is designed for incapacitation of an individual and preventing officer-individual physical contact. When deployed, a TEW cartridge produces a loud popping sound which could be mistaken for a gun shot. Therefore, an officer who is about to deploy a TEW should, whenever reasonable give a loud verbal warning prior to firing this device by shouting the word "Taser!" This verbal warning achieves two purposes:

1. It gives the subject a final warning that his / her actions are dictating the use of a TEW device; and
2. It warns other officers and bystanders the device is about to be deployed.

When practical, officers shall target the lower center mass (below the chest) for front shots and below the neck area for back shots. Officers shall avoid targeting the individual's groin, neck, face, hands, feet, upper chest, or anywhere on the head with the TEW.

An officer shall use a TEW only when presented with active aggression.

After a deployment, officers should reassess the situation and evaluate whether additional deployments are necessary. Where practical, no more than one TEW should actively deliver an electrical charge against an individual at one time. Once used, the deploying officer will direct the actions of other assisting officer(s) on the scene in handcuffing the subject.

If application of a TEW appears to be ineffective, officers must consider the reasonableness of applying subsequent bursts and consider other methods of gaining control and compliance from a subject.

Officers should use a TEW for one standard 5-second cycle and then evaluate the situation to determine if subsequent cycles are necessary. Exposure to the TEW for longer than 15 seconds (whether due to multiple applications or continuous cycling), may increase the risk of death or serious injury.

Officers are permitted to "paint" an individual with the laser sight in an effort to gain compliance to orders. However, officers shall not intentionally point the laser into an individual's eyes. Officers are also permitted to spark the weapon in an effort to gain compliance.

The Drive Stun Mode is used primarily to complete the circuit to achieve Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI). The Drive Stun Mode can also be used as a pain compliance tool when faced with active aggression.

A TEW will not be used to unlawfully threaten, coerce, harass, taunt, or abuse any person. Any form of horseplay using a TEW is prohibited.

Officers may consider deploying a TEW when confronted with aggressive animal attacks.

The pulse from a TEW is strong enough to ignite flammable substances such as gasoline, kerosene, etc. A TEW will not be used if there is reason to believe the individual or the individual's clothing has been exposed to a flammable substance. Officers should also be aware that some OC sprays are alcohol-based and are possibly flammable. However, the Pepper Spray currently issued by the Agency is TEW compatible. Certified officers may carry both the OC spray and the TEW.



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E. POST DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

All individuals who have received a discharge from a TEW should be restrained in a manner and position that does not interfere with their breathing.

The TEW darts may be removed from the subject after being restrained, following procedures outlined in training. The TEW darts should be treated as a biohazard risk.

Personnel are not required to request EMT response unless one or more of the following applies:

1. the individual requests medical attention, or there is an obvious need for medical attention;
2. the individual is hit in a sensitive area (for example, eye, face, head, breasts, genitals);
3. the officer has difficulty removing the probes;
4. the individual does not appear to recover in a reasonable period of time after being exposed, as determined by the officer following training guidelines;
5. the individual is part of a sensitive population group as described in this policy;
6. the individual has been exposed to more than three TEW cycles;
7. the individual has been exposed to the effects of more than one TEW device;
8. the individual is reasonably believed to have been exposed to a continuous cycle of 15 seconds or more;
9. the individual has exhibited signs of "excited delirium," as outlined and defined in training, prior to and/or during TEW exposure.

Prior to being admitted to the detention center, recipients of a TEW discharge who have been placed under arrest will be evaluated at a medical facility. Recipients of a TEW discharge who were in the custody of the Corrections Division prior to the deployment will be transported to and evaluated by a medical facility. Copies of any documentation received will be provided to the Corrections medical contractor.

If the probes penetrate the flesh, photographs of the contact area should be taken after they are removed. When the device has been used operationally, the officer shall collect the cartridge, wire leads, and darts, and secure them as evidence.

When a TEW is displayed or deployed a companion call sheet will be generated for the same, at the request of the officer through Communications.

Any deployment of a TEW will require spent cartridge(s) and probes to be collected and submitted to Property Held by the deploying employee. The owner will be the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the notation that the property will be kept for a minimum of thirty-seven (37) months will be included in the narrative portion of the report.

An officer who deploys a TEW will ensure that the related battery is placed into an assigned docking station to recharge the battery and download the deployment data. This data can aid in protecting the employee and the Agency from false allegations of misuse of the TEW. This step will be accomplished within 72 hours of the field use. The supervisor should review the incident and ensure that all aspects of the TEW protocol and policy have been followed.



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Unintentional deployments of a TEW, where no one was affected by the device, will be documented on a memorandum, forwarded to the Commander, OPR and Commander, Training Division. The memorandum will include the date, time, and the circumstances of the deployment.

3-835 LESS LETHAL LAUNCHER (40MM LLL)

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES
- C. LAUNCHER PROCEDURES
- D. USE OF FORCE WARNING
- E. TACTICAL DISCHARGES
- F. MEDICAL TREATMENT
- G. REPORTING
- H. STORAGE

A. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines and procedures for the use of the agency issued less lethal launcher. The 40mm LLL is a tactical single-shot launcher configured with a collapsible stock, pistol grip, a rifled barrel, picatinny rail mounting system, and agency approved optics. The 40mm LLL is to be used only with agency specified less-lethal munitions. The only current agency approved munition is the 40mm Combined Systems (CTS) Foam Baton Model# 4557 round. Only officers who have completed agency approved less lethal 40mm training are approved to deploy 40mm LLL. All trained officers must re-certify annually.

B. DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

Use of an intermediate force option, including the 40mm LLL, is an appropriate force option when an officer reasonably believes either of the following:

1. There is an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others; or,
2. If the threat is not immediately addressed, there is an articulable risk the incident could escalate to the use of deadly force.

Intermediate force options should not be used on a suspect or subject who is believed to be unarmed and is passively resisting or merely failing to comply with commands. Verbal threats of violence alone do not justify the use of an intermediate force option.

C. LAUNCHER PROCEDURES

The approved deployment range for the 40mm LLL is five (5) to 100 feet. Officers should always consider weapon retention principles when deploying the 40mm LLL to prevent a suspect or subject from gaining control of the launcher.

If tactically and environmentally feasible, the designated 40mm LLL officer should deploy the launcher from a position of cover with a designated cover officer. The 40mm LLL officer alerts other officers when the designated officer is ready to fire by shouting or broadcasting, "40, 40!" or "Less Lethal!" This alerts the officers at the scene that the firing of the 40mm LLL is about to occur.

When firing the 40mm LLL, officers should assess the effectiveness of each round fired. The effectiveness of the 40mm round is based on the energy at impact. Therefore, the round may have little or no effect on a suspect or subject who:



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1. Has a large body mass.
2. Is wearing heavy clothing / body armor.
3. Is under the influence of drugs; or,
4. Is in an altered state and cannot feel the impact of the sponge round.

The primary target areas are the beltline and legs, but if shots to these areas do not appear to be effective, then an arm or hand may be a viable alternative target. If the hand is the selected target, consider its location and what it is holding. Officers shall not target the head, neck, spine, groin, or kidneys – unless lethal force is authorized.

Generally, officers should not deploy the 40mm LLL at a fleeing suspect. Officers should pursue and attempt to contain the suspect, while continually assessing the situation and considering the most appropriate tactical plan.

Additionally, officers should avoid deploying the 40mm LLL on individuals who:

1. Are on an elevated or unstable surface which could cause a fall that could result in a significant impact injury.
2. Are operating or riding any mode of transportation where the risk of injury would be substantially increased by use of the 40mm; or,
3. Are known to be pregnant, under 12 years of age, elderly, or visibly frail.

The 40mm LLL is not a substitute for deadly force. When conducting a building search for a suspect who may be armed, standard firearms must be deployed. Having a 40mm LLL along with other force options during the search will provide officers with different options should the situation change.

D. USE OF FORCE WARNING

An officer shall, when feasible, give a verbal warning prior to using the 40mm LLL to control an individual. A warning is not required when an officer is attacked and must respond to the recipient's actions. Additionally, if a tactical plan requires the element of surprise to stabilize the situation, a warning is not required. An example would be a hostage situation. However, officers are reminded that the surprise / tactical element must still be necessary at the actual time the 40mm LLL is fired.

The verbal warning should include a command and a warning of the potential consequences of the use of force.

E. TACTICAL DISCHARGES

A tactical discharge is defined as any projectile from a less-lethal control device launched with the intent to gain a tactical advantage by creating a distraction, removing obstacles, or altering the environment, and not directed at an individual (e.g., use of a baton or beanbag shotgun to break a window, or deployment of a chemical agent during a barricaded suspect incident).

Tactical discharges are allowed utilizing the 40mm LLL, but are not recommended, as they may cause secondary, unintended impacts. Before a tactical discharge is used to break a window, officers should consider that another officer or individual may be behind the window and subject to impact by the 40mm round. In the event the 40mm LLL is used for a tactical discharge, it should be communicated to all officers at scene prior to its use, for their situational awareness.

Tactical discharges may be an effective option in limited circumstances. Officers must assess the situation after each tactical discharge, and if the launcher is not producing the desired effect, discontinue its use. Officers must be prepared to give the rationale behind their decision to fire the 40mm LLL as a tactical discharge.



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F. MEDICAL TREATMENT

Any person struck with a 40mm Foam Baton Round #4557 shall be transported to a medical facility for medical treatment prior to booking.

G. REPORTING

All discharges of a projectile weapon (e.g., 40mm LLL), excluding tactical discharges, are reportable uses of force and shall be reported in accordance with Agency policy. If the projectile round contacts a recipient, photographs of the contact area shall be taken. When the device has been used operationally, the officer shall complete any Agency required reporting, collect the spent casing and secure the casing as evidence.

H. STORAGE

All assigned 40mm launchers will be stored in an issued storage case and locked in the rear of the officer's vehicle, unloaded.

3-837 USE OF FORCE REPORTING

- A. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
- B. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

A. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to any other report that may be required based on the nature of the incident, use of force reports shall be completed in Blue Team when any level of force is applied, according to the following guidelines.

Call Sheet Only (Show of Force):

1. Display of a firearm or any instrument. An involved officer will notify Communications of the type of display, the officer(s) who displayed the firearm or other instrument, and the race and gender of the recipient(s). This event will be a companion to the event the officer(s) are on / responding to.
2. K-9 deployment with no physical contact. An involved officer will notify Communications of the type of deployment, the officer(s) and K-9(s) deployed, whether the K-9 was on-lead or off-lead during the deployment, and the race and gender of the recipient(s). This event will be a companion to the event the officer(s) are on / responding to.
3. For show of force incidents involving large crowds, the officer is not required to notify Communications of the race and gender of the recipients. However, a call sheet should still be completed to document the incident.
4. In cases involving more than one officer or more than one recipient, the officer is only required to complete one companion event call sheet.

Officer Report Only:

1. The utilization of a pressure point, joint lock, pain compliance technique or takedown on a resisting person or physical contact by a K-9 which has been deployed with no injuries.
2. The involved officer will complete a use of force report by the end of shift, which will be reviewed by a supervisor and forwarded through the chain of command.



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Supervisor Investigation Required:

1. The attempt or actual use of physical strikes, stuns, impact weapon, TEW / taser, chemical agent or other instrument on a person, or any complaint of injury from the officer or recipient of force. The deployment of a K-9 resulting in injury or complaint of injury of a recipient of force. Forced stopping or intentional collisions under the Police Vehicle Pursuits Policy.
2. The involved officer will complete a use of force report by the end of shift. A supervisor will conduct an investigation on the use of force and forward it through the chain of command.
 - a) The investigating supervisor must be of equal or superior rank to the officer initiating the use of force. The officer initiating the use of force will not be the same officer completing the supervisor's investigation.

Criminal Investigation Required:

1. CID shall conduct a criminal investigation when the use of force involves the discharge of a firearm or when the use of force results in serious physical injury or death, unless the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division responds to assume the investigation.
2. The Office of Professional Responsibility shall complete the use of force report.

Administrative Investigation Required:

1. The Office of Professional Responsibility shall conduct an administrative investigation when a use of force results in serious physical injury or death. However, the Office of Professional Responsibility may conduct an administrative investigation of any use of force and can refer any use of force incident to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

Other Situational Requirements:

1. If the employee, due to the circumstances of the incident, is unable to complete the use of force report, the supervisor assigned to investigate the incident shall complete all necessary reports for the employee. In all cases, the reports shall be completed by the end of the involved officer's shift.
2. For incidents involving multiple officers using reportable force, each individual officer using force must complete a separate use of force report. The overall use of force incident, however, may be captured in one supervisory investigation.
3. For incidents involving more than one recipient (e.g., the Emergency Services Team introducing a chemical agent into a residence inhabited by several individuals), the employee introducing the agent would complete the use of force report. All recipients would be identified and listed in the report.
4. In situations where the identity of a recipient cannot be obtained (e.g., a large crowd where some recipients have fled the scene), the officer should select "Unknown – Large Crowd" as the recipient.
5. Officers assigned to the School Resources Section will follow the use of force reporting requirements mandated by Maryland Center for School Safety when a use of force occurs involving an enrolled student on Charles County Public Schools property. A Blue Team report will also be completed. If the use of force does not reach the Charles County Sheriff's Office threshold for reporting (use of handcuffs), the officer will denote "On school property – non-reportable" in the "Location of Occurrence" tab in the Blue Team report.

Review and Dissemination of Use of Force Reports:

1. The Office of Professional Responsibility will direct a copy of use of force reports involving sworn officers to Records Management to be placed in the general case file for the related incident.



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2. The Office of Professional Responsibility, Office of the General Counsel and the Training Division will review all use of force reports.

B. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:

The involved officer will notify communications, a supervisor and, if outside of Charles County, notify the local jurisdiction first.

During call sheet only incidents, officers will have the following responsibilities:

1. Notify Communications of the type of display, the officer(s) who displayed the firearm or other instrument, and the race and gender of the recipient(s). This event will be a companion to the event the officer(s) are on / responding to.
2. In the case of a K-9 deployment with no physical contact, notify Communications of the officer(s) and K-9(s) deployed, whether the K-9 was on-lead or off-lead during the deployment, and the race and gender of the recipient(s). This event will be a companion to the event the officer(s) are on / responding to.
3. For show of force incidents involving large crowds, the officer is not required to notify Communications of the race and gender of the recipients. However, a call sheet should still be completed to document the incident.
4. In show of force incidents involving more than one officer or more than one recipient, the officer is only required to complete one companion event call sheet.
5. The supervisor will be notified of the incident. An acknowledgement over the radio will be sufficient. This information will be documented on the call sheet.

During incidents that require an officer report, officers will have the following responsibilities:

1. The involved officer will complete a use of force report by the end of shift, which will be reviewed by a supervisor and forwarded through the chain of command;
2. Detailed photographs of the recipient of force are taken, regardless of injury. If the person is not in custody and refuses to submit to the taking of photographs, this fact shall be noted in the report; and
3. Document the recipient(s) of force, complainants, witnesses and all involved employees.

During incidents that require supervisory investigation, officers will have the following responsibilities:

1. The involved officer will complete a use of force report by the end of shift.

During incidents that require criminal investigation, officers will have the following responsibilities:

1. The involved officer may be required to give a public safety statement, a general overview of events that occurred, to a supervisor; and
2. Surrender any instrument used when needed for evidentiary purposes.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

During call sheet only incidents, supervisors will have the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure Communications was notified of the type of display and that the officer(s) who displayed the firearm or other instrument and the race and gender of recipients were identified in the call sheet.



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2. In the case of a K-9 deployment, ensure Communications was notified, the officer and K-9 deployed were identified, and the race and gender of recipients were documented in the call sheet.
3. Notify responsible commander of the incident.

During officer report incidents, supervisors will have the following responsibilities:

1. Contact the individual employee, respond to the scene when practical;
2. Review the report;
3. Ensure photographs obtained for the use of force investigation are uploaded to Blue Team under the attachments tab;
4. Ensure all rules, regulations and policies related to the reporting of such incidents are complied with;
5. If the recipient of force(s) is a juvenile and their identity is known, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to notify the juvenile's parents or legal guardian of the circumstances as soon as it is safe and practical. This notification will be made regardless of whether or not the juvenile is arrested; and
6. Notify the responsible commander of any reportable use of force as soon as practical.

During incidents that require supervisory investigation, supervisors will have the following responsibilities:

1. Initiate a use of force investigation immediately;
2. Ensure detailed photographs are taken of the recipient of force and the officer, regardless of injury. If the person is not in custody and refuses to submit to the taking of photographs, this fact shall be noted in the report;
3. Review the report;
4. Ensure all rules, regulations and policies related to the reporting of such incidents are complied with;
5. Ensure that any video of the event has been identified and proper procedures within policy and law to preserve and obtain video that has been taken;
6. Interview the recipient(s) of force, complainants, witnesses and all involved employees;
7. If the recipient of force(s) is a juvenile and their identity is known, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to notify the juvenile's parents or legal guardian of the circumstances as soon as it is safe and practical. This notification will be made regardless of whether or not the juvenile is arrested; and
8. Notify the responsible commander of the status of the incident.

In instances where a use of force incident involving an officer occurs outside Charles County, supervisors will have the following additional responsibilities:

1. Notify the responsible commander of the status of the incident;
2. Respond as assigned;
3. Gather information and copies of local reports;
4. Act as a liaison between the local agency and CCSO;
5. Protect the interests of the involved employee and the Agency to the highest degree possible;
6. Take custody of Agency property as necessary; and
7. Request additional assistance as needed.

SHIFT/SECTION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES:

During call sheet only incidents, shift / section commanders will have the following responsibilities:

1. Review the call sheet, if necessary.

During officer report incidents, shift / section commanders will have the following responsibilities:



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1. Assign a supervisor to respond to the scene.

During incidents that require supervisory investigation, shift/section commanders will have the following responsibilities:

1. Coordinate and control initial response, if necessary;
2. Assign a supervisor to respond to the scene;
3. Make the following notifications as required.
 - a) Possible violations of Agency policy:
 - Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), and
 - Involved employee's Division Commander / Director.
 - b) Possible criminal violations, or incidents involving serious injury or death:
 - MSP Headquarters Duty Officer, if required to notify the IID
 - Involved employee's Division Commander / Director,
 - CID, and
 - OPR.

DIVISION COMMANDER / DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

During officer report incidents, division commanders / directors will have the following responsibilities:

1. Review the officer report, if necessary.

During incidents that require supervisory investigation, division commanders / directors will have the following responsibilities:

1. Review the supervisory investigation, if necessary.

During incidents that require CID investigation, division commanders / directors will have the following responsibilities:

Make notifications to the following list of people:

1. Sheriff,
2. Chief of Staff,
3. Assistant Sheriff,
4. Commander, Executive Services, and
5. General Counsel.

During incidents that require OPR investigation, division commanders / directors will have the following responsibilities:

Make notifications to the following list of people:

1. Sheriff,
2. Chief of Staff,
3. Assistant Sheriff, and
4. Office of the General Counsel.



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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. CID shall conduct a criminal investigation when the use of force involves the discharge of a firearm or when use of force results in serious physical injury or death, unless the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division responds to assume the investigation.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Standards and Inspections Section will review all use of force investigations for consistency and policy violations and prepare a memorandum with a case synopsis which will be attached to the use of force case file.
2. When a CID investigation is required, OPR will complete the Blue Team use of force report and administrative review. A supervisor's investigation form #226 will not be completed. The CID / IID investigation will be completed instead.
3. The Office of Professional Responsibility shall conduct an administrative investigation when a use of force results in serious physical injury or death. However, the Office of Professional Responsibility may conduct an administrative investigation of any use of force and can refer any use of force incident to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

3-838 POLICE INVOLVED FATALITY INVESTIGATIONS

- A. NOTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION
- B. FITNESS FOR DUTY EXAMINATION
- C. TRAINING

A. NOTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION

The Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) will lead the primary investigation of all police-involved incidents that result in the death of a civilian or injuries likely to result in death (qualifying incidents) as mandated by Maryland Code.

Qualifying incidents include any act or omission of a law enforcement officer while the law enforcement officer is on duty or while the law enforcement officer is off duty but performing activities that are within the scope of law enforcement duties. The following are examples of, but not limited to, the types of incidents that IID should be notified about: shootings that are fatal or result in the likelihood of death, use of force incidents that are fatal or result in the likelihood of death, deaths occurring while an individual is in police custody, and vehicle pursuits by law enforcement that result in death or the likelihood of death. The IID will determine whether an incident is police-involved and whether an injury is likely to result in death.

If a qualifying incident occurs, or is believed to have occurred, the local law enforcement agency (LEA) that employs the officer and/or the local LEA with primary jurisdiction over the location of the incident will adhere to the following procedures:

PROCEDURES

1. The on-scene commander, or designee will notify the **MSP Headquarters Duty Officer at (410) 653-4474**.
2. The on-scene commander should provide:
 - a) the date and time of the incident;



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- b) the location of the incident and any other crime scenes, witnesses;
 - c) the type of incident that led officers to the scene;
 - d) the number of involved and witnessing officers;
 - e) whether anyone is deceased or injured;
 - f) whether the media is on-scene; and
 - g) contact information for the on-scene commander responsible for the initial crime scene response.
3. CCSO will maintain scene security, including traffic control, until the on-scene investigation is complete, and the scene is released. CCSO will provide security for any individuals in custody until either treated and booked, relieved by the Division of Corrections as a bedside commitment or transferred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
4. While initial notification should always go to **MSP at (410) 653-4474**, CCSO may subsequently contact the on-call IID investigator at **(410) 576-7070 for additional guidance or inquiries**.
5. In all cases where the IID responds for an investigation, the Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division shall be notified to determine if additional investigations outside IID jurisdiction are warranted.
6. In cases where the IID *declines* to respond for an investigation, CID and / or other appropriate CCSO unit (Patrol Division, Special Operations Division, etc.) will handle the criminal investigation.
7. Regardless of whether or not the IID responds to investigate, the Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility shall be notified and shall ensure that an internal administrative investigation is initiated and conducted.

EVIDENCE COLLECTION

MSP Forensic Sciences Division (MSP-FSD) and Criminal Enforcement Division will oversee the scene of IID investigations. CCSO will not collect evidence but will locate, identify and secure all crime scenes and evidence, to include any video, until MSP-FSD personnel arrive.

If there is an imminent threat to evidence, crime scene personnel or sworn personnel on-site should document, photograph, and collect that evidence per their own protocols, prior to the arrival of MSP-FSD crime scene personnel. If the evidence must be processed to preserve it from threat, CCSO personnel may do so. Evidence that is not subject to an imminent threat will be left for MSP-FSD crime scene personnel to process.

INVOLVED AND WITNESS OFFICERS

Officers should identify and separate all involved. If there is a need to remove the involved or witness officer from the scene, CCSO should, if possible, photograph the officer while on scene and contact IID personnel prior to transport for further guidance. If an officer must be transported from the scene before being photographed or his firearm being recovered, he should, if possible, be transported in a car with an operating camera and/ or in the company of an officer wearing an operating body worn camera (BWC).

CIVILIAN WITNESSES

CCSO should identify, separate, and maintain all possible civilian witnesses and ask them to remain present until IID personnel arrives to conduct interviews.

If a witness is unwilling to wait on scene, CCSO should attempt to conduct an interview of that individual, collect any video or other evidence they might have, and obtain their contact information. If possible, any on-scene



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interaction with civilian witnesses should be recorded and documented.

DEATH NOTIFICATION

If there has been a police-involved incident that results in the death of a civilian or injuries likely to result in death, IID personnel will make the next-of-kin notification to the family of the involved decedent.

NOTIFICATION TO THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

The Charles County State's Attorney will be notified of all police involved fatality investigations. Although the MD Attorney General's Office has prosecutorial authority for instances investigated by the IID, the Charles County State's Attorney retains the authority to prosecute these cases even if the Attorney General's Office chooses not to. Once the IID completes their investigation, the final report will be forwarded to the Charles County State's Attorney.

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

The Media Relations Office will respond to media inquiries as usual during these events and will communicate as necessary with the IID public information officer. When the need arises for the Agency to communicate with the public, the MRO will confer with the IID.

B. FITNESS FOR DUTY EXAMINATION

Any employee whose action(s) or use of force, while acting in an official capacity result in death or serious physical injury will be referred to an Agency psychologist/psychiatrist for consultation and fitness for duty evaluation. In no case will an employee return to work until an initial counseling session has been attended and the employee's ability to perform his duties has been determined. It shall be the responsibility of the Commander, Administrative Services to see this session occurs as quickly as possible, preferably within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence of the event.

The Agency may, at its discretion, require additional evaluations, counseling sessions and / or other criteria be completed prior to the employee being released to full duty.

C. TRAINING

While assigned to the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy, all officers shall receive training regarding the investigation of police-involved incidents that result in the death of a civilian or injuries likely to result in death. Officers assigned to positions within the Criminal Investigations Division and the Office of Professional Responsibility who are responsible for the criminal and administrative investigation of such incidents shall receive additional training on the investigative process following their transfer into those positions.

All additional personnel potentially impacted by a police-involved death investigation will receive training periodically.

3-839 POLICE INVOLVED NON – FATAL INVESTIGATIONS

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES
- D. PUBLIC SAFETY STATEMENT



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A. PURPOSE

To outline procedures for the investigation of incidents in which an officer uses lethal force in the performance of his duties that results in non-fatal injury against one or more individuals and the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) declines to respond for the investigation. For incidents in which there is a police involved action that results in fatal or likely to be fatal injuries to a civilian, the on-scene commander shall refer to the Police Involved Fatality Investigations policy.

B. DEFINITIONS

COMPANION OFFICER: an officer, preferably a supervisor in the involved officer's chain of command, who will act as a liaison between the involved officer and other individuals or groups involved in the investigation.

INVOLVED OFFICER: any officer who used non-fatal lethal force during the incident including officers who are unsure if they fired their weapon.

POLICE INVOLVED NON-FATAL INCIDENT: whenever an officer uses lethal force in the performance of his duties that results in non-fatal injury against one or more individuals AND the IID declines to respond for the investigation.

PUBLIC SAFETY STATEMENT: information deemed reasonably necessary to aid in identifying and apprehending suspect(s) at large, identifying witnesses, identifying the parameters of the scene, aid in locating evidence, and determining if individuals were injured in the incident.

WITNESS OFFICER: any sworn officer who was present during the incident who did not use lethal force.

C. PROCEDURES

Responsibilities of Initial On-Scene Supervisor / Commander

1. For all police involved non-fatal incidents where IID declines to respond, the on-scene supervisor / commander should ensure that once the scene is secure, all involved officers and witnesses have been identified and separated.
2. Obtain a brief overview from one of the uninvolved officers.
3. Supervisors / Commanders will not attempt to order any involved officer to provide information about the use of force beyond the public safety statement. In the event that there are no uninvolved officers who can supply an adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one of the involved officers. The overview should be limited to articulating what crime, if any, took place prior to the use of force / shooting.
4. When applicable and necessary, a supervisor may take a brief public safety statement from the involved officer(s). See the Public Safety Statement section of this policy for questions and guidance. The statement should focus solely on providing the necessary information for the initial response and preliminary investigation. (If public safety information can be accurately determined from witness officers, then a public safety statement from the involved officer may not be necessary.)
5. If the involved officer was wearing a body worn camera (BWC), this camera will be collected by the on-scene supervisor as soon as practical. The camera will be given to CID to be downloaded.
6. Do not seize an able-bodied officer's firearm while on the scene.
7. If an officer's rifle or shotgun is involved, the on-scene supervisor can secure it until CID arrives or the officer can secure it in his vehicle.
8. As soon as practical, involved officers should be removed from the scene. If possible, the officers should



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be photographed prior to leaving the scene. If possible, involved officers should be transported in a vehicle with an operating camera and / or in the company of an officer wearing a body worn camera. The BWC will be turned off/deactivated once at the station.

9. Involved officers will not be allowed to drive themselves from the scene. Involved officers will not be transported in the backs of cruisers.
10. Unless necessary, do not allow officers to move vehicles or equipment until CID arrives.
11. Ensure notification is made to the appropriate commanders, CID, OPR, and the Media Relations Office as soon as practical.

Duties of Companion Officer at Involved Officer's Location

1. A companion officer, preferably a supervisor in the involved officer's chain of command, will stay with the officer at the location he is transported to.
2. The officer will act as a liaison between the involved officer and other individuals or groups involved in the investigation.
3. To the extent possible, ensure the needs of the officer are met.
4. Notify Agency members meeting with the officer that they are not to discuss the facts of the incident with the officer. (This does not apply to Agency members involved in the investigation.)
5. Ensure evidence that the officer may be in possession of (firearm, clothing, etc.) is preserved pending collection by CID.

Responsibilities of Criminal Investigations Division

1. In most cases, a Detective/Sergeant will be assigned as the lead investigator for officer involved incidents that IID declines to investigate. Based on the circumstances, a CID Commander will assign the lead investigator.
2. CID is responsible for the criminal investigation to gather evidence to submit to the State's Attorney's Office who will determine whether the lethal force was appropriate under criminal law.
3. Ensure a scribe is assigned to the scene, who is responsible for making a chronological record of activities at scene, including personnel present and actions taken.
4. Witness officers who observed the incident will be interviewed by detectives. These witness officers along with the involved officers will not write a report or supplement concerning the incident.
5. Detectives should be assigned to inspect involved officer(s) firearms, as well as certain witness officers who were present during the use of force, to determine if they were fired.
6. In certain cases, clothing of the involved officer and subject should be preserved and recovered by detectives/FSS.
7. Once the investigation is completed, the case will be reviewed with the State's Attorney's Office.
8. If an officer is involved in an incident outside of Charles County, the jurisdiction where the incident occurred will have the responsibility of investigating. CID and or the officer's chain of command will assist the investigating agency as needed.

Responsibilities of the Office of Professional Responsibility

1. Refer to Use of Force Reporting Requirement under Administrative Investigation Requirement for OPR responsibilities.

Notification to the State's Attorney

The Charles County State's Attorney will be notified and be given the opportunity to review the facts for all police involved non-fatal investigations.



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D. PUBLIC SAFETY STATEMENT

If it is applicable and necessary to obtain a public safety statement, a supervisor at the scene will obtain the statement.

1. If feasible, speak to each involved officer separately.
2. DO NOT ask the officer why he or she fired. DO NOT conduct a comprehensive interview of the involved officer. Assigned detectives will conduct a thorough interview.
3. After a public safety statement has been obtained, assign a companion officer to stay with the involved officer.

The questions should only cover information necessary to focus on initial law enforcement response. The following language will be used when obtaining a public safety statement:

“Officer, I am ordering you to give me a Public Safety Statement. Due to the immediate need to take action, you do not have the right to wait for representation to answer these limited questions.”

About how many rounds did you fire and what direction?

Did the suspect(s) fire any rounds at you? If so, what direction?

Can you identify the location of where you were standing when the shots were fired?

Are there any other weapons or evidence which needs to be identified and secured?

Are there any outstanding suspects? If so, direction of travel and description

Are there any other victims?

Are you aware of any witnesses? Where are they?

3-840 INJURED WILD ANIMAL TERMINATION

On occasion, officers of this Agency are called upon to terminate the lives of injured wild animals. Most often, wild animals are injured as a result of highway accidents.

In cases where the animal's injuries are severe, causing unnecessary suffering, or have caused the animal to be a threat to itself, other animals or humans, the animal shall be terminated.

In cases necessitating the termination of an injured wild animal, the officer shall have Communications start an event for “Destroyed Wildlife.” The officer will have Communications make note on the call sheet specifying the firearm used and the number of rounds expended to terminate the animal.

No Incident Report or Use of Force / Discharge of Firearms Report is required when Agency guidelines are followed to terminate an injured (non-domesticated) wild animal.

Should damage occur to property other than the injured wild animal, the officer shall complete an Incident Report detailing the circumstances surrounding the event, the property damaged and property owner information, if applicable.



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3-841 USE OF FORCE ON DOMESTIC ANIMAL

It is unreasonable for a police officer to use force on a privately owned animal when it does not pose an immediate threat to the officer or others. In cases where an officer uses force on a domestic animal an Incident Report (not a use of force report) shall be completed. The Incident Report for "Domestic Animal" shall include details surrounding the event and the reason for the force.

A supervisor will be notified at the time of the use of force.

3-842 VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Any dog or other animal, which, without provocation, has attacked, bitten or injured any human being, or other animal, or which has a known propensity to attack or bite human beings is defined to be a vicious / dangerous animal [see Charles County Code (230-12.5) for full legal definition]. When an officer receives a complaint of a vicious or dangerous animal, he shall submit an incident report with a note for a copy to be forwarded to the Charles County Animal Control Division. Routine animal complaints will be directed to the Charles County Animal Control Division during regular business hours. The Communications Section will forward a copy of the call sheet on each of these incidents.

When other means to control vicious or dangerous animals have been ineffective, unavailable or clearly inappropriate in the instant circumstances, an officer may resort to the use of a firearm to apply deadly force to protect himself, or another person, from the threat posed by the vicious or dangerous animal. When such action is taken the officer will notify a supervisor and complete an incident report detailing the circumstances of the firearms use.

Supervisors who are notified as a result of these events, will evaluate the circumstances to determine the need for command, CID or OPR notification and/or response. If such action is required, the supervisor will coordinate these activities and, at a minimum, will see that the Incident Report and a Commander's Report are completed in a timely manner.

3-843 SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS

When an officer is confronted with a situation involving a suspected rabid animal (bats included), the officer will attempt to confine the animal to prevent the animal from escaping, if the officer can do so without placing the officer or anyone else in a position to receive a bite or come in contact with the animal. In determining whether an animal is safely confined or not, it must be remembered that wild animals possess cunning instincts which increases the probability of escape; whereas, many domestic animals can be safely confined on the owner's premises or property with only a remote possibility of escape. When wild animals are involved, the officer must not be hesitant to take definitive action to prevent the animal from escaping or gaining a position which poses a greater threat to human safety.

If any wild or suspected rabid animal has had any physical contact with any human or domestic animal, the officer will utilize any resources at the officer's disposal, to include shooting the animal, to prevent the animal from escaping. In cases involving wild animals that have had any physical contact with any human or a domestic animal, the wild animal will be confined or destroyed. Environmental Health shall be notified by the officer handling the incident and a notation shall be placed on the report noting the name of the person, at Environmental Health, receiving the notification. The officer may obtain call-out information from the Communications Section supervisor who shall maintain that current information.

3-843.1 SHOOTING OF RABID ANIMALS



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When an officer is confronted with a situation involving a possible rabid animal that cannot be safely confined or captured by the Charles County Animal Control Division and there is a possibility that the animal can escape, the officer will destroy the animal, preferably by shooting it after weighing all safety factors. When killing the animal, care should be taken to preserve the brain, if possible.

3-843.2 RESPONSIBILITIES SUBSEQUENT TO SHOOTING RABID ANIMALS

Once a suspected rabid animal has been killed, the officer will:

- neither touch the animal nor allow anyone else to touch it, without the use of protective gloves; and
- take measures to ensure that children or other animals do not come in contact with the carcass; and
- in cases where the animal has bitten or had contact with a person or a domestic animal, notify the Environmental Health Division to respond and recover the animal for testing; and
- in the case of wild animals where there was no contact with humans or a domestic animal, contact the Environmental Health Division in order to have them call the property owner with instructions (generally on how to bury or bag the animal); or in the case of an animal on public property, to make arrangements to immediately recover the carcass.

No report of investigation or Use of Force Report is required when Agency guidelines are followed to kill a suspected rabid animal, unless direct human contact or an indirect contact through a domestic animal was possible.

In cases necessitating the termination of a suspected rabid wild animal, the officer shall have the Communications Section start an event "Destroyed Wildlife." The officer will have the Communications Section make note on the call sheet specifying the firearm used and the number of rounds expended to terminate the animal.

Should damage occur to property other than the suspected rabid animal, the officer shall complete an incident report detailing the circumstances surrounding the event, the property damaged and property owner information (see Use of Force policy elsewhere in this Manual).

3-843.3 ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN RABID ANIMAL CASES

In all situations involving rabid animals or animals that exhibit the symptoms of being rabid, the officer will:

- make an extra effort to locate the animal if the animal is not present when the officer arrives on the scene; and
- detour citizens from the area to prevent them from coming into contact with the animal; and
- make every effort to contain the animal if the officer can do so safely without placing himself or anyone else in a position to receive a bite or come in contact with the animal; and
- ensure that the animal does not escape or in any way endanger the officer or the community; and
- notify the Animal Control Service and remain on the scene until the Animal Control Services personnel arrive; and
- notify the Environmental Health Division by following the procedures in the Animal Bite Cases - Rabies Exposure policy of this manual.

The police officer's role is crucial to prevent the spread of rabies, and it is mandatory that officers be responsive to prevent the disease from infecting the human population.

3-850 FIREARMS QUALIFICATION FOR RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The following policy is created with respect to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (18 U.S.C. § 926 B and C). In order to accommodate the provision of that law allowing law enforcement officers to carry firearms nationwide if they qualify annually, the following qualification provisions are adopted by this Agency.



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3-850.1 QUALIFICATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS

Whenever resources permit, firearms instructors of this Agency may conduct firearms qualifications for retired officers of this Agency. Retired officers of other agencies may be qualified at the discretion of the Sheriff. It is the responsibility of the retired officer to ensure that they meet the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 926 and will complete and sign the Retired Officers Qualification Application and Affidavit Form #72A prior to qualifying. The firearms qualification will be conducted using current Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) firearms qualification standards.

A retired officer will be qualified using a type of firearm which that officer has previously qualified with in a duty status prior to retirement. All retired officers will attest to this fact using the Form #72A, prior to the retired qualification.

Retired officers must be capable of qualification when they report to the range, and range instructors will provide only one opportunity per firearm type on any single range date. If conditions permit, a retired officer may qualify with two firearms. No more than two firearms will be allowed per range date.

3-850.2 FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR RETIRED OFFICERS QUALIFICATION

All firearms and ammunition will be provided by the individual officer seeking qualification. Firearms and ammunition must be approved by the range instructor before qualification.

3-850.3 FEE FOR QUALIFICATION

The retired officer may be required to pay the CCSO a fee to offset the use of the range facility and the instructor time used for the qualification process. This fee must be paid by check or money order made to the CCSO prior to qualification. This fee is non-refundable without consideration as to the retired officer's successful qualification or lack thereof. This fee will be set from time to time as dictated by the costs associated with the process. If more than one firearm is used in the process, a fee will be paid for both.

3-850.4 QUALIFICATION CARDS FOR RETIRED OFFICERS

A Qualification Card Form #72 will be issued by the qualifying firearms instructor to each applicant who fires a qualifying score. Qualification cards issued to retired officers will contain the following information:

- the date the qualification occurred;
- the manufacturer of each firearm used;
- the serial number of each firearm used;
- the model of each firearm used;
- a statement that the qualification was conducted in accordance with current standards of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission;
- the qualifying score;
- the title of the Charles County Sheriff's Office as the entity conducting qualification; and
- the name and signature of the range instructor conducting the qualification.

3-850.5 RETIRED OFFICER QUALIFICATION APPLICATION FORM #72A USAGE

When a retired law enforcement officer wishes to qualify with a firearm, that person will complete a Retired Officer Qualification Application and Affidavit Form #72A. The completed form will be forwarded to the Chief Firearms Instructor. The Chief Firearms Instructor will check the form and contact the applicant.

The applicant will be informed of any problems with the form and will be required to correct them. The applicant will be told the date and location to report for qualification and the number of rounds of ammunition to bring to the range for qualification. If the Chief Firearms Instructor wishes to check the firearms and ammunition prior to the



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applicant reporting to the range, such arrangements will be made during this contact.

The shaded areas on the form are to be completed by the firearms instructor. The witness at the bottom of the form may be any Agency employee who witnesses the completion of the form by the applicant.

The completed form will be sent to Records Management Section for filing for a period of four years. Records Section personnel will answer any inquiries from other law enforcement agencies during that period, and supply any information from the form.

3-850.6 COLLECTION OF QUALIFICATION FEES

Firearms instructors will determine and collect the fee from the applicant prior to the beginning of a qualification session. The applicant will be given a receipt using the receipt book designated for this purpose. These fees, along with the original of the receipt, will be submitted to Deputy Director, Accounting Section by the end of the next business day following the qualification session.

CHAPTER 4 – AGENCY OPERATIONS

4-100 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The basic function of the Charles County Sheriff's Office Communications Section is to receive, screen, and prioritize calls for service and subsequently dispatch the appropriate response units in an efficient and coordinated manner.

The Communications Section shall be staffed and operated on a twenty-four hour basis to provide continuous two-way communications and support services to all CCSO officers. Radio communications, whether voice, wireless data, or a combination of voice and data, is the primary method used by the Communications Section to relay information. Officers are issued a portable radio equipped with an automatic identification system that identifies the unit number to Communications. This radio shall be carried at all times while on duty.

Charles County Public Safety has the ability to conduct interoperable communications with all surrounding jurisdictions, between police, fire, marine, federal agencies, and jurisdictions in Virginia, either by switching talk groups (radio channels) or with the assistance of a Communications Officer "patch with another agency. These communications also include encrypted talk groups with other agencies.

All Agency radio operations will be conducted in accordance with Federal Communications Commission procedures and requirements. FCC regulations prohibit radio misuse such as profane language, inappropriate transmissions, intentionally "covering" other units, etc. Misuse of the radio is a serious and potentially dangerous breach of safety protocol and will not be tolerated. Idle conversation not related to police operations is prohibited, as it may interfere with operational transmissions and compromise officer safety. Supervisors are responsible for identifying individuals misusing the radio, and those found to be in violation would be subject to disciplinary action.

The Communications building is a secured facility and only authorized personnel on official business are permitted to enter. Visitors to the facility must log in and be escorted.

4-100.1 DEFINITIONS

Code 1 calls - Members responding to non-emergency calls will respond immediately while observing all traffic laws.



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Code 2 calls - These calls involve potentially life-threatening situations. Members responding Code 2 shall use lights and siren, and should turn on the vehicle's headlights. Members shall also comply with the provisions of the Transportation Article (TR § 21-106), for Emergency Vehicles. A minimum of two units will be dispatched on Code 2 calls.

4-101 COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

Communication procedures for specific situations are covered throughout the AOM. Procedures outlined in this section are to be followed for most circumstances.

Emergency Calls - All "911" lines are to be answered by saying "Charles County 911." "911" lines are for emergency calls only. The County's "911" call taker is responsible for answering this line. If he is busy or on another line, the "911" line is to be answered by the following personnel in order:

- Fire / EMS Supervisor;
- Fire / EMS Dispatcher;
- CCSO Police Communications.

Every attempt shall be made to obtain the following minimum Information:

- exact location (a mailing address is not sufficient);
- nature of call;
- name of person calling and the name of their residence; and
- call back number.

A caller's refusal to identify himself will not preclude an attempt to assist the individual nor inhibit a response by an officer to a call for service.

Dependent upon the nature of the call, additional information should be obtained if appropriate:

- suspect identity and/or description;
- extent of injuries;
- whether or not weapons were involved and what type.

The common "911" caller may be highly distraught; some may be hysterical. The call taker should professionally, but firmly, take control of the conversation, obtain the necessary information, and advise the caller assistance is being dispatched.

CCSO Non-Emergency Lines - It shall be the responsibility of police station technicians at each district station to answer these lines. If they are unable to answer, these lines are to be answered by the police station technicians at the District I Station. If it becomes necessary to leave the telephones unattended and no one is immediately available to monitor them, police station technician personnel at the District I Station will be notified of their absence.

The call takers shall obtain as much information as possible when receiving a call for service. The amount of information required will depend on the nature of the call and the status of the requesting party. Particular attention must be committed to issues that involve the safety of officers who may be dispatched on the call. The call taker uses the CAD system to record the following minimum information:

- Name and address of the complainant, if possible;
- Type of incident (call type) being reported;
- Location of incident being reported.



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After sending the call information to the PCO via the CAD, the call taker should stay on the line with the caller, if needed, to obtain additional information to pass along to the PCO.

PCO Communications Procedures - Upon receiving information, the Police Communications Officer (PCO) uses that information from the CAD system to dispatch the call. The CAD system automatically records the following entered information:

- Call for Service Number (CFS);
- Received Date and Time for the Call for Service;
- Identification of units assigned as primary and backup units;
- If there is a closer unit to the call, he shall give his location and may be reassigned as backup.
- The time the unit(s) was dispatched;
- The time of the unit's arrival;
- The time the unit returned to service.
- Disposition of dispatched incident as reported by the responding officer.

When dispatching an emergency call:

- the PCO will activate an emergency tone, notifying units of the forthcoming emergency message;
- the PCO will then announce the sector, brief description of the situation, location, assigned units, and assign it as Code 2.
- units will then acknowledge the call and advise where they are responding from. Additional units committing to the call will advise Communications of their location and their intentions concerning the call;
- the PCO will provide any other additional information such as look out details.
- if any other agency with units in the area of the incident acknowledges the call, Communications will advise if they are needed.

The PCO will attempt to notify the field supervisor of any calls of which they may need to be aware, or which may need the response of a supervisor.

Dispatching of non-emergency calls – Code 1 calls, absent exigent circumstances, will be dispatched as quickly as possible. To save on radio airtime, silent dispatch through the MDT for non-priority calls and all Animal Control calls will be used whenever possible. Additional information concerning the call may be provided by the MDT.

- The complainant will be notified, whenever possible, by a PST, PCO III, or PCS if there will be a delay in officer response to the call; and
- Decisions on unit assignment shall be the responsibility of the PCO; however, the street supervisor holds the ultimate authority over assignment decisions.

Police Communications Supervisors (PCS) Procedures – Police Communications Supervisors shall monitor the radio system. They shall seek additional information for calls for service as needed or as requested. Nothing in this policy should prevent a PCS from seeking more information by telephone and consulting with the assigned officer(s) or a police supervisor about changing a call's status, or the number of officers assigned, etc. This is especially true for calls for assistance from the Detention Center.



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Officers Communication Procedures - officers will be identified during radio transmissions by their assigned designator code and identification number. When going 10-8 officers shall announce their assignment for the day by sector and beat. Example: Adam 700, 10-8 in 1 Adam 2.

Officer radio transmissions will be made briefly and concisely using:

- Radio 10-Code;
- Phonetic alphabet (when necessary);
- Appropriate military time;
- Radio Completion Codes.

Radio messages are to be acknowledged promptly and officers should obtain necessary information (complainant's address, description of suspects, etc.) prior to acknowledging receipt of the message. This will save airtime and avoid redundancy in dispatching.

When contacting Communications by radio, officers will call using their full unit designation and wait for acknowledgement before continuing with a message to ensure dispatch is prepared to document information. Officers will advise the PCO when:

- They switch from their primary radio frequency to another district's primary radio frequency (patrol officers only);
- They receive a report of a crime or incident in need of police attention;
- They arrive at the scene of a call for service;
- They are out of service for any reason; and
- They have returned to service.

Officers, when clearing a call, will be as brief as possible and refrain from using slang, unprofessional language, and unnecessary chatter.

The police radio system allows unit-to-unit communication between field units. Because any unit utilizing this system is effectively off the air for purposes of monitoring or receiving other radio traffic during that time, this feature should be used judiciously.

Police Supervisors Communications Procedures – Prior to field units beginning their shift, the unit rosters will be logged into a CAD terminal by a police supervisor or a designee. Supervisors should monitor the radio as much as possible. Supervisors may delay or cancel an assignment, change a response code, or reassign units under their command. Calls for service that have been delayed by a supervisor must be reassigned by him. In doing so, the supervisor assumes responsibility for the decision. If a supervisor feels the need for more information, he will contact the PCS by telephone.

4-101.1 DESIGNATOR CODES - AGENCY PERSONNEL

ID numbers will be continuously and sequentially assigned as new officers are employed. ID numbers vacated due to officers terminating employment will not be reassigned to employees; however, they may be assigned to a spare vehicle.

CCSO personnel are assigned designators based on their current assignment within the Agency. These designators will assist in quickly identifying an officer's assignment within the Agency. They are utilized as a prefix to personnel's assigned identification number:

Commissioned Officers	CAR	Traffic Operations Unit	TRAFFIC OPS
Sector Supervisors	PAUL	Canine Officers	K-9



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Patrol Corporal	ADAM PAUL	Cadets	JOHN
Patrol Beat Officers	ADAM	Correctional Officers	CHARLES OCEAN
		Narcotics / Vice	VICTOR
Motorcycle Units	MOTOR	Criminal Investigations	ID
School Resource Officers	ROBERT	Training	TOM
Crime Prevention - Community Policing	DAVID	Special Services Officers	SAM
Neighborhood Enforcement Team	NET		
Civil Process	Charles Paul		

The Patrol District designations are:

District 1	La Plata
District 2	Indian Head
District 3	Waldorf (East)
District 4	Waldorf (West)

4-101.2 DESIGNATOR CODES - NON- AGENCY PERSONNEL

La Plata Police Department	La Plata
Animal Control	Animal Control / ACO
Fire Marshal	Frank Mary
Natural Resources Police	Nora Robert
Maryland Dept. Transportation Police	MDTA
Federal Bureau of Investigation	FBI
MSP-Barrack Identifier	H/L +#
College of Southern Maryland	CSM 1 or 2 (emergency only)
Charles Regional Medical Center	CRMC
Charles County Government	CCG 1610

Examples:

"Frank-Mary-1168" - Fire Marshal #1168 calling Communications.

"La Plata-505" - La Plata Police Officer #505 calling Communications.

4-101.3 JOINT OPERATIONS

During joint traffic operations with another agency such as MSP or the Maryland Transportation Police, the CCSO officer(s) assigned to assist should remain on CSSO channel until preliminary requests are completed, the scene is stabilized, and the other agency arrives on the scene. Officers may then switch over and operate on the other agency's channel. For an incident being handled primarily by the CCSO with assistance from another agency, communications should be handled through our channels.

For all other joint operations such as warrant services and operations involving EST, the CCSO supervisor / commander shall determine whether to stay on our own channel or to switch to the other agency's channel. Communications will be notified either way.



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For all multi-jurisdictional operations, all radio communications will be conducted using plain English. In order to maintain brevity and professionalism on the radio, the Agency will be using the definitions already established on the current 10-code list. For example, under the new system, instead of using 10-46, the user would state, "Assist Motorist".

4-101.4 MOVING TO A TACTICAL TALK GROUP

For prolonged incidents requiring uninterrupted communications, operations will be moved from the primary dispatch talk groups to a designated tactical talk group. This movement provides the freedom to manage the special circumstance, uninterrupted, for as long as necessary; and effectively allows for normal law enforcement activities to continue.

Such a move will be preceded by a short alert tone and the announcement by the PCO of the movement to a specified tactical talk group. PCOs will make every effort to monitor the activities of the special circumstances operating on a tactical talk group. At times, the staffing within the Communications center may not support dedicating a PCO to the tactical talk group. In such event, on-scene officers will be notified that the tactical talk group will not be monitored.

4-101.5 RADIO USAGE-TALK GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

The primary dispatch talk groups for daily law enforcement activities for the Charles County Sheriff's Office and Mutual Aid Agencies operating within Charles County will be assigned:

- "D1" for Districts One and Two
- "D3" for Districts Three and Four

All personnel operating on the Charles County Sheriff's Office home zone will monitor the primary dispatch talk group for the geographical district they are physically in. In the event an alternate talk group is required to facilitate uninterrupted communication to resolve an incident:

- "STAC1" shall be reserved for units operating within the "D1" talk group, and
- "STAC2" for units operating within the "D3" talk group.

All planned special operations or car-to-car communications that do not fall into daily law enforcement activities, will request through the PCO to use "STAC3", "STAC4" or the appropriate "SECOPS" talk groups to facilitate their communications needs without interruption to the primary dispatch talk group or their operation.

To accomplish the most efficient use of the tactical talk group, the on-scene officers will utilize the Incident Command System, by designating an Incident Commander. Usually the Incident Commander is the first arriving officer on the scene or the highest ranking officer. This officer will notify communications he is in command. If an on-scene Incident Commander is not identified, the PCO shall request that someone be named. The Incident Command system as contained in the Agency All Hazards Plan will be followed. The Incident Commander will provide direction and assign resources on the scene to manage the special circumstance. Unless delegating someone to act as communication officer, the Incident Commander is the direct point of contact between the scene and the Communications Section to provide updates on the progress of the incident or request additional resources to be dispatched. The Incident Commander may be replaced by a higher authority at that person's discretion. When this occurs, Communications will be immediately notified.

Once the special circumstance no longer requires a dedicated tactical talk group, the Incident Commander will notify Communications that the Incident Command is terminated. Communications will sound a short alert tone notifying involved officers to return to their assigned primary dispatch talk group and acknowledge their return to service.

4-101.6 10-3 STOP TRANSMISSIONS



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A 10-3 should be used when there is an immediate officer safety need to suspend all radio transmissions on the primary dispatch talk group. The 10-3 should be initiated by the officer, shift supervisor, or shift commander. If this does not occur only in exigent circumstances, the PCO will initiate a 10-3. During a 10-3, all officers shall cease normal activities, remain on the talk group, and listen for a call for help or other urgent transmissions, usually from a lone unit on the scene. For this reason, the 10-3 should be used only for the shortest period necessary to ensure the scene is safe. Every effort should be made to place a primary dispatch talk group in service as soon as practical. Once scene safety is secured, incidents that require prolonged uninterrupted communications shall be transferred to the appropriate tactical talk group for the affected district.

When a 10-3 is placed in effect by an officer or PCO, the PCO controlling the affected talk group will sound a short alert tone and announce the 10-3. The PCO will monitor the talk group for transmissions from the on-scene unit(s). If no transmissions are received within the first minute, the PCO will request the status of the unit. The 10-3 will remain in effect until such time as the on-scene units or supervisor place the talk group in service. Once the talk group is placed in service, the PCO will sound a short alert tone and announce the 10-3 has been lifted.

4-101.7 OFFICER IN DISTRESS (SIGNAL 13)

When a Signal 13 is received on any talk group, the PCO will immediately place a 10-3 on the channel and direct units to assist with the incident as appropriate, based on the information received during the distress call.

If the distress signal is received due to an officer activating their radio's emergency call button, users on that talk group will immediately cease all communications, allowing the officer to provide additional information. If the officer does not contact Communications to supply additional information in a timely manner, or the PCO cannot determine the nature of the emergency by the officer's original transmission, the PCO will check on the officer's status. The PCO will provide updates and instructions to other officers on the talk group as appropriate.

4-101.8 PHONETIC ALPHABET

To standardize radio transmissions in the spelling of words, the below terms shall be used in conjunction with their corresponding letters of the alphabet:

A ADAM	F FRANK	K KING	P PAUL	U UNION	M MARY
B BAKER	G GEORGE	L LINCOLN	Q QUEEN	V VICTOR	Z ZEBRA
C CHARLES	H HENRY	M MARY	R ROBERT	W WILLIAM	
D DAVID	I IDA	N NORA	S SAM	X X-RAY	
E EDWARD	J JOHN	O OCEAN	T TOM	Y YOUNG	

4-101.9 RADIO CODE LIST

10-1 c Caution	10-25 c Report in person (meet).....	10-50 c Accident (F, PI, PD)	10-75 c in contact with.....
10-1 -- Unable copy-change location	10-26 c Detaining subject, expedite	10-51 c Wrecker needed	10-76 c En route
10-2 c Signal good	10-27 c Drivers license information	10-52 c Ambulance needed	10-77 c ETA (Estimated Time arrival)
10-3 c Stop transmitting	10-28 c Vehicle registration information	10-53 c Road blocked at	10-78 c Need Assistance
10-4 c Acknowledgment (OK)	10-29 c Check for wanted	10-54 c Livestock on highway	10-79 c Notify Coroner
10-5 c Relay	10-30 c Unnecessary use of radio	10-55 c Intoxicated driver	10-80 c Pursuit in progress
10-6 c Busy c unless urgent	10-31 c Crime in progress	10-56 c Intoxicated pedestrian	10-81 c Breath test operator report
10-7 c Out of service	10-32 c Man with gun	10-57 c Hit and run (F, PI, PD)	10-82 c Reckless driving
10-8 c In service	10-33 c EMERGENCY	10-58 c Direct traffic	10-83 c Work school xing at
10-9 c Repeat	10-34 c Riot	10-59 c Convoy or escort	10-84 c If meeting advise ETA
10-10c Fight in progress	10-35 c B&E in progress at.....	10-60 c Squad in vicinity	10-85 c Delayed at
10-11c Dog case	10-36 c Correct time	10-61 c Personnel in area	10-86 c Officer/operator on duty
10-12c Stand by (stop)	10-37 c Investigate suspicious vehicle	10-62 c Reply to message	10-87 c Pickup/distribute checks
10-13c Weather c road report	10-38 c Stopping suspicious vehicle	10-63 c Prepare make written copy	10-88 c Present telephone # of
10-14 cProwler report	10-39 c Urgent c use light, siren	10-64 c Message for local delivery	10-89 c Bomb threat
10-15 cCivil disturbance	10-40 c Silent run c no light, siren	10-65 c Net message assignment	10-90 c Bank alarm at.....
10-16 cDomestic problem	10-41 c Beginning tour of duty	10-66 c Message cancellation	10-91 c Pick up prisoner/subject
10-17 cMeet complainant	10-42 c Ending tour of duty	10-67 c Clear for net message	10-92 c Improperly parked vehicle
10-18 cComplete Assign Quickly	10-43 --- Information	10-68 c Dispatch information	10-93 c Blockade
10-19 cReturn to	10-44 c Permission to leave for	10-69 c Message received	10-94 c Drag racing
10-20 cLocation	10-45 c Animal carcass at	10-70 c Fire alarm	10-95 c Prisoner/subject in custody
10-21 cCall by telephone	10-46 c Assist motorist	10-71 c Advise nature of fire	10-96 c Mental subject
10-22 cDisregard	10-47 c Emergency road repair at	10-72 c Report progress on fire	10-97 c Check (test) signal
10-23 cArrived at scene	10-48 c Traffic standard repair at	10-73 c Smoke report	10-98 c Prison/jail break
10-24 cAssignment completed	10-49 c Traffic light out at	10-74 c Negative	10-99 c Wanted/stolen indicated



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4-101.10 CLEARING CALLS- DISPOSITION

Whenever a dispatched unit clears a call, a clear and concise disposition shall be given. The PCO will enter that disposition on the call sheet. Should more information be required, the officers will use the MDT to enter notes. Officers should ensure that notes match the given disposition. If a report is to be written, Communications will advise the officer of the assigned incident number for the report. All calls will be cleared with a disposition for the call sheet.

4-101.11 RADIO COMPLETION CODES

Situation Completion Codes	Report Completion Codes	Person Completion Codes	Vehicle Completion Codes
Unfounded UTL (Unable to Locate) GOA (Gone on Arrival) 2 GOA SOW (Sent on Way) Fled on Foot Handled by MSP Handled by Other Agency False Call Settled No One Home Civil Matter Checked OK Assisted Unable to Gain Entry Entry Gained Assignment Completed (10-24) Information Obtained Music Turned Down Notification Made Unable to Serve No Police Services Needed	No Report Report JOR (Juvenile Offense Report) Dom. Violence, Notice Given Dom. Violence, Notice/Report Supplement FIR (Field Information Report) Dom. Violence, Notice/Report/10-95 Property Recovered Use of Force Report Deer Tag Issued	10-95 10-95 With Report Emergency Commitment Voluntary Commitment Warrant Advised Warrant Executed/Served Civil Citation Alcohol Citation Summons Served Missing Person Located	Citation Warning Citation/Warning ERO (Equipment Repair Order) Citation/ERO Warning/ERO Entry Gained/Waiver Unable to Gain Entry Information Exchanged Vehicle Tagged Vehicle Removed/Towed Vehicle Removed/Seized No Damage/No Report

4-101.12 FALSE ALARM AND BUILDING COMPLETION CODES

Accidental Alarm – This type of incident will occur when the alarm company cancels the alarm before officers arrive at the location.

False Alarm - This response is to be used by officers who arrive on the scene of an alarm. If homeowner is on scene, and advises accidental, it is a false alarm. If residence is checked and no signs of entry are observed, it is a false alarm. Hold-up alarms at T/A's that are accidental are false.

Malfunctioning Alarm - This response is used when an officer arrives on the scene and speaks with someone on the scene. That person must advise that there is a problem in the alarm system.

Building Checked Secure - This type of response is only to be used when an officer finds an open door or window and the subsequent search reveals no indication of crime.

4-101.13 REPORTING DISTRICTS

The reporting districts will be as follows:

- 01 La Plata
- 02 Indian Head
- 03 Waldorf (East)
- 04 Waldorf (West)
- 03 Calvert County (mutual aid)
- 03 Prince George's County (mutual aid)



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01 Virginia (mutual aid)
01 St. Mary's County (mutual aid)

4-101.14 COVERAGE AREAS

The Coverage Areas for Charles County will be as follows:

EXAMPLE: 01A1

01 - District 1
A - Sector A
1 - Beat 1

4-102 CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

The jurisdiction of the Charles County Sheriff's Office is Charles County, Maryland. This County is bounded on the North by Prince George's County, Maryland, and on the East by Calvert and St. Mary's County, Maryland. On the West by the water lines of the Potomac River and the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Stafford, and Prince William. On the South by the Potomac water line of King George and Westmoreland Counties, Virginia. These boundaries are displayed graphically in the ADC of Alexandria, Inc. maps available from the Agency Quartermaster.

4-103 AGENCY TELEPHONE USAGE

This section of policy applies to the use of Agency land-line and wireless devices. Agency issued or personal, on- or off-duty, or while operating an Agency Vehicle. For the purposes of this policy, the term "wireless device" will include cell phones and all other devices issued or authorized by the Agency and shall include any communication device other than the Agency radio system or Mobile Data Terminal.

4-103.1 USE OF AGENCY LAND-LINE PHONES

A businesslike salutation will be made when answering telephones:

- All employees will identify themselves when answering telephones.
- Accepted salutation shall consist of:
 - the Agency name, "Charles County Sheriff's Office";
 - the division / section, or the location;
 - rank if sworn, or title if non-sworn;
 - alternately, civilian personnel may use their first and last names when answering.

Long-distance calls will not be made on an Agency-owned device when a less expensive procedure would suffice (e.g., mail, email, fax). When it is necessary to make a personal long-distance call, the Agency's system may be used, provided the telephone operator is contacted and the call is charged against the employee's home phone number. All personal phone calls received should be as brief as possible.

Generally, personal phone calls should not be made from Agency telephones. Personal phone calls received should be brief.

Prisoners, witnesses, suspects, etc., may use Agency phones for local calls, at the discretion of the custodial officer.

4-103.2 RESTRICTED USE OF CELL PHONES/WIRELESS DEVICES



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When an employee is issued a cellular phone or other wireless device, they will be provided with the guidelines and limitations for its use. Employees should read and follow all directions provided within the owner's manual regarding the safe use of the wireless device.

Many employees are provided with wireless devices for the purpose of conducting Agency business. Use of these devices may incur additional air-time and access charges. Employees should determine which is most economical and efficient when deciding whether to use a wireless or land-line phone.

Employees issued Agency wireless devices may be responsible for additional costs associated with unauthorized use of the device, such as personal messaging or exceeding the allotted time limits, picture texting, roaming charges, etc.

Once the employee has been presented with an invoice for overages due on their Agency-issued wireless device, the employee will pay the invoice by the date due. If the payment is not submitted within one week after the due date, both the employee and his commander will be notified of pending service suspension. If payment has not been made by the second week after the due date, service will be suspended until the Accounting Section has received and processed the payment. The employee will be responsible for any reactivation fees incurred. Any roaming charges incurred using the Mobile Data Terminal or cell phone will be billed on a case-by-case basis. Payments must be made by check or money order payable to the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

Electronic messages sent or received by Agency issued devices are considered property of the Sheriff's Office and are subject to monitoring or interception by the Agency. There will be no expectation of privacy concerning these messages when using an Agency-issued device.

Employees using cellular telephones / devices while driving a motor vehicle are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the State of Maryland or any other federal, state, county or municipal law which imposes cell phone or wireless device use restrictions.

Under the Maryland Transportation Article, law enforcement personnel are exempted from restrictions on the use of handheld telephones when acting within the scope of official duties. Agency policy is that in all other circumstances, any employee using a handheld phone while operating an Agency owned vehicle, on- or off-duty, shall use a hands-free device or pull off the roadway in a safe location. Sworn officers acting within the scope of their official duties may use a handheld phone without a hands-free device or pulling off the roadway only when doing so does not pose an unreasonable risk to the safety of the officer and others.

Additionally, texting while operating an Agency/ personal vehicle is prohibited. According to Maryland Transportation § 21-1124.1 (b), an individual may not use a text messaging device to write, send, or read a text message or an electronic message while operating a motor vehicle in the travel portion of the roadway

The Agency shall not be responsible to the employee or any other party, either for payment of fines for a violation of a state's wireless device law, or claims arising out of a motor vehicle crash, which has been determined to be caused by a violation of the law.

Employees will not use any hands-free devices that are worn, such as Bluetooth earpieces, headsets, microphones, etc.

At no time shall a cell phone or wireless device be used during a priority response or a pursuit.

4-103.3 911 LINES

"911" lines are to be answered by saying "Charles County 911." "911" lines are for emergency calls only. If the call is not an emergency, the caller should be referred to the agency which can provide assistance. If possible, the



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agency's telephone number should be provided.

The "911" call taker is responsible for answering this line. If he is busy or on another line, the "911" line is to be answered by the following personnel in order:

- Fire / EMS Supervisor;
- Fire / EMS Dispatcher;
- CCSO Police Communications. (This line should be answered on the first ring.)

Minimum Information Needed:

- exact location (remember, a mailing address is not sufficient);
- nature of call;
- name of person calling and the name of their residence; and
- call back number.

Dependent upon the nature of the call, additional information should be obtained if appropriate:

- suspect identity and/or description;
- extent of injuries;
- whether or not weapons were involved and what type.

The majority of "911" callers will be highly distraught; some may be hysterical. The call taker should professionally, but firmly take control of the conversation, obtain the necessary information and advise the caller assistance is being dispatched.

4-103.3.1 CCSO NON-EMERGENCY LINES - DISTRICT STATIONS

It shall be the responsibility of front desk personnel to answer these lines. If they are unable to answer, these lines are to be answered by Police Communications personnel at the La Plata District Station.

Employees assigned as call takers at the Indian Head and Waldorf District Stations will be responsible for answering the CCSO non-emergency lines at those locations. If it becomes necessary to leave the telephones unattended for a short period of time, and no one is immediately available to monitor them, front desk personnel at the La Plata District Station will be notified of the call taker's absence.

Whether answering non-emergency or "911" lines, employees will attempt to obtain sufficient information to facilitate an appropriate response. A caller's refusal to identify himself will not preclude an attempt to assist the individual nor inhibit a response by an officer to a call for service.

4-103.3.2 DIRECT LINES

Listed below are the direct auto-dial lines located at the La Plata District Station and personnel, in order of responsibility, who answer them:

- MSP: Communications Personnel - Front Desk Personnel;
- DETENTION CENTER: Front Desk Personnel - Communications Personnel;
- WORK RELEASE CENTER: Front Desk Personnel- Communications Personnel;
- INDIAN HEAD DISTRICT STATION: Front Desk Personnel - Communications Personnel;
- WALDORF DISTRICT STATION: Front Desk Personnel - Communications Personnel;
- COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR: Front Desk Personnel - Communications Personnel;



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- HOSPITAL: Communications Personnel - Front Desk Personnel;
- STATE AND COUNTY ROADS: Communications Personnel - Front Desk Personnel;
- SOUTHERN MARYLAND ELECTRIC: Communications Personnel - Front Desk Personnel.

4-105 INCIDENT COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE (ICCV)

The following sections establish procedures for the deployment of the Incident Command and Communications Vehicle (ICCV).

The ICCV will be stored at a secure site established for this purpose. Communications Section will maintain a knowledge of the current storage location of this vehicle. The vehicle shall be available for use on a call-out basis, twenty-four hours a day.

Command responsibility for the ICCV is assigned to the Chief / Assistant Chief of DES Communications, Charles County Government. Internal requests for the vehicle should be made through the Commander, Communications Section who is the CCSO liaison with DES Communications.

4-105.1 ICCV DEPLOYMENT

The ICCV is used as a mobile staging / communications facility for the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Charles County Department of Emergency Services (DES). The ICCV serves as a tertiary (or backup) Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for 911 Communications. The ICCV allows Agency personnel the flexibility to rapidly deploy a command, staging and communications facility to a variety of specialized situations including:

- parades, fairs and other special events;
- civil disturbances;
- barricade / hostage incidents;
- search and rescue operations;
- major crime scenes;
- natural and man-made disasters;
- warrant sweeps;
- Fire and EMS incidents; and
- any other unusual occurrence.

Critical incidents or unusual occurrences will take precedence over all other assignments, unless the ICCV is active as the tertiary PSAP for 911 Communications. Any CCSO Commander may request the deployment of the ICCV. This request must be made through the CCSO Commander, Communications Section. When deployed, the Incident Commander will be responsible for designating a safe location for the ICCV to be set up.

Only approved CCSO or DES drivers will operate the ICCV any time it is deployed. ICCV drivers will receive training in the operation of all equipment contained in, or carried on the ICCV. DES Communications will maintain a list of all approved drivers to be used in call outs. The ICCV will not be utilized for any type of routine patrol activities, pursuits or traffic stops. The Chief / Assistant Chief of DES Communications will arrange for a relief driver if a continuous use is anticipated to, or in fact, exceeds 10 hours.

4-105.2 ICCV CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The Chief / Assistant Chief of DES Communications or their designee is responsible for scheduled maintenance and service of the vehicle.

Before and after each deployment, the designated driver will thoroughly inspect the ICCV inside and out for



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operational readiness, cleanliness and damages. The designated driver will be responsible for ensuring that the ICCV is properly set up and will assist other personnel in the proper use of the equipment.

After each deployment, any CCSO designated driver will ensure that the ICCV is fully fueled and returned in a clean orderly condition with all equipment intact and ready for use, acting as a responsible partner to the agency responsible for the maintenance and care of the vehicle.

4-106 REVERSE 911 - CITIZENS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Reverse 911 is a system used to call the home phones of the citizens of Charles County with important public safety information. The system utilizes multiple phone lines configured to manage the calling of numerous telephones in the most efficient way possible. Currently the Agency has four locations where a Reverse 911 request can be processed. They are:

- Communications (EOC);
- Agency ICCV;
- Commander, Communications Section (issued laptop); and
- Communications Coordinator (issued laptop).

Reverse 911 can be used for a wide range of notifications; however, to utilize the Verizon database associated with Reverse 911 there must be a defined public safety element. The Commander, Communications Section is responsible for the management and updating of the system. These responsibilities include the:

- development of administrative telephone databases;
- updating of the Verizon telephone database (weekly updates); and
- development of the internal system information, to include the:
 - data list;
 - geographical zones;
 - reporting information; and
 - configuration specifications.

4-106.1 PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING A REVERSE 911 SESSION

Since the Reverse 911 is a tool used to assist in the quick dissemination of important and credible information to the public, use of the Reverse 911 system must be approved by a supervisor. All requests must come from someone with supervisory authority. The request should include the following information:

- a reason for the use of Reverse 911;
- the message to be disseminated with a return call number if needed;
- a location / area to receive the message call; and
- the time frame the calls should be made.

The above information shall be sent via email to reverse911@ccso.us. The information will then be reviewed by Media Relations and edited for dissemination. Once the session has ended, a report will be generated and sent to the requester for their file.

The system is currently designed to call about 1000 telephone lines per hour. The system will make calls between the hours of 0830 to 2000. If a different time frame is needed, this will be listed in the requester's email.



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4-106.2 TIME CRITICAL SESSIONS

Reverse 911 sessions that require a rapid initiation will be routed directly to a representative with the ability to create a session. The requester will simply state in the email to reverse911@ccso.us that the session is time sensitive based on the information being sent out and the nature of the underlying event. When a time sensitive request is made, the session and session message may be created without going through Media Relations.

In order that a confirmation of the receipt of these time critical notifications be received, a follow-up call will be made to the on-duty Communications supervisor. The Communications supervisor will see that the time critical session is initiated.

4-107 AGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

The Agency has developed a notification service that allows police station technicians and Police Communications Officers to send out notifications and/or alerts to the entire Agency via the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch). These notifications / alerts can be received through the Agency email or by text message to a cell phone upon request.

Employees are automatically entered into a specific page group (Entire Agency, Sworn, Corrections), and any employee wishing to change the method by which they are notified should contact the Commander, Communications Section.

These notifications / alerts would be used only for emergencies or short notices, such as total radio system failure, Agency Operational Status, road hazards (ice / construction) and bridge closures for employees traveling to and from work.

All requests for notifications will be sent out by police station technicians and PCOs as directed by the Commander, Communications Section. The notification service is administered and maintained by the Communications Commander or his designee.

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4-110 INTERPRETERS / TRANSLATORS SERVICES

The International Visitors Information Service (IVIS) provides a 24-hour translation service for forty-nine foreign languages.

The Southern Maryland Interpreting Service provides 24-hour on-call American Sign Language interpreting services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Contact telephone numbers for both are maintained by Communications and may also be accessed via the CAD System Rolodex function.

4-110.1 BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES

In addition to the above, the Agency employs several members who, when available, may be able to provide some translation services. Requests for such services will be made through the on-duty district / shift commander.

4-110.2 DEAF / HARD-OF-HEARING INDIVIDUALS

A deaf or hard-of-hearing person will usually indicate deafness or a hearing disability by pointing to their ears and then their mouth (the sign for "deaf"). They may point to their ear and shake their head, indicating they cannot hear. If in a vehicle, an individual may display a visor card that indicates the driver is deaf.

Some characteristics associated with communications disabilities may be misinterpreted by police as suspicious, illegal or uncooperative behavior. Upon contact they may reach into a pocket, glove compartment, or elsewhere to obtain a pen and paper. When a person who is deaf or hard of hearing fails to respond to police direction, it is often a manifestation of the disability rather than an intent to disobey. Officers, while ensuring their own safety, must be careful not to misinterpret these actions.

People who have communications disabilities are entitled to the same range of police services as those who do not have disabilities. It is the intent of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to provide a qualified interpreter, upon request, to any person who is deaf or hard of hearing, regardless of whether they are a suspect, victim, witness or complainant.

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to furnish, at Agency expense, appropriate auxiliary aids and services whenever necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Auxiliary aids and services include qualified interpreters, written materials, note pads, and other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. When an auxiliary aid or service is required to ensure effective communication, the expressed choice of the individual with the disability, who is in the best position to know his or her needs, should be given primary consideration in determining which communication aid to provide. The Agency should honor the individual's choice unless it can show another equally effective means of communication is available, that use of the means chosen would result in a fundamental alteration in the services or programs provided, or that it would cause undue financial and administrative burdens.

In those instances where there is the likelihood of a particular case going to trial, all written questions and responses between the person with a hearing disability and police must be treated as evidence and handled accordingly. A copy of any written questions and responses shall be provided to the deaf or hard-of-hearing person.

4-110.3 SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS



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Officers are required to ensure effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Whether a qualified sign language interpreter or other communication aid is required will depend on the nature of the communication and the needs of the individual. The length, importance or complexity of the communication will determine whether an interpreter is necessary for effective communication.

In some cases a deaf individual may utilize a pen and paper to communicate, rely on lip reading or rely on friends or family members to interpret for them. Officers should consider the overall circumstances when making a decision on how best to proceed. Officers need to be aware that lip reading is not a very effective way to communicate and should take into consideration that using a friend or family member who is a juvenile, may not be the most reliable way to communicate and should be used only in exigent circumstances.

Officers must be careful about miscommunication in the absence of a qualified interpreter; a nod of the head may be an attempt to appear cooperative in the midst of misunderstanding, rather than a consent to a confession of wrongdoing. While each case may be different, the following guidelines for determining the need for an interpreter may be helpful:

- in a simple encounter, such as checking a driver's license or giving street directions, a pen and notepad may be sufficient;
- if an individual without a hearing disability would be subject to police action without interrogation, then an interpreter may not be required; however, if an interpreter is requested or the officer does not believe other means of communication are effective, then a qualified interpreter should be provided;
- during arrests and interrogations or interviews with victims, witnesses or complainants, a sign language interpreter will often be necessary to effectively communicate with an individual who uses sign language;
- if the legality of a conversation may be questioned in court, such as when Miranda rights are given to a suspect, a sign language interpreter should be utilized.

When utilizing the services of a sign language interpreter, officers should speak directly to the deaf person. Officers should be aware that interpreters are legally bound to interpret everything said in their presence, so officers should refrain from saying anything they would not want conveyed to the deaf individual.

When an interpreter is used, officers shall fully document in the case report the reason an interpreter was necessary, the interpreter's identifying information and their time spent interpreting.

4-111 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CLASSIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. RESPONSE CLASSIFICATIONS
- C. GENERAL RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES
- D. GENERAL DISPATCH GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITY RESPONSE INCIDENTS

A. PURPOSE

Officers are granted special privileges under Maryland State law while operating their vehicles with their emergency equipment activated. They are not, however, relieved of the responsibility of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, and are not protected from the consequences of failing to exercise reasonable care under these circumstances.

There is no special privilege for operating an emergency vehicle without the emergency equipment activated.



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Operators of emergency vehicles without the emergency equipment activated are held to the same level of care as every other vehicle driver.

Police emergency vehicle driving is a dangerous activity. The emergency operation of a police vehicle is dangerous to both the police officer and the general public. Although quick police response to an emergency is crucial, the most important factor in police emergency response is to arrive safely.

The driver of an emergency vehicle, with emergency lights and siren activated, may proceed through a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after slowing to a speed which will ensure they can safely enter and navigate through the intersection.

Officers operating a vehicle containing a passenger who is not an employee of a law enforcement agency, or a person who has not executed a waiver absolving the Office of the Sheriff of liability for damages or injury, shall not operate their vehicle as an emergency vehicle in any high speed manner. Exceptions to this policy required by extreme circumstances require written explanation of those circumstances.

B. RESPONSE CLASSIFICATIONS

Routine Response / Code 1 - All non-emergency calls for service. Members responding to non-emergency calls will respond immediately while observing all traffic laws.

Priority Response / Code 2 - All emergency calls for service. Members responding priority shall use lights, siren, and headlights.

Members shall also comply with the provisions of the Transportation Article (TR § 21-106), Emergency Vehicles. The driver of an emergency vehicle may:

1. park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;
2. pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safety;
3. exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property;
4. disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction.

The emergency vehicle operator shall be aware that this section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

C. GENERAL RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Call takers will make every effort to obtain all available information concerning the call. If the call taker has any doubt concerning the nature of the incident, the higher priority response will be assigned.

PCOs, PCSs, and patrol officers, with the approval of a Patrol Supervisor or higher ranking Agency officer, have the ability to change a call's priority code. The supervising officer must have adequate information to justify any change in a call's priority. The responsibility for any consequences resulting from this decision rests with the Patrol Supervisor or the designated Agency officer making the determination. All patrol units will ensure that Communications is aware of their response status at all times. They will notify Communications of any changes in response status.

INOPERABLE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT



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Marked patrol vehicles shall be immediately removed from service if the overhead light bar is out of service. Any vehicle without a working siren shall be immediately removed from service. Any officer with a malfunctioning light bar or siren (marked or unmarked vehicle) shall notify their supervisor as soon as they become aware of the deficiency.

D. GENERAL DISPATCH GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITY RESPONSE INCIDENTS

Priority responses shall be limited to those calls dispatched as emergency calls, unless information is known to the PCO or responding officer which would justify changing the response classification.

Primary units may be directed by the PCO to respond to the scene PRIORITY. All other responding units are designated as backup or support and will proceed routinely unless explicitly directed otherwise. The PCO will determine the assignment of one or two primary units based on the available information. Backup or support units may request a priority response through the Patrol Supervisor or their designee if there is a change in relevant information which has not been address by the PCO. The PCO will determine whether to assign one or two primary units based on available information.

The first unit to arrive on an incident scene will immediately notify the PCO if a change in response classification or additional units are necessary. If appropriate, the PCO will then specify which units will respond and the nature of their response.

When an on-scene unit advises that other units may terminate (10-22) their response, those units shall not respond to the scene but will return to service.

Agency policy requires that members responding priority response shall approach all intersections where their direction of movement is controlled by a stop signal or stop sign with due regard to public safety. Vehicle operators may proceed through a controlled intersection only when such movement can be made safely.

Units involved in a priority response will not pass each other, or other emergency vehicles (fire trucks, rescue squads, EMS units, etc.) except for some specific planned purpose. Each unit involved in the pass should be aware of the other's intentions and the pass should be coordinated verbally over the radio.

NOTE: This section does not prevent or preclude a pass required because of safety requirements necessitated by unexpected movements of any vehicle.

SELF INITIATED PRIORITY RESPONSES

Officers may initiate a priority response or pursuit in order to:

1. protect life;
2. prevent the occurrence of personal injury;
3. prevent the commission of a crime; and
4. prevent the escape of any law violator.

(Refer to guidelines under the Pursuit Policy for further information about responsibilities.)

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4-111.1 CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION VALIDATION

- A. PURPOSE
- B. SCOPE
- C. DEFINITIONS
- D. CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION VALIDATIONS

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide structured guidance for the identification and validation of criminal organizations, as well as their members and associates. This policy aims to ensure that appropriate and systematic processes are in place for validating the existence and activities of such organizations. Validations conducted under this policy can play a crucial role during the prosecution of members of criminal organizations and help in identifying trends related to their criminal activities.

B. SCOPE

This policy applies to all personnel engaged in the validation of criminal organizations, their members, and associates. This validation process is essential for law enforcement and judicial entities to gather, analyze, and utilize data that may be pivotal in legal proceedings against individuals within these organizations. Furthermore, it aids in understanding the operational dynamics of criminal organizations to inform preventative strategies and resource allocation.

C. DEFINITIONS

Criminal Organization (gang)- As defined under Maryland law, this term refers to an enterprise whose members:

1. Individually or collectively engage in a pattern of organized crime activity.
2. Have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts committed by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults.
3. Share a common overt or covert organizational structure.

Enterprise- As defined under Maryland law, this term encompasses:

1. A sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, business trust, or any other legal entity.
2. Any group of individuals that are associated in fact, regardless of being a legal entity.

Pattern of organized crime activity- Refers to the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be classified as underlying crimes if committed by an adult, provided these crimes or acts were not part of the same incident.

Solicit- Defined under Maryland law as the act of urging, advising, inducing, encouraging, requesting, or commanding another individual to engage in a specific action. CR 11-301.

Underlying Crime- Defined under Maryland law as:

1. A crime of violence as defined under CR 14-101 of this article.



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2. A violation of CR 3-203 (2nd Degree assault), CR 3-1102 (Sex trafficking), CR 3-1103 (forced marriage), CR 4-203 (Wearing, carrying or transporting a handgun), CR 4-204 (Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime), CR 7-113 (Embezzlement by fiduciary), CR 7-315 (Theft-telecommunications-related), CR 9-102 (subornation of perjury), CR 9-202 (Bribery of a juror), CR 9-302 (inducing false testimony or avoidance of subpoena), CR 9-303 (Retaliation for testimony), CR 9-305 (Intimidating or corrupting juror) CR 9-306 (Obstruction of justice), CR 9-307 (Destruction of evidence), CR 9-412 (Contraband in general), CR 9-413 (Contraband for escape), CR 9-416 (Contraband-controlled dangerous substance), CR 9-417 (Contraband-telecommunications-related), CR 11-304 (Receiving earnings of prostitute), CR 11-307 (House of prostitution), CR 12-104 (Gaming offense)
3. A felony violation of CR 3-701 (Extortion), CR 4-503 (Manufacture or possession of destructive device), CR 5-602 (Distribution of CDS), CR 5-603 (Manufacture CDS or equipment), CR 5-604(b) (Creating or possessing a counterfeit substance, CR 5-606 (false prescription), CR 6-103 (Second degree arson), CR 6-202 (First degree burglary), CR 6-203 (Second degree burglary), CR 6-204 (Third degree burglary), CR 7-104 (Theft), CR 7-105 (Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle) of this article;
4. A felony violation of CR 5-133 of the Public Safety Article
5. A felony violation of Title 8 of this article (Fraud and related crimes);
6. Bribery under Subtitle 2 of this title;
7. False statements under Subtitle 5 of this title;
8. Impersonating a police officer under 3-502 of the Public Safety Article;
9. Threat of mass violence under Title 3, Subtitle 10 of this article;
10. A violation of CR 11-207 or 11-208 of this article (Child pornography);
11. A felony violation of Title 27, Subtitle 4 of the Insurance Article (Insurance fraud);
12. Removal or falsification of vehicle identification number under 14-107 of Traffic Article
13. Abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult under CR 3-604 or 3-605 of this article;
14. A crime under the laws of another state or of the United States that would be a crime listed in items (1) through (13) of this subsection if committed in this state; or
15. The attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of a crime or act listed in items (1) through (14) of this subsection.

D. CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION VALIDATIONS

The Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC) and the Homeland Security & Intelligence Section (HSI) is responsible for the validation of criminal organizations, members, and associates. Only members of SMIC and HSI are authorized to complete official validations. Validations will be approved by a supervisor and the validation will be maintained in HSI records separate from any other agency file. Documentation used to validate criminal organizations will be retained with the SMIC.

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4-112 THREATS OF MASS VIOLENCE OR THREATS TO HARM OFFICIALS (OTHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS) OR ATTACK GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

- A. PURPOSE
- B. OFFICER SAFETY ALERTS
- C. DISSEMINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND CREATION OF CRIME BULLETINS

A. PURPOSE

Recent history has shown in many cases individuals voice frustration against potential targets leading up to or during the planning phases of an attack. Threats come to light in many forms but most commonly are discovered through friends / family members, conversation (direct or overheard) or written (letter, email, or social media). No matter how a threat comes to light, it is imperative law enforcement investigate any threat of mass violence, or violence targeted at government institutions / officials. Employees who become aware of any type of threat falling under this policy shall, at minimum, cause a report to be written immediately. All pertinent facts of the threat shall be reported to the Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section as expeditiously as possible. The Homeland Security and Intelligence Section will conduct a threat assessment using all known information and will assist in determining the next steps in the investigative process.

B. OFFICER SAFETY ALERTS

Employees receiving information from sources outside the Agency, relating to officer safety or threats against law enforcement and / or government, shall forward the information to the Homeland Security and Intelligence Section of the Criminal Investigations Division for verification and dissemination. In cases where the information is critical to law enforcement operations or includes a serious officer safety threat, the employee shall immediately contact



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the Homeland Security and Intelligence Section. An officer assigned to the Section will review and investigate the information for possible dissemination.

In instances where an officer from the Homeland Security and Intelligence Section cannot be reached, and the threat or concern is of a critical nature, the information will be sent to the SMIC for vetting and distribution.

Employees are prohibited from the routine dissemination (electronic, written, etc.) of officer safety issues, threats against law enforcement and/or the government, or trends in law enforcement.

DISSEMINATION

Routine officer safety bulletins will be produced by the Homeland Security and Intelligence Section when needed concerning issues in law enforcement trends, gang activities, Homeland Security issues or concerns with officer safety. Immediate dissemination of critical officer safety issues will be distributed electronically on the Agency email system and in some cases broadcast on the Agency radio system.

C. DISSEMINATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND CREATION OF CRIME BULLETINS

Employees who need to disseminate photographs of wanted suspects, photographs of suspects who need to be identified, or other surveillance type photos, should forward all information to the Homeland Security and Intelligence Section via email at intel@ccso.us. If the product requested is of a critical nature and requires immediate attention and HSI is unavailable, officers should contact the Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC) for dissemination. SMIC will ensure swift dissemination and ensure that large files are reduced to be compatible with the email system. This will be done in such a manner that the image's value to the investigation is preserved. Where requested, HIS or SMIC will analyze the information in accordance with the needs of the investigation. Due to the file size of most photographs and surveillance images, and the limited distribution of the intra-Agency email system, employees should refrain from personally distributing photos via the Agency email system.

4-113 FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE

In an effort to reduce the number of responses to false alarms, the False Alarm Ordinance Number 98-48 was adopted by the County. The ordinance requires the police to assist the Charles County False Alarm Reduction Unit (FARU) by notifying the FARU of any alarms that are false or malfunctioning. This is accomplished through the computer aided dispatch system (CAD) and through the use of the False Alarm Notification Form. Procedures have been established to ensure standardized completion of this form.

4-113.1 NOTIFICATION FORMS

All officers will carry the False Alarm Notification Form in their Agency vehicles. The forms will be distributed through the Quartermaster and available at all district stations.

4-113.2 RESPONSE TO ALARMS

The response to all alarms should be as per the guidelines in the AOM. Once an alarm is determined to be false, the False Alarm Notification Form will be completed. The form will be completed for residential, commercial and governmental building false alarms to include false panic / intrusion and hold-up alarms.

Response to and issuance of forms at repeat alarms, not weather related, shall be at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor. Generally, if someone in charge of the building is on the scene or responds to the alarm and attempts to correct the problem, only one form will be issued.



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4-113.3 COMPLETION OF THE FALSE ALARM NOTIFICATION FORM

The alarm, if false, will be coded in one of two ways. In order to ensure accuracy and fairness in the administration of the false alarm ordinance, it is important that each alarm be cleared with the appropriate code. The following codes will be used:

1. FA - (False Alarm) will be used when there is no evidence of a criminal or attempted criminal offense. This code is also to be used when the alarm is the result of alarm user error, the alarm user not having the proper clearance code, or when unable to determine the cause of the alarm activation from either the alarm user or the alarm company.
2. MA - (Malfunctioning Alarm) will be used if there is specific evidence which indicates defective or malfunctioning alarm equipment.

Once a determination has been made concerning the cause of the alarm, the False Alarm Notification Form will be completed. The form is to be filled out as follows:

1. Line 1 - Name and/or address of the business or residence where the violation occurred in this order of preference:
 - a) business or residence owner or tenant; or
 - b) an officer of the corporation that owns the building; or
 - c) person in charge of the business location at the time of the alarm; or
 - d) street address if location is unoccupied at time of the alarm.
2. Line 2 - Agency name--Charles County Sheriff's Office.
3. Line 3 - Officer's name / ID, district where alarm occurred, and check the box marked police.
4. Line 4 - Date and time; alarm permit number is left blank.
5. Line 5 - Situation Found--check appropriate box.
6. Line 6 - Weather Conditions--check appropriate box.
7. Line 7 - Other--check appropriate box (what caused alarm).
8. Line 8 - Completion Code--check appropriate box.
9. Line 9 - Comments--any additional information for the FARU the officer determines relevant.
10. Line 10 - This line is not on the current form, but is needed to record the event number for tracking purposes. Place the event number in the lower right corner of the form.

After completion of the form at the scene, copies will be distributed as follows:

1. White Copy - CCSO Records Management Section
2. Pink Copy - CCSO Records Management Section
3. Cream Copy - Left at the alarm location

The False Alarm Notification Form is a door hanger type form. The copy left at the alarm location will be left with the individual responsible for the alarm location. If no one is present at the alarm location, the form is to be left so it may be found at an entrance to the building or residence.

4-113.4 WEATHER

Weather sometimes plays a part in the response to alarms. Major weather incidents, such as heavy rain, wind, lightning, and thunderstorms can cause alarms to activate. During weather incidents such as these, the False Alarm Notification Form will be completed; however, during any one shift it will be completed only once at repeat alarm locations.



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4-113.5 CONTACT WITH RESIDENT OR EMPLOYEE

Responding officers are cautioned that if an employee or resident is available at the alarm site and there is no evidence to support the alarm activation, they must be extremely careful not to speculate as to the cause of the alarm or to make any references to the alarm possibly not being false. Officers must be cautious about making any comments that might leave the impression that the alarm will be cleared as a legitimate alarm call. Unless there is evidence to support such a premise, officers must not make generalized statements such as "someone may have tried to get in." Comments made could later be used by the alarm user to attempt to justify an appeal.

4-113.6 FINAL DISPOSITION OF FORMS

Upon completion of the form, the white copy and the pink copy will be forwarded to the Records Management Section, where the pink copy will be kept on file and the white copy will be sent to the FARU.

In addition, when an officer responds for a false alarm at any Agency facility or co-use facility (Courthouse, Quartermaster's office, etc.) Records Management shall forward a copy of the form to the Commander, Property Management.

4-114 NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

Chapter 260 of the Charles County Code provides for the control of noise levels throughout Charles County so as to promote public health, safety, and welfare of both public and private property. The Code states:

"It is prohibited for any person located within the County to make any noise or operate any sound amplifier on any property owned or occupied by such person, or to permit any noise to be made or any sound amplifier to be operated on property owned or occupied by such person, so as to be clearly audible to any person located beyond the property line of such property at a level higher than those set forth."

Responsibility for the enforcement of the noise control ordinance is shared per an MOU between the Office of the Sheriff and the Charles County Department of Health. The Health Department will respond during regular business hours to noise complaints. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the investigation and enforcement of noise complaints between the hours of 1700 and 0800 Monday through Friday and on weekends and state / federal holidays. However, there may be times when it may be necessary for both the Health Department and the Sheriff's Office to respond to a noise complaint.

For the purposes of this policy, the Director of Environmental Health shall be the point of contact with the Health Department, and the Patrol operations commanders will be the point of contact for the Sheriff's Office.

Investigation and enforcement will be per procedures outlined in this policy and as instructed in training. Officers will use only Agency issued and calibrated sound level meters to measure possible violations of Charles County Code, Section 260 - Noise Control.

4-114.1 DEFINITIONS

In this section, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

Noise Complaint - Any incident where noise is generated by an audio device, vibration, musical instrument, mechanical equipment, or any other noise or sound-producing device that disturbs, injures, or endangers the health, peace and safety of others.



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Ambient Noise - The total noise associated with a given environment, excluding the noise source of interest.

Commercial Land Use -- Property zoned or used for the sale of goods or services or for office uses.

Tonal Noise - Any sound comprised of one or more pure tones. A pure tone means any sound that can be distinctly heard as a single pitch.

Impulsive Noise - Noise characterized by a short burst of acoustical energy, having a rapid rise to a maximum pressure followed by somewhat slower decay, a duration not greater than one second, and a field crest factor of 10dBA or greater. An example of impulsive noise would be weapons fire.

Daytime – Between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., local time.

Decibel (dB) - A unit of measure equal to 10 times the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of a particular sound pressure squared to a standard reference pressure squared. For the purpose of this chapter, 20 micropascals shall be the standard reference pressure.

Department - The Charles County Health Department.

Director – The Director of Environmental Health.

Enforcement Officer for a noise originating from any source:

- An employee or agent of the Department designated by the Director to enforce this chapter;
- A law enforcement officer;
- A person authorized under the Zoning Ordinance to enforce this chapter; or
- A person authorized by the County to enforce this chapter.

Enforcement Officer for a noise originating from an animal source:

- The Chief of the Division of Animal Control Services or the Chief's authorized designee.

Nighttime - Between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., local time.

Person - Any individual, group, firm, association, agency or other entity.

Public Property - Any real property or structures thereon that are owned, leased, or controlled by a governmental entity, including any street, avenue, boulevard, road, highway, sidewalk, alley or easement that is owned, leased, or controlled by a governmental entity.

Residential Land Use - Property zoned or used for dwellings.

4-114.2 TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND MAINTENANCE

Only those officers who have completed approved Agency training and possess current certification are permitted to use sound level meters for enforcement purposes. The Patrol Commander will ensure maintenance of a current file of all those officers who have successfully completed the training and have been certified.

The Patrol Commander or designee will ensure that:

- Sound level meters are available to certified operators.



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- Sound level meters are calibrated every two years by an accredited laboratory. This is in addition to the bi-monthly calibrations performed in-house.
- All necessary care and maintenance is performed.
- An inventory log and calibration log are maintained by the designated Noise Ordinance Coordinator.

Officers using sound level meters will conduct calibration and testing with available equipment in a manner commensurate with the training received. The use of any sound level meter that is not properly calibrated, or is not approved, or otherwise does not function as required is strictly prohibited. Monitoring of noise levels for enforcement purposes will be done in accordance with the training received and all applicable laws.

The operator will forward all requests for repair and maintenance of noise meters to the Patrol Commander. Reports of damage to noise meters will be documented the same as with other Agency owned property.

4-114.3 INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Any officer dispatched to an initial noise complaint will respond and make contact with the complainant to determine the source of the noise. If the source of the noise is located, and does not qualify as an exempted source as set forth in the County Code, a trained and certified officer will take a sound level meter measurement of the noise source.

The measurement of noise levels shall be conducted as instructed in training. If it is determined that the decibel measurement exceeds established thresholds and a violation does exist, the violator will be contacted and warned to cease the noise generating activity immediately.

If the violator responds and corrects the situation, no further enforcement action will be taken. The officer will advise the complainant the violator has been warned and if the noise persists, to contact the Sheriff's Office and a follow up investigation will occur.

If a complainant reports the violation continues, an officer trained and certified in the use of noise measuring instruments will respond to the location and complete an analysis of the noise. If the noise measurement determines the violation is in excess of the established noise level, a Civil Citation Form #DC-28 should be issued. When a Citation is issued, the violator shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 for a first violation and up to \$1,000 for each subsequent violation. Each hour during which a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate and additional violation.

The measurement will be conducted at least three feet from any reflecting surface. Sound level readings should not be conducted in adverse weather conditions. The Officer shall account for ambient noise (noise existing without noise source in question) if possible.

4-114.4 NOISE EXCEEDING MEASURABLE STANDARDS

Per County Code, Chapter 260, it is prohibited for any person located within the County to make any noise or operate any sound amplifier on any property owned or occupied by such person, or to permit any noise to be made or any sound amplifier to be operated on property owned or occupied by such person, so as to be clearly audible to any person located beyond the property line of such property at a level higher than those set forth in this section, as such sound may be measured from: a) any point along the front line of the property or any part of the perimeter property line upon which the noise is being made or generated; or b) any place on adjacent property, provided that the person measuring the sound shall first obtain the permission of the adjacent property owner to enter upon said



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property. The noise prohibited in this section shall include noise exceeding the following standards:

Maximum Allowable Noise Levels (dBA)

Measured at Receiving Land Uses

<u>Land Use of Receiving Property</u>	<u>Maximum Decibel Level</u>
Industrial	75 dBA, daytime or nighttime
Commercial	67 dBA, daytime 62 dBA, nighttime
Residential	60 dBA, daytime 50 dBA, nighttime

Construction noise limits. A person may not cause or permit noise levels emanating from construction or demolition site activities which exceed:

- 90 dBA from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., weekdays;
- The levels specified in this policy for nighttime hours at any other time.

4-114.5 EXEMPTIONS

The County Code provides for the following exemptions:

- Household tools and portable appliances, when used for household maintenance during daytime hours and when maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
- Motor vehicles licensed for use on public roads when used in a manner consistent with the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
- Aircraft and related operations at airports licensed by the Maryland State Aviation Administration.
- Boats and motorized land vehicles, both on- and off-road, in operation on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources or the County, or operated by other law enforcement or emergency services personnel.
- Emergency operations, including, but not limited to, snow removal operations.
- Pile-driving equipment during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Trap shooting, skeet shooting, or other target shooting between the hours of dawn and dusk.
- Trash collection operations between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- Construction and repair work on public property.
- Noise emanating from household pet activity when kept in a manner consistent with the Zoning Chapter and when activities are in compliance with any applicable section of the Charles County Code. Noise complaints involving household pet activity shall be resolved under the Charles County Animal Regulations, Chapter 230 of the Charles County Code.



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- Activities or events conducted or sponsored by the County or other government entity, including without limitation, agencies working in conjunction with Charles County Animal Control Services, concerts, the 4th of July parade and fireworks, and the like.
- Sound equipment used by public service companies as defined in Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or to federal, state or local governmental agencies.
- Sound generated by sporting, amusement, and entertainment events and other public gatherings operating according to terms and conditions of the appropriate local jurisdictional body. This includes, but is not limited to, athletic contests, amusement parks, carnivals, fairgrounds, sanctioned auto racing facilities, parades, and public celebrations. This exemption only applies between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- Chapter 260 of the County Code shall not apply to the erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building or structure where it is necessary for public health and safety to allow such activity, and then only with prior written permission from the Department of Planning and Growth Management.

Nothing in Chapter 260 of the County Code shall be construed as to supersede or abridge any right granted pursuant to Chapter 100 of the Charles County Code, Right to Farm.

4-114.6 DOCUMENTATION

The Form #DC-28 is used for adult civil violations, also known as code violations.

CHARLES COUNTY CODE - Chapter 260, Noise Control

Civil Code violations are not criminal violations and do not call for a physical arrest. In addition to other required information, the back of the officer's copy of the citation shall include: meter serial number, date of last calibration, time start / finish, and description of the noise source. The back of the original copy (white) should be used for recording any witness information.

Failure of the defendant to sign the citation does not subject him / her to arrest. "Refused to Sign" shall be written in the defendant's signature block and the citation issued.

Per the MOU with the Department of Health, the Charles County Sheriff's Office Patrol Operations will provide monthly reports to the Health Department indicating:

- The number of responses to noise complaints.
- The date, time and location of the complaint.
- The complainant and contact information.
- Observations at the scene.
- Any actions taken.

4-115 COMMAND INFORMATION

- A. PURPOSE
- B. CRIME INFORMATION REPORTS
- C. COMMANDERS' INFORMATION REPORT
- D. COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITY
- E. COMPUTER SYSTEM OUTAGES



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A. PURPOSE

In order to provide for effective operation and management of the Agency, command and other designated personnel must have access to timely information. In addition to the formal written command notification requirements of this section, when the nature of the incident has a time sensitive or critical element, notification shall be made in the most expeditious manner available. This will normally be accomplished by phone, but may be done face to face if this is required by instant circumstances.

Such notifications will be made to at least the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, and the immediately affected division and section commander(s). The employee in charge of the incident shall be responsible for ensuring notifications are made. If the responsible employee is unable to make the notifications personally due to ongoing responsibilities of managing the incident, he may require that Communications or other personnel make the notifications. The required non-written notifications shall be accomplished as soon as possible.

When notifications are made by Communications personnel, a note of the date, time and method of notification for each person notified will be entered into the call sheet. When notification is made by the employee responsible for managing the event, this information will be noted on the written Commanders' Information Report.

Notifications generally fall within two distinct groups. The first is that of criminal activity, and the second is all other information reportable under this policy. For the purpose of referral, the first is titled Crime Information Report, and the second, Commanders' Information Report. Each of these is distributed to a different list of recipients and has different levels of sensitivity associated with it.

B. CRIME INFORMATION REPORTS

Crime Information Reports are in addition to any reports required by other Agency policy. They are designed to provide listed personnel with a quick, initial overview of criminal activities which come to the attention of the CCSO. Crimes which are to be the subject of Crime Information Reports are major crimes, for example:

1. Bomb threats;
2. Homicide;
3. Robbery;
4. Rape;
5. Arson;
6. Burglary;
7. Serious assaults;
8. Death investigations, not to include natural, unsuspicious deaths;
9. Fatal crashes;
10. Large scale traffic incidents;
11. Ethnic, racial or religious crimes;
12. Serial or multiple crime incidents;
13. Theft of government equipment, computer, ID card (employee, military, dependent, contractor);
14. Theft of police or firefighter equipment (badge or uniform, to include weapons);
15. Motor vehicle theft;
16. Sovereign citizen encounters;
17. Significant drug seizures;
18. Crimes involving a firearm or seizure of a firearm;
19. Threats of Mass Violence;
20. Gang-related crime;
21. Civil Disturbances / Protests;
22. Search and Seizure Warrant Services at a dwelling or business.



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These incidents shall be reported using the "Crime Report" link on the Agency intranet. This report is the responsibility of the employee handling the incident. If indicated by the employee, the information may be used by the Media Relations Office for a press release.

Crime Information Reports contain confidential information and are intended for law enforcement personnel only. Dissemination of the crime information reports to non-law enforcement personnel, in any format, is prohibited.

C. COMMANDERS' INFORMATION REPORT

The Commanders' Information Report is a confidential management information document designed to provide command level personnel timely reporting of serious crimes, noteworthy occurrences or unusual incidents. The report shall not be openly circulated within the Agency due to the possibility of sensitive information being divulged and potentially compromising an investigation. Employees other than designated commanders must have a demonstrable need for the information in order to receive the report.

The Commanders' Information Report shall not be disseminated to the media under any circumstances. This report is the responsibility of the supervisor or commander of the employee handling the incident. Incidents which shall be reported include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Agency crashes;
2. Shootings involving any law enforcement officers;
3. Injured officers;
4. Escaped prisoners;
5. When a police officer uses force involving a firearm, baton, pepper spray or any other weapon;
6. When a prisoner is injured while in custody by any means or becomes ill and requires medical treatment;
7. Incidents involving well-known persons;
8. Threats against the courthouse, any CCSO facility or any person therein;
9. Hostage / barricade situations; and/or
10. Large-scale arrest situations.

Corrections supervisors and commanders will utilize the Jail Commanders' Report to make notification on incidents or occurrences contained within the Charles County Detention Center, in addition to other reporting requirements. The same confidentiality and reporting guidelines above will be followed.

D. COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITY

The shift commander, section commander, or other appropriate Agency commander shall determine the necessity of initiating a Commanders' Information Report or Jail Commanders' Report for incidents not previously specified. If it is determined the report is required, he shall cause the report to be completed and disseminated to the Executive Command Staff, utilizing the appropriate links on the Agency intranet.

Highly sensitive information will be redacted and a contact person identified in the report for further information.

Commanders receiving the report will have the authority to disseminate the Commanders' Information Report / Jail Commanders' Report as they determine necessary, provided that dissemination is not otherwise prohibited.

E. COMPUTER SYSTEM OUTAGES

In the event the Agency computer system for distribution of these reports is down, the Commanders' Information Report / Jail Commanders' Report will be submitted as soon as possible after the computer system is back up.



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4-116 METERS / NCIC COMPUTER SYSTEM**4-116.1 RESPONSIBILITY**

The Terminal Agency Coordinator is within the Information Technology Division. He maintains complete control over the entire NCIC / METERS computer system within the organization. In his absence, one of the alternate TACs will maintain his duties.

4-117 AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL TO OPERATE

Only those persons having successfully completed an initial NCIC access course (NCIC Logon Certification) administered by CJIS and who maintain a current certification shall be authorized to use an NCIC / METERS terminal. Each operator is to sign on before and sign off after using the terminal and required to log on monthly so as not to lose access.

Each section is responsible for making sure all METERS paperwork is shredded by Agency personnel. No contractual shred companies are to be used to shred METERS paperwork.

4-118 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES- ENTRIES, LOCATES, AND CLEARED NCIC FILES

(Last reviewed: 5/27/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. NCIC RESPONSIBILITIES CHART
- C. EXCEPTIONS TO ENTERING ARREST WARRANTS INTO NCIC
- D. ARREST WARRANTS / CRIMINAL CHARGING DOCUMENTS - FILING AND ACCESS

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is required to interact with NCIC files as prescribed by federal guidelines. CCSO will enter all records which are housed within the NCIC files as a matter of practice.

The following charts show CCSO personnel responsible for entering / clearing files during operating hours and after hours. Additionally, the chart breaks down file types, the timeframe for which they are to be entered by, and the associated NIC number.

Sworn personnel who do not have the ability to enter information into NCIC are responsible for providing the information to the appropriate personnel listed in the chart within the prescribed timeframe.

B. NCIC RESPONSIBILITIES CHART

Records And Police Station Technicians (PST)					During Operating Hours	
File Type	Time Frame	NIC # File	PST		Records	
			Enter	Clear	Enter	Clear



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Articles						
Badges, Homeland Securities, Toxic Chemicals	ASAP	A00 000 000	X	X	X During Office hours	
All Other	72 Hours	A00 000 000	X	X	X During Office hours	
Vehicle Stolen/Felony	ASAP	V00 000 000	X	X		
Guns	ASAP	G0 000 000 0	X	X		
Missing Person	2 Hours	M0 000 000 0	X	X		
Boat	ASAP	B00 000 000	X	X		
License Plates	ASAP	P00 000 000	X	X		
Vehicle / Boat Part	72 Hours	V00 or B00	X	X		
Image File	72 Hours	I00 000 000		X	X	
Securities	ASAP	S00 000 00	X	X		
Identity Theft	72 Hours	J00 000 000		X	X	
Unidentified Persons	ASAP	U00 000 000	X	X		

The entries **MUST** be Quality Control Checked once entered. Records will maintain the accuracy of the record through validations and audits. Police Station Technicians will handle all hit requests and responses on all NCIC Files.

ASAP - When the required information is obtained for entry, the record will need to be entered immediately.

Once locate has been received, the NCIC record must be cleared immediately.



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Judicial Services and Police Station Technicians (PST)						
File Type	Time Frame	NIC # File	PST		Judicial	
			Enter	Clear	Enter	Clear
Felony Warrants	ASAP	W00000000	X	X		
Wanted Persons	ASAP	W00000000	X	X	X During Office Hours	
Protective Orders	Once Sent Over From Court House	H00000000	X		X During Office Hours	X
Extreme Risk Protective Orders	Once Sent Over From Court House	Q00000000	X		X During Office Hours	X

Judicial Services is responsible for all validations and quality control. PSTs will handle all Hit Requests and Responses on all NCIC Files.

ASAP - When the required information is obtained for entry, the record will need to be entered immediately.

Once locate has been received, NCIC record needs to be cleared immediately.

Other Files		
File Type	Responsible Party for Entry	NIC # File
Violent Persons	Maryland State Police/DOC	L00000000
Supervised Release	Parole & Probation	C00000000
Fugitive From Other Countries	Interpol/FBI	W000000000
Sex Offenders	Maryland Sex Offender Registry 'soru.registration@maryland.gov'	X0000000



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Individuals on the FBI Threat Screenings Center List	FBI	T00000000
Gangs and Gang Members	Maryland State Police/DOC	T00000000
Immigration Violators	DHS/FBI	N00000000

This chart is provided for informational purposes only. These files are not validated through CCSO.

C. EXCEPTIONS TO ENTERING ARREST WARRANTS INTO NCIC

There are circumstances when entering a felony arrest warrant into NCIC may jeopardize an investigation and **not** entering this information into NCIC is necessary. These circumstances include, but are not limited to, investigative need, officer safety, and confidential informant preservation.

Any officer who intentionally does not enter a felony arrest warrant shall be able to clearly articulate the circumstances and shall obtain supervisory approval prior to obtaining the warrant. Supervisors will follow up with the officer on the status of the investigation on a weekly basis to approve the continued warrant entry hold and will report these follow-ups to the Section Commander monthly.

Division Commanders shall approve any arrest warrant hold which will continue past 90 days and will be required to approve that hold every 30 days thereafter.

D. ARREST WARRANTS / CRIMINAL CHARGING DOCUMENTS - FILING AND ACCESS

All arrest warrants / criminal charging documents will be processed, entered into all required computer systems and made ready for service by Judicial Services personnel. All warrants and criminal charging documents are available 24 hours a day.

All original arrest warrants / criminal charging documents not in the custody of a sworn officer for service will be kept within the Judicial Services Section at the La Plata District Station. The warrant file cabinets within Judicial Services will be in a locked room when Judicial Services personnel are not present. After-hours access to the warrant file cabinets will be granted to Agency employees with a legitimate reason for accessing the documents in the course of their official duties.

4-119 COMPUTER INFORMATION TRACKING

Routinely, employees of this and other Agencies seek METERS, CJIS and NCIC information for investigative purposes either by requesting another employee to query the applicable system or by making the inquiry themselves if certified to do so.

State and federal laws as well as NCIC regulations prohibit accessing this information for other than legitimate law enforcement purposes. Secondary dissemination of this information is strictly controlled and a record of this distribution must be maintained for a minimum of three years. The Criminal History/CJIS Log, Form #868 has been developed for this purpose. Should secondary dissemination of any criminal history record occur, the employee dispersing the information shall note the inquiry on Form #868.

It is the policy of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the CJIS system that Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) data accessed through CJIS is provided for official government use only. 3-



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Dissemination of MVA data other than to an authorized person or criminal or criminal justice agency is strictly prohibited.

However, for the purpose of this policy, when MVA information is accessed for dissemination to authorized persons, it does not need to be placed on the Criminal History/CJIS Log.

A number associated with the record will be entered on the Criminal History/CJIS Log in the "Identifying Number" section. Examples of these would be:

- FBI Number;
- State Identification (SID) Number.

The "Notes" section will indicate the purpose for the criminal history inquiry if not associated with an incident or event number.

The commander of each facility where a METERS/NCIC terminal or Agency CAD system is located, will ensure an adequate supply of Form #868 are available to staff.

Once all lines on a form have been utilized, it will be forwarded to the ITD. The TAC, within the ITD will be responsible for maintaining each completed form for a period of three (3) years from the date of the last entry on that form.

4-120 COMPSTAT PROGRAM

The CompStat Program examines current crime trends, intelligence, and other information having a direct impact on public safety in the County. CompStat works to help officers be more effective and efficient in preventing and reducing crime and includes the concepts of organizational structure and accountability, crime analysis and mapping, and problem solving. CompStat contributes to the overall strategic management planning process.

The Crime Analysis Function gathers, analyzes and organizes crime data collected in the Agency's field reporting system and makes it available in the Agency's digital Dashboard system which all Division Commanders can access directly. Patrol commanders examine the data for any notable crime patterns or trends and present their findings to the Sheriff and other members of the Executive Command Staff at the weekly CompStat meetings. Mapping of crimes is presented, as needed, so the locations can be easily identified by location and type of crime. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to actively see and discuss the various crimes and trends, and to work together in reaching possible solutions County-wide and across district station boundaries.

Notes from the meetings are forwarded to the command staff, affected Sergeants, the MSP barrack commander, MSP-SMIC, and the Town of La Plata Police, with the overall goal of utilizing the information provided to become more proactive in policing.

4-205 ASSISTING / TRANSPORTING INTOXICATED OR INCAPACITATED PERSONS

4-205.1 PROCEDURES – MAN-DOWN CALLS

After arriving on the scene of a "man-down" call, officers will attempt to determine whether the individual is sick, injured, or intoxicated.

1. If the person is sick or injured and wishes to be transported to the hospital, the officer will request ambulance service through Communications;



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2. If the person refuses to be transported by ambulance and the officer determines that the person is capable of making a rational decision, no ambulance will be called;
3. If the person is merely intoxicated and does not appear to be suffering from an injury or illness, the officer may attempt to take, or send, the individual to his home or to a health facility. This must be done with the individual's permission unless that person has been arrested for a violation of law.

In any event where an individual is unconscious, whether he is believed to be sick, injured or intoxicated, he will be transported by ambulance to the most available health care facility.

4-205.2 CHECKING FOR MEDIC ALERT WARNING

When assisting, transporting or taking into custody any individual who is believed to be intoxicated, sick, or physically dysfunctional, officers will check for a medic alert necklace, bracelet or other identifying device which delineates a medical disability. Any officer who discovers such an identifying device shall take immediate steps to aid the afflicted person. When medical personnel (e.g., ambulance or hospital staff) take custody of an individual wearing a medic alert device, they shall immediately be made cognizant of all pertinent information contained on the medic alert instrument.

4-206 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

4-206.1 ASSISTANCE CAPABILITY

The Department of Social Services can render assistance to officers in various situations such as:

1. Housing for destitute / stranded persons;
2. Child Abuse cases;
3. Evictions.

4-206.2 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Charles County does not have an immediately available, walk in shelter. The county does have a coordinated entry process with D.S.S. as a single point of access.

Officers will request assistance from Social Services in emergencies only (citizens will be referred to Social Services routinely in other cases).

The following guidance shall be followed to assist offers who interact with persons in need of D.S.S. assistance:

During daytime / business hours, officers shall:

- Call (301) 392-6724.
- Follow the answering machine prompts until you reach a live person.
- Calls will be triaged based on the initial contact to determine if the specific situation falls within the D.S.S. service mandates.
- Do not drop the individual off at D.S.S. without first making contact with a D.S.S. representative.

After hours (1600 – 0800, weekends and Holidays), officers shall:

- Call the number for the on-call D.S.S. representative provided by Communications.



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- If unable to reach the scheduled on-call representative, call the next individual on the phone list until a representative is reached, up to and including the Director.
- If you are still unable to reach a representative, notify your Division Commander through the chain of command.
- Do not drop the individual off at D.S.S. without first making contact with a D.S.S. representative.

Due to D.S.S. staffing levels, a representative may not be able to respond immediately, even if they have determined they are able to provide assistance. D.S.S. asks that the intake worker speak directly to the person in need so they can plan the best response and give the individual an estimated response time. In some instances, the D.S.S. representative may determine they are unable to assist or provide services to the individual in question.

It is recognized officers may be unable to stay with the individual for an extended period of time. In those situations, the following steps should be taken:

- If the D.S.S. intake worker determines they are able to assist the individual, but expect an extended response time, officers shall indicate the details in the notes of the call sheet, notify their immediate supervisor and clear the call for service.
- If the D.S.S. intake worker determines they are unable to provide assistance, and there are no other alternatives available (e.g. Lifestyles, Angels Watch), officers shall indicate that fact in the notes of the call sheet, notify their immediate supervisor and clear the call for service.

Notifications related to physical and sexual child abuse are located in AOM 3-163 and vulnerable adult investigations in AOM 3-165.

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4-209 UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (UAS)

The UAS Function is responsible for the deployment and use of unmanned aerial systems which can be used for such things as conducting searches for missing or wanted persons, crime scene photography, reconnaissance,



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for public relations purposes, and assisting the Emergency Services Team in operations and training. All members of the Function will be federally licensed pilots and operate in accordance with FAA Regulations.

The UAS Function falls under the command of the Commander, Field Operations within the Special Operations Division.

When a situation arises that requires the need for a UAS, Communications will be requested to see if a UAS pilot is available to respond. If the UAS pilot is currently working and available, they will respond to handle the situation. If there is no UAS pilot working or available, the Commander, Field Operations will be contacted to facilitate a callout for a pilot.

If there is a need for a UAS which does not require an immediate response, a request for the UAS can be made by submitting the "UAS Request Form" which can be found on the Agency Intranet under the "Reports" tab on the toolbar. All requests made in this manner will be emailed to the UAS Coordinator who will contact the requester and determine how the request will be handled.

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4-212 ASSISTING MOTORISTS

The Agency has a responsibility to provide general assistance and protection and obtain needed services for stranded or disabled motorists using the roadways in the County.

Officers, as part of their routine duties, will be alert for motorists needing assistance. Officers, unless en-route to a call for service, will stop, notify Communications and provide assistance. If unable to immediately stop, officers will advise Communications of the motorist's location and request that another available unit respond. Assistance rendered can include:

- providing information and directions;
- providing mechanical assistance or towing services;
- providing protection and/or transportation in hazardous locations or environments;
- obtaining emergency medical or other services.



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4-213 VEHICLE LOCKOUTS

Officers who are assigned or possess vehicle entry kits approved for use by the Agency may utilize these devices to perform both routine and emergency entries to vehicles.

The approved device at this time consists of a wedge and/or inflatable wedge to flex the window seam, and a rod to reach into the vehicle compartment to defeat the locking system. "Slim Jims" or similar devices are prohibited, as they are prone to cause damage and/or inadvertently discharge a side impact airbag system.

A call sheet will be generated which will include the vehicle registration and the name of the person requesting this assistance.

Call takers receiving this type of request for assistance will advise the caller the Agency will accept no responsibility for accidental damage to the vehicle. In situations where the request was generated other than through the call center, the responding / assisting officer will ensure the requester is made aware of this waiver of responsibility for accidental damage and will document that this was done in the call sheet.

In every situation, the responding / assisting officer must confirm on the scene that the caller is authorized to operate the vehicle. This may be done by proof of ownership or by other means that satisfy the officer of the caller's authority to waive responsibility for damage (e.g., the caller is the vehicle owner's spouse or dependent, or the caller can somehow verify that he/she is allowed to operate the vehicle). If the officer cannot be satisfied, entry to the vehicle will not be attempted.

4-213.1 EMERGENCY ENTRY

An emergency is defined as a situation where life and/or serious physical injury is threatened, or some other compelling law enforcement purpose is to be served by immediately gaining entry to the vehicle.

In an emergency, the preferred method of gaining entry to a vehicle is to break a side window and manually release the door lock.

If the vehicle is occupied, the side window broken should be one that is as far as possible from the occupant or occupants of the vehicle. If the occupant(s) is conscious, the occupant should be instructed to turn away from the window when it is struck to avoid any glass fragments flying into the face. Most side windows are designed to break into many small pieces.

Any handy device may be used to break the window, but the preferred device is one which can be held onto in order that it not fly into the vehicle. The issued baton may be used. A handgun or other weapon should not be used because of the danger of accidental discharge.

4-213.2 REQUIRED REPORT

Any employee who performs an emergency entry into a vehicle as allowed by this policy shall complete a written report of the circumstances surrounding the incident. A separate incident report shall be made if no other report is required to be generated by the circumstances of the particular incident.

The report shall describe the vehicle, including the owner information. The report will describe the nature of any emergency giving rise to the action. The report will describe the damage to the vehicle and any injuries inflicted upon the occupants.

All other necessary reports will be generated in addition to the incident report as may be required by the



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circumstances.

4-215 TOW SERVICE PROGRAM

The authorized Tow Service Program of the Charles County Sheriff's Office is a voluntary participation program. It is supervised on behalf of the Sheriff by the Traffic Operations Supervisor. The rules and regulations for tow service owners and operators are contained in the document "Charles County Sheriff's Authorized Tow Service Requirements, Rules, Regulations and Schedule of Fees for Services." This document applies any time a tow truck is requested by the CCSO, even if our call is at the request of the vehicle owner. All employees will report violations of the rules and regulations of this program in writing to the Traffic Operations Supervisor. When needed, a tow service shall be requested as follows:

- when a vehicle owner, operator, or agent desires a specific tow service, the officer shall make the request to Communications (Example: "OWNER'S REQUEST, ABC TOW SERVICE");
- when a vehicle owner, operator or agent has no specific tow service to call, the officer shall make the request to Communications (Example: "OWNER'S REQUEST, CLOSEST AVAILABLE 10-51");
- when a vehicle is impounded by an employee of this Agency, or when a vehicle owner, operator, or agent is not present or is incapable of making a request for any reason, the request to Communications will be: "MY REQUEST, CLOSEST AVAILABLE 10-51."

NOTE: Officers are prohibited from suggesting specific tow services for any reason to any vehicle owner, operator or agent.

The officer will provide Communications with the following information for each vehicle to be towed:

- make, model, approximate year, and condition of the vehicle to be towed;
- a brief description of the scene relative to that vehicle.

Officers shall not request specific types of tow equipment unless authorized to do so by the Traffic Operations Supervisor. Communications will relay information received to the tow service and the tow service will determine the appropriate tow equipment.

Communications will advise the officer which tow service will be responding and for which vehicle. Upon arrival of the dispatched tow service on the scene, the requesting officer will notify Communications of the tow service's arrival.

Prior to a tow service departing the scene, the officer requesting the tow service will designate the towed vehicle as either "TOWED" or "STORED."

"TOWED" means we have simply provided a service to the vehicle owner or operator by calling assistance for him / her. Towed vehicles may be reclaimed by the owner by merely paying the tow bill.

"STORED" means we have taken possession of the vehicle, even if our possession is temporary. "STORED" means the same as "IMPOUNDED." Stored vehicles will have a Vehicle Storage Card prepared by the storing officer. To reclaim the vehicle, it must be released via a Motor Vehicle Release Card.

It should be remembered for this program to work properly, we must assist the tow service as much as possible and be consistent with our duties. The safety of the motoring public and those personnel on the scene is our responsibility and we must act accordingly to ensure that safety.



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4-215.1 LIST OF APPROVED TOW SERVICE OPERATORS

The Traffic Operations Supervisor shall be responsible to maintain a list of all the Tow Service Operators who have signed an agreement to operate within the guidelines of this program. The list shall be continually updated to reflect any new operators and any who are removed. The Traffic Operations Supervisor shall provide a copy of the list to the Commander, Communications Section and provide any updates as they occur.

The list of Tow Service Operators shall contain the:

- name of the company;
- name of the owner or resident agent;
- business address of the company, with directions;
- business telephone number of the company;
- address of the impound lot if it is different than the company address;
- hours of operation of the business; and
- type of towing equipment available.

4-216 CCSO AUTHORIZED TOW SERVICES; REQUIREMENTS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR SERVICES, AND APPLICATION

The Authorized Tow Services Requirements, Rules, Regulations and Schedule of Fees for Services Form #397 and the Application for Authorized Tow Services Program Form #395, will be maintained by the Traffic Operations Supervisor.

The Traffic Operations Supervisor will make available in each district station copies of these documents for the use of the staff and the general public.

The Traffic Operations Supervisor will notify Agency personnel (Communications, Records, Commander of Property Management, division commanders, etc.) of all necessary information (telephone number, address, directions to tow service or any other relevant information) when tow services are added, deleted or changed.

Traffic Operations officers will be knowledgeable of and maintain a familiarity with the entirety of these documents. Other officers and Communications personnel will be cognizant of the fact that amongst other regulations, these documents require the following to be adhered to:

- the promise of, or giving of, any special favor or gift by any tow service, or tow service employee or owner to any CCSO employee is prohibited. Such activity must be immediately reported to Office of Professional Responsibility, and may be subject to disciplinary action;
- tow company equipment or personnel are not permitted to respond to the scene of Charles County Sheriff's Office operations unless requested to do so by CCSO personnel;
- tow company personnel must respond in a timely fashion, obeying all traffic laws. They must provide an estimated time of arrival when they are called. Failure to respond in a timely manner will result in their request being canceled and another tow service being called to the scene;
- tow service personnel will remove from the highway any glass or other injurious substance dropped from a wrecked or damaged vehicle in compliance with Maryland Vehicle Law (TR § 21-1111(c)). Medical waste will be removed or washed down by the Fire Service and hazardous materials and fluids will be the



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responsibility of County Roads or the State Highway Administration;

- tow service personnel will cooperate fully with Sheriff's Office personnel, and will not leave the scene of our operations until released by the officer in charge of the scene.

4-217 TOWING AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES

This section describes the procedures to be followed for the towing of a vehicle. Officers should refer to this section when a vehicle may be towed. Examples of such situations include:

- Vehicle is being seized for Sheriff's Office purposes (such as a search warrant or asset forfeiture).
- Vehicle is an unsafe location and must be moved.

4-217.1 DEFINITIONS

In this section, the following words and phrases have the meanings given:

Exceptional Circumstance: unusual, unexpected, or unforeseen situation or occurrence

Safe Location: a location that does not pose any traffic safety concern.

Storage/ Store: the placing and keeping of a vehicle in Sheriff's Office custody. Vehicles may be stored at either the Forensic Science Section or the Annex.

Tow: the removal of a vehicle from one location to another.

Tow Program: the list of approved towing vendors maintained by the Sheriff's Office.

Unsafe Location: a location that poses a traffic safety concern.

4-217.2 TOWING FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE PURPOSE

A vehicle may be taken into Sheriff's Office custody for either evidentiary or forfeiture reasons. The vehicle will be towed to either the Forensic Science Section or the Annex. The officer will have Communications contact the next towing vendor from the Sheriff's Tow Program.

If the vehicle is being taken into custody for asset forfeiture, the officer will conduct an inventory search pursuant to 4-217.2.5. Inventory searches should not be completed if a vehicle is stored for evidentiary purposes and a search warrant is pending.

The storing officer will be responsible for submitting all tow bills to the Commander, Property Management Section for processing and payment through Accounting. Towing of vehicles between the FSS and the Annex are handled through a contract which is managed by the Commander, Property Management.

4-217.2.1 VEHICLES STORED FOR EVIDENTIARY PURPOSES

There are occasions when motor vehicles require processing for evidence collection. When a vehicle must be maintained in a secure facility pending processing, the vehicle should be towed and stored in the secure fenced-in lot at the Annex or the Forensic Science Section Crime Lab.

When a vehicle is stored at the FSS or Annex, the storing officer is responsible to take reasonable measures to



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ensure the stored vehicle is not damaged. Tarps or other forms of covering shall be used to ensure vehicles are protected from inclement weather and all operable windows shall be closed.

If a vehicle is to be stored at the FSS during business hours, the storing officer will make appropriate arrangements with FSS technicians when storing the vehicle. If a vehicle will be stored at the FSS after normal business hours, the storing officer will access the rear door of the lab using his Agency key card and then disarm the alarm.

If a motor vehicle is towed to and stored at the Forensic Science Section facility, the following procedures will be followed:

- A Stored / Processed Vehicle Report, Form #518, will be completed by the storing officer, indicating why the vehicle was stored and what processing is requested;
- The Stored / Processed Vehicle Report will be placed in a designated tray inside the FSS evidence bay along with the keys to the vehicle, if available;
- The storing officer will use the Police Mobile "Traffic Vehicle" button to access the "Impound" button. The storing officer will complete all the fields in the "Impound" entry screen. The storing officer will print a copy of the Vehicle Impound and attach it to the tow bill which shall be left at the FSS facility and emailed to the Commander, Property Management;
- Depending on what type of processing is requested, vehicles may be stored either in the secure fenced-in lot at the FSS or in the evidence bay at the FSS;
- If the exterior of the vehicle is to be processed for evidence (i.e., latent fingerprints, blood, etc.) the vehicle must be secured inside the evidence bay;
- If the exterior of the vehicle is to be processed and there is no space inside the evidence bay, the vehicle may be secured inside the secure fenced-in lot at the FSS facility. However, the Deputy Director, FSS must be contacted immediately to make arrangements to have the vehicle moved into the evidence bay as soon as space can be made available;
- Vehicles which do not require the exterior to be processed may be stored in the secure fenced-in lot at the FSS.

If a vehicle is towed to the FSS and the Stored / Processed Vehicle Report, Form #518, is not completed, FSS technicians will attempt to determine who stored the vehicle at the FSS and why it was stored.

Once FSS technicians have completed their work, an FSS member shall contact the contracted tow provider to retrieve the vehicle. The contracted tow provider shall deliver the vehicle to the Annex. Once the vehicle arrives at the Annex, the Commander, Property Management shall be responsible to release the vehicle to the lawful owner. If an FSS member encounters an exceptional circumstance, approval must be obtained from the CID Division Commander to release the vehicle from the FSS Crime Lab facility. The release of vehicles from the Crime Lab should be rare and completed by a sworn officer at the facility.

4-217.2.2 VEHICLES STORED FOR ASSET FORFEITURE PURPOSES

When a vehicle is stored in connection with drug related violations and the officer intends to initiate forfeiture proceedings, the vehicle will be towed to and stored inside the fenced area of Property Management. The seizing



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officer will conduct an inventory search pursuant to 4-217.2.5.

4-217.2.3 RELEASE OF VEHICLES FROM STORAGE

Vehicles stored at an Agency facility shall only be released by the Commander, Property Management or his designee. It is important to this process that the original storing officer complete the "Impound" screen in Police Mobile in its entirety, to include the "YES" and "NO" check boxes for Forfeiture and Release.

UNCLAIMED VEHICLES:

If a Notice of Stored Vehicle form #068 is returned from the postal service marked "unclaimed" or "undelivered," Records will forward the returned notice to the Field Operations Section Secretary. Upon the request of Commander, Property Management, the Traffic Operations Supervisors will take the steps necessary to issue a "CS 78" for disposal of the vehicle.

4-217.2.4 OFFICER AND STATION TECHNICIAN RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN STORING VEHICLES AT THE ANNEX

Whenever a vehicle is stored at an Agency facility, the storing officer shall use the Police Mobile "Traffic Vehicle" button to access the "Impound" function. The storing officer will complete all the fields in the "Impound" entry screen. An automatic email will go to the Police Station Technicians who will complete a Form #068 and send the form to the registered owner. The storing officer will print out a copy of the Vehicle Storage Form and leave it with the tow bill and vehicle keys at the location the vehicle was stored, either the Annex or FSS.

The officer shall also be responsible for the following:

- Checking the vehicle for wanted/ stolen;
- Determining the lawful owner; and
- Attempting to contact the last registered owner in person or by telephone.

Unless a search warrant will be executed to search the vehicle, the storing officer shall conduct an inventory search of the vehicle. The results of the inventory must be documented in the "Inventory" section of Vehicle Impound in Police Mobile. Procedures for conducting an inventory search are described in 4-217.2.5.

4-217.2.5 VEHICLE INVENTORY PROCEDURES (CCSO STORAGE)

When conducting an inventory search of a vehicle as required in this section, officers shall:

- Inventory all property of value in the passenger compartment of the vehicle; and
- Inventory all property of value contained in installed storage areas of the vehicle (i.e., glove compartments, consoles, map pockets, saddle bags, permanently mounted "tool" boxes, etc.); and
- Inventory all property of value contained in the luggage compartment of the vehicle (i.e., trunk, roof carrier, etc.).

Officers may open any closed, but unlocked, portable containers found in the stored vehicle for the purpose of confirming and documenting the contents thereof (e.g., camera cases, suitcases, toolboxes, briefcases, tackle boxes, etc.). If the container is locked, the container itself shall be documented and described as locked.

Dependent upon the type of property located, it will either remain in the vehicle or be placed in Property Held. Items such as jewelry, weapons and electronic equipment will be placed in Property Held. The results of the



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inventory search shall be recorded in the Vehicle Impound in Police Mobile. All contents of the vehicle, especially items of value, should be documented in the Vehicle Impound. Tools, clothing and the like may remain in the vehicle, provided the property is secure and protected from the elements.

Should any contraband or evidence be discovered, it shall be seized and documented in accordance with Sections 4-500 and 5-100 of this Manual.

The inventory process should include an examination of the exterior of the vehicle. Any damage existing at the time of storage should be noted to protect the Agency against a subsequent claim that the vehicle was damaged while in police custody.

If the owner / operator is present, the officer should review the contents of the inventory with the owner/operator.

4-217.3 TOWING OF VEHICLES FOR OTHER THAN CCSO PURPOSES

This subsection describes procedures to be followed in situations when officers must make a decision involving a vehicle that doesn't involve taking a vehicle into Sheriff's Office custody.

4-217.3.1 VEHICLE IN A SAFE LOCATION

If the vehicle is in a safe location, the officer will leave the car. If the owner / operator requests, the officer may have Communications contact the next available vendor in the Tow Program to tow the vehicle. In either case, a note must be added to the call sheet that explains what was done with the vehicle.

4-217.3.2 VEHICLE IN AN UNSAFE LOCATION

Only in exceptional circumstances shall an officer operate a citizen's vehicle and the officer shall obtain supervisory approval before doing so.

Owner / operator present or in contact with the officer:

Absent exceptional circumstances, if the vehicle is operable (including properly registered/insured) the owner/operator will be given the opportunity to arrange for a licensed driver to respond and remove the vehicle within a reasonable period of time. Officers should consult with a supervisor over how long to wait, but, in general, the amount of time should not be considerably greater than the amount of time it would take for a tow truck to arrive.

If the vehicle is inoperable (including lack of registration/insurance), the officer should permit the owner/ operator to contact a tow company the owner/operator chooses. A tow provider selected by the owner/operator must be able to respond within 30 minutes. If the owner/operator does not have a preferred tow provider, or the provider cannot respond in time, the officer will have Communications contact the next available vendor in the Tow Program to tow the vehicle.

In some instances, the circumstances surrounding the operator's right to have possession of the vehicle could be called into question. In circumstances where the operator either does not know who owns the vehicle or other evidence gives the officer R.A.S. to believe the operator does not have permission to have possession of the vehicle, the officers may request a tow instead of allowing the operator to make arrangements for the vehicle. When this is done the officer should complete a Vehicle Impound in Police Mobile and note the reasons the vehicle was towed instead of allowing the operator to make arrangements.

Release of the vehicle, including any tow or storage fees, is a matter between the owner and the tow provider. In either case, a note must be added to the call sheet that describes what was done with the vehicle.



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Owner / operator not present, unavailable or incapacitated:

The officer will have Communications contact the next available vendor in the Tow Program to tow the vehicle. The officer will complete a Vehicle Impound in Police Mobile and conduct an inventory search as described in 4-217.3.3.

4-217.3.3 VEHICLE INVENTORY PROCEDURES (NON-CCSO STORAGE)

When conducting an inventory search of a vehicle as required in this section, officers shall:

- Inventory all property of value in the passenger compartment of the vehicle; and
- Inventory all property of value contained in installed storage areas of the vehicle (i.e., glove compartments, consoles, map pockets, saddle bags, permanently mounted "tool" boxes, etc.); and
- Inventory all property of value contained in the luggage compartment of the vehicle (i.e., trunk, roof carrier, etc.).

Officers may open any closed, but unlocked, portable containers found in the stored vehicle for the purpose of confirming and documenting the contents thereof (e.g., camera cases, suitcases, toolboxes, briefcases, tackle boxes, etc.). If the container is locked, the container itself shall be documented and described as locked.

The property will remain with the vehicle. Property of value will be recorded in the Vehicle Impound on Police Mobile. Should any contraband or evidence be discovered, it shall be seized and documented in accordance with Sections 4-500 and 5-100 of this Manual.

The inventory process should include an examination of the exterior of the vehicle. Any damage existing at the time of storage should be noted.

4-217.3.4 STORED VEHICLE OF UNKNOWN OWNER(S)

Whenever a vehicle is stored and the last registered owner is unknown, the storing officer will be responsible for the following:

- Ensure the vehicle impound form indicates the owner is unknown
- Ensure a 50 state query of the VIN is conducted and attach all replies to the vehicle impound card and forward to Traffic Operations.

4-217.4 DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES

Vehicles owned by a person who enjoys diplomatic immunity will not be stored unless requested by the diplomat. If necessary, a wrecker will be called to move the vehicle. However, the vehicle will be moved no further than the closest available legal parking place. The investigating officer shall send the tow bill through the chain of command to Finance.

4-218 RESERVED PARKING AT HEADQUARTERS AND THE DETENTION CENTER

4-218.1 GENERAL POLICY

Some reserve parking spaces have been established.

Those officers / civilians assigned an individual parking space shall park in the assigned space.

Those spaces marked police vehicles are for police vehicles only.

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(See also: Chap. 6-600)

Many of the functions of the Charles County Sheriff's Office require employees to use Agency vehicles. The purpose of this section, and associated sections of the Manual, is to provide guidance and regulation for that use. No part of these sections is intended to supplant vehicle law or other law governing the use and operation of vehicles in general. The intent of these sections is to provide additional guidance and regulation, in supplement to law.

The use of Charles County Sheriff's Office vehicles, off-duty, may occur under the conditions established in this policy. Off-duty use is not a condition of employment nor an assurance or guarantee of any kind. Such use may be individually or summarily limited, suspended or revoked as may, in the opinion of the Sheriff, be in the best interests of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

4-219.1 MANDATORY USE OF SAFETY RESTRAINT DEVICES

Employees operating Charles County Sheriff's Office or other County vehicles shall wear the available seat belt or seat and shoulder harness combination in compliance with Maryland vehicle laws. These devices shall be used in the intended manner as indicated in the manufacturer's manual for the vehicle. At no time shall the seat belt alert chime be deactivated in an agency vehicle. It shall be the responsibility of the employee operating the vehicle to require the use of seat belt or seat and shoulder harness combination by all passengers within the vehicle. Prisoners being transported in a vehicle shall be secured utilizing the safety restraints provided in the transport vehicle. Only in emergency situations requiring an immediate removal from a scene will more persons be transported than there are seat positions with these devices available.

Children will not be transported, except in an emergency, unless they are restrained as required by the Maryland Vehicle Law. Child safety seats shall not be in the passenger compartment while the vehicle is being used on-duty unless the officer's assignment necessitates its presence or the officer is transporting a child requiring use of such a seat by Vehicle Law. Child safety seats will not be used in the front seat if there is an air bag for the right front seat.

4-219.2 EMPLOYEE VEHICLE ASSIGNMENTS

This Agency has a personally assigned vehicle program. Under this program, it is anticipated each full-time sworn police officer will be assigned a particular vehicle for use during both on-duty and off-duty hours. Certain civilian and correctional officer positions may also be assigned a particular vehicle for use during both on-duty and off-duty hours. Any employee who is assigned a vehicle under this program is responsible for the care, service, and maintenance of that vehicle and all associated equipment as required by the policies of this Agency.

Employees who are assigned a vehicle and who live outside the geographical boundaries of Charles County must park the vehicle in Charles County at the completion of their tour of duty, unless prior written permission of an Assistant Sheriff has been obtained. Permitted parking locations include:

- Charles County Sheriff's Facilities and Charles County Fire or Rescue Stations;
- the Maryland Department of State Police Barrack in La Plata;
- Maryland Transportation Police Facilities within Charles County; or
- the private residence of another Sheriff's Office Employee.

The employee who parks a vehicle at one of these places must obtain permission from the person in charge of such facility or residence; and there must be reasonable security of the vehicle at the parking location. Permission shall be obtained in writing in order that there be no misunderstanding of the granting of permission at a later date. This permission letter shall be submitted to the employee's division commander / director, who will forward a copy to the



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Commander, Special Services Division and forward the original to Human Resources Section for inclusion in the employee's personnel file. Sworn police officers and Correctional Officers who are assigned Agency vehicles and who live outside Charles County may use the vehicle the same as employees residing in Charles County during their off-duty hours so long as they remain within the geographical confines of Charles County.

4-219.3 REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO DRIVE AGENCY VEHICLES OUT OF CHARLES COUNTY

In some cases, employees who reside outside of Charles County or the State of Maryland may be granted permission by an Assistant Sheriff, via a Request to Drive Agency Vehicle To Out of County Residence Form #530, to drive their assigned vehicles to and from work. This exception to the previously stated policy will be for the benefit of the Agency in providing for immediate response of an off-duty employee to an Agency need for that employee's presence at a work assignment. When this authorization is granted, and the employee is not working in an official employment capacity, the vehicle will not be driven outside of Charles County, except for the authorized travel to and from work.

Executive Command Staff members, who are by the nature of their responsibilities required to respond and manage any situation which may require their attention, may operate their assigned vehicles when they are outside of Charles County, and are exempt from the completion of a Request to Drive Agency Vehicle To Out of County Residence Form #530.

The completed Request to Drive Agency Vehicle To Out of County Residence Form #530, will be forwarded through the requesting employee's commander/ director with the proper endorsements. The Form #530 will reflect the address outside of Charles County where the employee resides (or will reside if the request applies to an anticipated move) and plans to park the vehicle. The authorized employee will be able to take their agency vehicle home if they reside anywhere within the geographical boundaries of the following counties and city:

Within Maryland: St. Mary's County, Calvert County, and Prince George's County

Within Virginia: King George County, Westmoreland County, and the City of Alexandria

The request will also contain the name of a supervisor who has verified the employee's residence is within the geographical boundaries of the authorized counties and city. The verifying supervisor will recommend approval or disapproval of the request prior to it being forwarded to the section commander and division commander / director. The division commander / director will forward requests to an Assistant Sheriff for approval. Recommendations for approval or disapproval will be noted on the form.

Upon approval, requests will be distributed by the Assistant Sheriff or his designee in the following manner:

- original to HR;
- copy to the employee's section commander;
- copy to the employee's division commander/ director;
- copy to the Commander, Special Services Division; and
- copy to the employee.

Employees are encouraged to purchase and maintain a personal umbrella insurance policy, particularly those employees utilizing Agency vehicles out of state. Although Maryland law places limits on damages in most claims against government agencies and officials, other states' laws do not. An umbrella policy would provide protection to an employee should a civil judgment exceed the scope of the County's insurance coverage.



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4-219.4 OFF-DUTY USE OF ASSIGNED VEHICLES

In order for the Sheriff to reasonably and accurately evaluate the costs and benefits of the off-duty use of Agency vehicles, employees are required to report their activities during off-duty use of Agency vehicles. Officers will report via radio transmission each instance where the officer performs some Agency activity off-duty. Communications shall record this activity the same as on-duty activities are recorded, except it shall be noted the activity was performed by an off-duty unit. Reportable activities include, but are not limited to:

- response to a radio call for service;
- backup of an on-duty unit;
- self-initiated enforcement activity;
- observation and reporting of traffic hazards; i.e., traffic signal malfunction, trees down in the roadway, road defects needing repair, traffic signs needing repair and so forth;
- assisting a stranded motorist; or
- providing directions and information.

All mileage accumulated on Agency vehicles will be documented and submitted to Fleet Management each month with the link provided on the Agency Intranet. Each division or component assigned pool vehicles is responsible for the on- or off-duty use of that vehicle as explained in Section 4-224.

Employees who have obtained permission, through approval of a request to work secondary employment using an Agency vehicle, may drive that vehicle to and from the secondary employment location. The vehicle may also be used for the commute to and from assigned court appearances, Agency training and other administrative assignments and duties.

No employee may operate a vehicle outside of the geographical boundaries of Charles County, Maryland, when that employee is not working in an official employment capacity, unless such operation is in conformance with a specific exception or condition granted elsewhere in this policy. Executive Command Staff members, including those in the Corrections Division, who are by the nature of their responsibilities required to respond and manage any situation which may require their attention, may operate their assigned vehicles when they are outside of Charles County, so long as they are within a reasonable distance, which would allow them to respond and attend to their duties.

Civilian employees will not utilize Agency vehicles during off-duty hours except to commute to and from their required duties or as specifically authorized in writing by the Sheriff.

4-219.5 CONDITIONS OF USE

Employees operating vehicles under this section will adhere to the following conditions of use:

- Vehicles will not be taken outside of Charles County unless specifically authorized by command personnel (command personnel may authorize such out-of-County use only for a specific “benefit of the Agency” purpose; and no exception to the dictates of 4-219.3, regarding employees residing outside of Charles County, may be authorized, except by written permission of an Assistant Sheriff.
- Sworn Police and Correctional Officers who reside out of the county are permitted to use their Agency vehicle to commute to and from a work-out facility, gym, or Agency designated fitness area, provided the facility or gym is within Charles County, within a five (5) mile radius of their home, or within one (1) mile or less of their regular and reasonable commute to and from their assigned on-duty work or Agency approved location.



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- Objects will not be attached to the installed safety screen within the vehicle which will interfere with the driver's view from the vehicle (particularly those which may prohibit safe backing of the vehicle).
 - Vehicles will not be used in conjunction with secondary employment unless the vehicle use has been noted on approved Secondary Employment Request Form #185 completed and approved in conjunction with the secondary employment.
 - Vehicles will not be left unattended for any prolonged period. This does not preclude employees going into a building with the vehicle parked outside in order to attend to activities therein. Vehicles will not be left at any location for the purpose of the employee receiving money, goods, services or a profit of any kind, because of that vehicle's placement.
 - Operation of vehicles at any time when the employee operator has consumed or has in his blood any amount of an alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
 - Vehicles will not be used to carry excessive loads or protruding objects, unless transporting found or recovered property.
 - The police radio will be monitored and kept on the frequency for the area in which the vehicle is being operated.
 - Sworn police officers will attend to matters of an immediate nature which may require enforcement action and come to their attention during the off-duty operation of a Sheriff's Office or County vehicle. For incidents not requiring immediate action, an on-duty officer may be requested.
 - All sworn police officers who are assigned an Agency vehicle for their use during off-duty hours will notify Communications of any off-duty police action they perform.
 - Employees who are not fit or capable of performing their duties shall not operate a marked Agency vehicle.
 - Civilian employees will not operate vehicles in an emergency response mode unless such operation is specifically authorized as a part of their position description and the employee has been formally trained in emergency vehicle operation as recorded in the training records of the Agency.
 - Civilian employees will not operate Agency vehicles outside Charles County unless such operation is required by their duties, they are commuting to and from work in accordance with an approved Request to Drive Agency Vehicle To Out of County Residence Form #530 or such operation has been approved in writing by the Sheriff.
 - Civilian employees will be familiar with the operation of the police radio and will utilize the radio in an emergency situation to notify the PCO of such emergency.
 - Civilian and Sworn Correctional Officer employees who are authorized to utilize Agency vehicles off-duty or to commute to or from work must comply with Internal Revenue Service requirements to report such use as income. The reporting of this income shall be coordinated through the Commander/ Director, Administrative Services.

Violation of any part of this policy may subject the employee to disciplinary action.

4-219.6 OFF-DUTY VEHICLE USE DRESS CODE

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Employees operating Agency vehicles off-duty, with the exception of undercover or covert vehicles, will be attired and groomed in a fashion which does not bring discredit upon the Office of the Sheriff. Clothing and footwear shall be functional; i.e., it is of such a design as to allow the employee to perform the duties required of his position, the same as if the employee were in an on-duty status. This prohibits the wearing of flip flops, sandal or high-heel type shoes and the wearing of shirts or "T" shirts which have no sleeves or are designed with just shoulder straps of any width, or a complete lack of over-the-shoulder material. No clothing which makes a social, political, racial, religious, or life-style statement of any kind, in words or in art form, will be worn. Any baseball type hat shall be worn with the visor portion facing directly forward. Wearing the hat with the visor off to one side or to the back is prohibited.

Clothing will match the weather in order that the employee will be prepared to withstand the current conditions outside the vehicle for a prolonged period of time. Employees will be prepared to fulfill their on-duty responsibilities whenever they arise while the employee is operating an Agency vehicle off-duty.

4-219.7 PERSONS TO BE ALLOWED IN SHERIFF'S VEHICLES

The use and access to Sheriff's vehicles is enabled and limited as follows:

- Sheriff's Office employees may routinely operate vehicles as necessary for the official performance of their duties, so long as the operating employee possesses the proper license for the vehicle operated and the vehicle is operated in accordance with Maryland Vehicle Law and the provisions of this Manual.
- In on-duty operations, employees may transport such persons as may be necessary to fulfill the work responsibility of the employee. In these cases the PCO will be advised the vehicle is in a transport condition. If it is appropriate, because of liability considerations, the location of the start of the transport and the beginning mileage of the transport will be announced to the PCO. The PCO in these cases will acknowledge the mileage report with a time check. In such cases the ending mileage and the location will be announced and acknowledged by a time check from the PCO. In all cases the transporting employee will announce the completion of a transport to the PCO.
- No person, who is not an employee of the Sheriff, or a mechanic who must test drive a vehicle as a part of authorized repair work, or has been specifically authorized by the Sheriff, will be allowed to operate Agency vehicles.
- Off-duty travel in a Sheriff's Office vehicle will be permitted for members of the employee's immediate family and Agency personnel. In addition, other passengers may be permitted subject to the written approval of the employee's commander/ director. Immediate family, for the purpose of this section, includes the employee's spouse, children and parents.
- Insurance coverage for passengers is limited; i.e., passenger injuries sustained as a result of employee driver error may become the financial responsibility of the employee driver. Employees should consider this factor when deciding who they will permit to be a passenger during off-duty use of the vehicle.

4-219.8 ANIMALS IN VEHICLES

Employees will not transport animals within a Sheriff's Office or County vehicle unless the animal is a police K-9, Agency Comfort Canine or the animal is being transported for medical treatment.

4-219.9 RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS WHILE PASSENGERS ARE ABOARD

Employees will take all possible steps to ensure the safety of persons transported in Agency vehicles. If there is a need to respond priority to a scene or there is probable danger for passengers at a scene, the employee will



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disembark passengers at a safe location prior to responding. Officers will consider the level of threat to passengers before initiating any law enforcement activities while accompanied by passengers.

When disembarking passengers, the employee will consider the safety and well-being of those passengers as a result of being left at a particular location. If employees disembark passengers in order to attend to a law enforcement function, they will advise the PCO of the location of passengers and the PCO will attempt to provide for their pick up if the disembarking employee is engaged in work activities for an extended period of time.

4-219.10 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

All supervisory personnel will be continually aware of employees operating Agency vehicles in their presence. Any supervisor who observes an employee operating an Agency vehicle in a discourteous manner or a manner that is not in compliance with law or the provisions of this Manual will take corrective action.

Corrective action may take the form of:

- an immediate counseling (may be documented on the Employee Corrective Action Form #180B using the procedures outlined in this Manual for that form) of the employee and recommendation for corrective action to be taken by the employee; and/or
- an informal or formal notification of the employee's supervisor concerning the circumstances surrounding the operation of the vehicle; and/or
- the placing of formal charges against the employee for violation of Agency rules or law; and/or
- in emergency circumstances, the retrieval of the vehicle from the employee's possession with immediate notification to the Sheriff of the circumstances requiring the retrieval.

Supervisors will continually conduct, on a regular basis, a review of the provisions of this Manual governing the use of Agency vehicles. Supervisors will see that changes in these policies, or the vehicle laws which come to their attention, are brought to the attention of employees whom they supervise in a timely manner. Training sessions, conducted in accordance with this section, will:

- be recorded by the supervisor on a Report of Training Form #182 and submitted to the Commander, Training Division;
- have the record of such training maintained by the Commander, Training Division in a file established for such training;
- have a list of the employees attending, the subject matter of the training session, any discussion items or problems discovered and how they were addressed, maintained in the Training file;
- require the Commander, Training Division to address such subject matter which may be of interest to the Agency as a whole in the construction of Agency-wide training programs;
- require the file to contain a record of the date and length of the training session.

Supervisors will regularly inspect vehicles assigned to employees under their command and will be continually aware of the general condition of these vehicles. As a part of this inspection, the supervisor will operate the vehicle. These inspections shall be documented on the Monthly Inspection Form #75. Supervisors who are aware of the potential loss of resources represented by an employee who fails to properly care for, service or maintain a vehicle



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assigned to the employee, will notify the Sheriff through the chain of command.

In cases where the employee will be absent from work for a period exceeding 30 calendar days, the division commander/ director of the employee may make arrangements through the Commander, Property Management, to place the vehicle in a pool status or in more permanent storage. This will be accomplished by removing any of the assigned employee's personal equipment.

4-219.11 PARKING REGULATIONS

Employees operating Agency vehicles will observe all parking regulations, except in emergency circumstances requiring deviation. In these emergency instances, the employee will:

- park the vehicle in the least hazardous location possible with consideration for traffic and other emergency vehicle access to a scene; and
- place the vehicle's parking flashers on; and
- activate the vehicle's emergency lights if the hazards of the location suggest such activation; and
- ensure the security of the vehicle by locking it if it is to be unattended.
- do not leave the vehicle unattended and running for any length of time. (Example: while taking report inside a business, vehicle will be secured and turned off.)

In general, if the vehicle is to be parked and left unattended, the employee should secure the contents of the vehicle to the degree possible by placing valuable or easily stolen objects in the trunk.

4-219.12 VEHICLE ESCORTS

The operation of an Agency vehicle in its emergency response mode to escort another vehicle is prohibited. Escorts of other vehicles in a non-emergency response mode may be made with due consideration for the fact no special exception to the vehicle law is provided to the escorted vehicle by the escort. In a funeral escort for example, the Agency employee must take steps to ensure traffic has seen the escort and will stop or behave in the anticipated manner in response to the escort.

4-219.13 SURVEILLANCE VEHICLES

A pool of vehicles will be maintained to support the surveillance activities of the Agency. These vehicles will be under the responsibility of the Commander, Criminal Investigations Division. The care and maintenance will be in accordance with policies pertaining to other pool vehicles which are not personally assigned to a particular employee but are assigned to the use of a particular unit of the Agency. The following specific conditions apply to surveillance vehicles:

- surveillance vehicles will be utilized for on- duty assignments only; and
- sworn police officers will not occupy surveillance vehicles while that employee is in uniform; and
- surveillance vehicles will not be used to conduct traffic stops; and
- surveillance vehicles will not be conspicuously parked, such as in reserved parking spaces, at police facilities; and



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- criminal arrests and transports will not be made in surveillance vehicles unless dictated by emergency circumstances.

4-220 OPERATION OF AGENCY MOTORCYCLES

The police motorcycle has long been recognized as an effective tool in law enforcement's effort to provide service to its citizens. Agency motorcycles will be deployed primarily for patrol and selective traffic enforcement duties, with the primary objective of promoting traffic safety. With the approval of the Commander, Special Operations Division, Agency motorcycles may be used for specialized functions such as parades, escorts or crowd control.

Selected officers assigned to Traffic Operations will use Agency motorcycles as their primary patrol vehicles. Only those officers who have received approved training will be assigned responsibility for an Agency motorcycle. Officers assigned an Agency motorcycle will be responsible for its upkeep and regular maintenance as required for any other issued vehicle. The Traffic Operations Supervisor shall be responsible for the monthly inspection of Agency motorcycles. Motorcycle officers shall wear required safety equipment when operating these vehicles.

Motorcycles will be used only on the day and evening shifts. They will not be used during the midnight or relief shift unless specifically authorized by the Commander, Special Operations Division for a specific purpose. When officers who are assigned Agency motorcycles are prohibited from using them as outlined in this policy, the officers shall use their assigned cars.

4-220.1 PROHIBITIONS

Because of the limitations imposed by the design of motorcycles, some functions of police patrol should not be delegated to officers using these vehicles. The following circumstances, conditions and uses are prohibited:

- motorcycles shall not engage in high-speed pursuit of vehicles, except in the most exigent circumstances, and only until relieved by a patrol vehicle;
- motorcycles shall not be used for any transport function, whether the assigned operator is on-duty or off-duty;
- motorcycles shall not be used during periods of freezing precipitation or when road surfaces contain snow or ice;
- motorcycles shall not be used during periods when fog or smoke significantly limit driving visibility;
- officers riding motorcycles shall not be assigned the investigation of a vehicle crash during periods when it is raining; and
- Commanders and supervisors may expand these prohibitions in cases where they believe a particular use is unduly hazardous.

It is generally expected officers using Agency motorcycles will perform most of the functions other Traffic Operations officers using cars perform.

4-220.2 OFF-DUTY USE OF MOTORCYCLES

Motorcycles may not be used in an off-duty capacity, except for transport to and from a maintenance facility or the periodic exercise of a motorcycle which has not received adequate on-duty use.



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When operating an Agency motorcycle the officer must be in uniform, unless prior approval by the Commander of SOD is granted for other clothing to be worn. Shorts are a prohibited garment and shall not be worn while operating an Agency motorcycle.

4-222 VEHICLE SERVICE PROCEDURES

- A. PURPOSE
- B. PROCEDURES
- C. VEHICLE REPAIR
- D. VEHICLE EMISSIONS
- E. FUELING PROCEDURES AND CONSUMPTION CONSERVATION
- F. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

A. PURPOSE

Routine vehicle service requirements shall not interfere with an employee's assigned duties, and shall be performed at any authorized service center. An authorized service center is a vehicle maintenance facility, a garage or a repair facility that specializes in vehicle repair and has been approved for use by the Fleet Manager. No supervisory approval is required for routine service.

B. PROCEDURES

All oil and transmission changes shall be performed at an authorized service center. Unless otherwise directed by the Fleet Manager, routine oil and oil filter changes and lubrication will be performed every 5,000 miles for all Agency vehicles. Unless otherwise directed by the Fleet Manager, routine transmission service and air filter changes will be performed every 25,000 miles for Agency vehicles with the exception of the Dodge Durango. The Dodge Durango has a sealed transmission that will be serviced at 50,000 intervals (air filter will remain 25,000). Vehicle tire rotations will be performed every 10,000 miles for all Agency vehicles. Diesel powered vehicles will follow the guidelines provided with the vehicle. The Fleet Manager shall supply each person responsible for the maintenance of a vehicle with the routine service schedule for that vehicle. Oil needed between regular oil changes is obtained from Fleet Services. Supervisors may approve commercial purchase in emergency situations.

When a vehicle needs service or repair, the employee shall take the vehicle to an authorized service center. Most businesses that service an Agency vehicle submit their bills to the Fleet Manager electronically. Invoices from approved vendors must be submitted to the Accounting Section for payment within 30 days from the date of service. However, if an employee receives a bill at the time of a vehicle repair, the employee shall forward the bill to the Fleet Manager within 72 hours of the service. Along with the invoice, the employee must include or attach the following information, if not already on the invoice:

1. Vehicle ID#
2. Vehicle tag#
3. Vehicle mileage
4. Printed employee's name
5. Employee's signature authorizing payment

The Fleet Manager will monitor routine vehicle service to ensure compliance.

SECURITY AND REMOVAL OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT FROM AGENCY VEHICLE DURING REPAIR OR SERVICE

1. **Sensitive Equipment Defined:** For purposes of this policy, sensitive equipment is defined as all firearms,



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magazines, ammunition, less-lethal weapons, MDT, BWC and body armor. Officers are encouraged to exercise good judgement with respect to security of issued equipment outside of this definition.

2. **Removal of Sensitive Equipment:** All sensitive equipment will be secured or removed from the vehicle before leaving the vehicle for repair or service work, or any unauthorized personnel have access to the vehicle outside of the officer's presence.
3. **Secure Storage:** Removed firearms should be stored in a secure location, preferably a locked safe or secured location inaccessible to unauthorized individuals. For routine maintenance and repairs that are expected to be completed the same day, the fixed agency lockbox installed in some agency vehicles is considered secure storage. For repairs which require the vehicle to remain overnight, all sensitive equipment will be removed from the vehicle, and stored securely in accordance with the provisions of the Authorization to Carry Firearms policy found elsewhere in this manual. Those vehicles not equipped with a fixed lockbox will have all sensitive equipment removed prior to allowing non-agency employees access to the vehicle.

C. VEHICLE REPAIR

Minor repairs, such as bulb replacement, windshield wiper replacement, battery replacement and other minor repairs, should be accomplished at Fleet Services. Due to the cost savings of completing these repairs in house, officers should only use an outside vendor for these repairs with the approval of a supervisor.

Major repairs require approval of the Fleet Manager prior to the work being performed. The Commander, Property Management can be contacted in their absence. A listing of all authorized service centers is located on the CCSO Intranet under Property.

Once a vehicle is taken to an authorized service center for repair, excluding oil and transmission service, all decisions regarding the repair or maintenance of the vehicle are made by the Fleet Manager or the Commander, Property Management.

Tire replacement shall be accomplished at an authorized vendor.

If a vehicle is under warranty, the vehicle shall be repaired by an authorized dealer.

D. VEHICLE EMISSIONS

The State of Maryland requires most vehicles to comply with emissions standards. The Fleet Manager shall issue emissions notices with inspection coupons via interdepartmental mail to the assigned vehicle operator. A scanned copy of this notice will be sent via email to the vehicle operator along with a carbon copy (CC) to the section commander and immediate supervisor. Commanders will ensure vehicles are tested in a timely manner.

Employee responsibilities:

1. Once an employee receives an emissions coupon, the employee shall have their assigned vehicle tested within 30 days.
2. If an employee misplaces an emissions test coupon, the employee shall have their assigned vehicle tested at the employee's time and expense.

E. FUELING PROCEDURES AND CONSUMPTION CONSERVATION



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1. Fuel shall be obtained from the County supply unless otherwise authorized;
2. Fuel obtained from sources other than County supply shall be unleaded fuel not over 87 octane;
3. Each Agency vehicle will be assigned a gas key for the County supply tanks located at the La Plata District Station, Waldorf fueling station, Mattawoman Treatment Plant in Mason Springs and Public Facilities on Audie Lane off of Radio Station Road in La Plata;
4. Authorized vehicle operators will utilize an issued personal identification number (PIN) to dispense fuel in all Agency vehicles from County operated pumps;
5. Receipts for fuel purchases with outside vendors must be submitted to Fleet within 72 hours of the purchase and must include the vehicle ID and tag number;
6. Officers shall begin their tour-of-duty with a full tank of fuel. EXCEPTION: Officers may start without a full tank of gasoline; however, they must have adequate fuel to begin a tour-of-duty without immediately refueling;
7. The engine should be turned off when gasoline is being dispensed, or when the vehicle is parked and there is no need for power-drawing equipment to be activated;
8. Employee operators will refrain from unnecessary acceleration;
9. Employee operators will attempt to maintain a constant speed and keep within posted speed limits during normal driving.
10. The Agency Facilities Manager is the primary contact for any issues with the County fuel pumps 24/7. The Commander, Property Management will be contacted in his absence.

F. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

The following equipment shall be maintained in assigned vehicles:

1. Fire extinguisher
2. First aid kit
3. Two blankets
4. Camera with SD Card
5. Tape Measure
6. Authorized ammunition
7. Box of flares (no less than 12)
8. Personal protection kit
9. Latent fingerprint kit
10. Vehicle Lock Out Kit
11. TECC Kit
12. Stop Sticks
13. Traffic Safety Vest
14. Collapsible Ballistic Shield (Lieutenant and below)
15. Ballistic helmet

Additional equipment not listed above must be approved by the respective commander / director, in writing and will be maintained in the vehicle file.



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Employees are required to replenish the mandatory vehicle equipment to maintain operational readiness at all times. Following established procedures, mandatory vehicle equipment may be replenished through the Quartermaster by submitting an Agency Loss / Damage Report, Form #310. Or if an item becomes unserviceable through normal wear and at no fault of the officer, the officer shall be issued a replacement item as long as the officer surrenders the non-serviceable item at the time of reissue.

Used fire extinguishers will be turned in to the Quartermaster who will issue a new one. Replacement flares are stocked in designated storage areas at each district station. The administrative sergeants are responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of flares at each district station at all times and will coordinate re-stocking with the Quartermaster. Ammunition shall be replenished at the next firearms qualification or range practice day.

The use of the Monthly Inspection Form #75 will aid with ensuring vehicles are properly stocked.

INSTALLED EQUIPMENT

Employees are prohibited from making modifications to Agency vehicles to include, but not limited to:

1. Installing window tint,
2. Installing auxiliary lights,
3. Hanging items from the rear view mirror,
4. Applying unauthorized stickers / decals / magnets,
5. Utilizing any additional apparatus to hold or hang radio mics. Radios will be housed in the vehicle-equipped cradle.

Any special requests for modifications must be submitted in writing to the Commander, Property Management Section for approval. All requests will be tracked by Property Management and documentation of any approved modifications will be maintained in the vehicle file. Approved equipment must be securely positioned to remain in place during high-speed vehicle maneuvers and to protect the operator during a collision.

In recognition of those employees who have honorably served in the United States Military Services, the Agency will maintain a supply of vehicle military service decals that may be requested through the Commander, Property Management. The Commander, Property Management will manage the approval and placement of the decals on Agency vehicles.

Agency- authorized window tint in vehicles utilized for surveillance or other operational needs will be controlled by the Commander, Property Management.

All sworn agency vehicles will be inspected for proper equipment and function by the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, annually. This will be accomplished annually on the officers scheduled fit test / NEVO training day and will be coordinated by the Commander, Property Management. Officers will report to Fleet Services to have this safety check of installed emergency operations equipment.

4-223 MONTHLY INSPECTIONS AND REVIEWS OF DMVR RECORDINGS

Last Reviewed: 4/23/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
- C. REVIEWS OF DMVR RECORDINGS
- D. MONTHLY MILEAGE REPORT
- E. SPEEDOMETER CERTIFICATION
- F. MANDATORY VEHICLE INSPECTION



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A. PURPOSE

Supervisors with the rank of sergeant or above shall conduct monthly vehicle inspections and reviews of DMVR recordings to evaluate the performance of their subordinates, identify potential problem areas and training needs, monitor officers under the Personnel Early Warning System, and improve service quality to the community.

B. VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Each subordinate's vehicle shall be inspected individually, including sworn, corrections, civilian, or pool (spare) vehicles in the supervisor's command and control. The results of that inspection shall be recorded on the Monthly Inspection Form #75, submitted electronically through the chain of command to the respective division commander / director or his designee for review, and then forwarded to the Standards & Inspections Officer for disposition. Supervisors are reminded the condition of the vehicles in their charge is ultimately their responsibility.

Minor discrepancies discovered during the inspection shall be corrected immediately and the correction noted by the supervisor before forwarding the Form #75. In the case of discrepancies which cannot be immediately corrected, the supervisor shall note the correction on the next Form #75 indicating a reason for the continuing discrepancy and the actions taken by the supervisor to address it.

C. REVIEWS OF DMVR RECORDINGS

To conduct a review, each supervisor of sworn personnel will choose for review a random sampling of calls for service, assigned cases, or other citizen contacts. The supervisor will review videos from the assigned officer's digital mobile / audio records (DMVR), which include body-worn-cameras (BWC) and in-car cameras (ICC) to conduct the reviews. Supervisors of those officers assigned DMVR equipment shall review, on at least a monthly basis, a minimum of one BWC recording and one ICC recording from different events per assigned officer, to assist them in the preparation of performance ratings and will document this on the monthly inspections form (Form #75). More reviews may be conducted as the supervisor deems necessary to assist in evaluating or monitoring an officer. Examples of the types of incidents that qualify for a DMVR review include:

1. A patrol officer's response to a call for service;
2. Traffic stops and traffic crashes;
3. A detective's handling of an assigned case;
4. A Judicial Services officer's handling of a domestic violence case; and
5. A COPS officer's response to an assigned problem.

Supervisors may review the results of DMVR reviews with subordinates to provide immediate positive or negative feedback regarding the performance of their duties.

D. MONTHLY MILEAGE REPORT

Employees assigned or responsible for Agency vehicles will track the miles driven on those vehicles each month. First-line supervisors will be responsible for collecting their subordinates' mileage information and submitting it, along with their own, to Fleet, using the online link.

A Vehicle Maintenance / Mileage Worksheet Form is available on the intranet (Division links - Property – Fleet Management) to assist employees assigned a vehicle with tracking vehicle maintenance and mileage. This is for



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the employee's use only and is not submitted.

Other individual employees assigned or responsible for an Agency vehicle will submit their mileage using the online link.

Vehicle mileage information must be submitted to Fleet Management by the 5th of each month. Mileage information for the month of June shall be submitted on or before the first of July, instead of the fifth of the month, due to the need to close out the fiscal year budget which ends June 30 each year.

E. SPEEDOMETER CERTIFICATION

Division commanders / directors shall ensure vehicles used by personnel under their command in the enforcement of speed limit laws have the vehicle speedometer certified in order to provide valid evidence in court of the speed indicated on the speedometer. This certification shall be accomplished for each vehicle at the speeds of 35, 45, 55, 65 and 75 miles per hour. A vehicle speedometer shall be certified as soon as possible after the vehicle is acquired by the Agency, and before it is put into service in the enforcement of speed limit laws. The vehicle shall be recertified at least every four months thereafter, or whenever the vehicle experiences any maintenance or modification of its drive train or its speedometer.

All speedometer certifications shall be accomplished by an approved RADAR operator of this Agency who will be responsible to appear in court as necessary to testify to the validity of the certification process. Certification shall occur only on roadways having a posted speed limit of at least 50 miles per hour. The road surface shall be relatively level and straight, allowing for the observation of any possible conflicting traffic. The roadway will be dry and present no special hazards. The certification process shall be conducted in daylight hours when traffic is light.

The results of the certification process shall be recorded on the Speedometer Accuracy Certification Record Form #111. This card shall be maintained in the vehicle glove box except when it is removed to present in court.

F. MANDATORY VEHICLE INSPECTION

All Agency vehicles shall be inspected when they have accumulated 80,000 miles of operation. Follow-up inspections shall be performed at 125,000 miles and every 25,000 miles thereafter. This inspection shall be accomplished by a Maryland Certified Inspection Station. The Fleet Manager shall be contacted by the employee assigned the vehicle when the inspection is due and will coordinate inspections with the inspection station. It is the duty of the employee assigned the vehicle to ensure that the inspections are scheduled. The results of the inspection shall be submitted to the Fleet Manager.

4-224 UNASSIGNED (POOL) VEHICLES

Some Agency vehicles will be assigned to a division / component for those employees who need the temporary use of a vehicle. The commander / director of the division where these vehicles are assigned will delegate an employee to be responsible for the use and maintenance of these vehicles.

Employees who are assigned to care for a pool vehicle will be responsible for the record keeping for the pool vehicle, including maintenance, repairs, etc., and shall ensure the vehicle receives proper maintenance, is kept clean, is fueled, and is otherwise ready for use. All original bills, statements, and other records of repair for items addressed by this section shall be forwarded within 72 hours to the Fleet Manager upon completion of the repair. The invoice shall include the information detailed in the vehicle service policy.

Any employee who uses one of these vehicles will do so only with permission of a supervisor and will see that the vehicle is properly fueled, and the engine oil is at the correct level. The employee using the vehicle will remove all



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trash and belongings from the vehicle when the use of the vehicle is completed.

Documentation or record keeping such as sign-out logs or usage logs will be kept by the commander / director responsible for each vehicle. The Unassigned Vehicle Log Form #76 is available online for this purpose. Each commander / director assigned pool vehicles is responsible for maintaining knowledge of who was operating Agency pool vehicles at any given time.

Vehicle inspections of all pool (spare) vehicles shall be conducted monthly by supervisors or their designees. The results of that inspection shall be recorded on the Monthly Inspection Form #75 submitted electronically to the respective commander / director or his designee for review, and then forwarded to the Standards & Inspections Officer for disposition. Supervisors are reminded the condition of the vehicles in their charge is ultimately their responsibility.

Only the monthly mileage usage, based on listed procedures, is required to be submitted to Fleet.

No person may smoke or use tobacco products of any kind while occupying an Agency-owned vehicle.

4-225 DIGITAL MOBILE VIDEO / AUDIO RECORDERS (DMVR)

Last reviewed: September 5, 2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. SCOPE
- C. DMVR EQUIPMENT
- D. DMVR RECORDING
- E. CONFIDENTIALITY, ACCESS, STORAGE AND RELEASE OF DMVR RECORDINGS
- F. TRAINING
- G. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
- H. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

A. PURPOSE

This policy governs the use of digital mobile video / audio recorders (DMVR) by sworn Agency personnel. There are two basic forms of DMVR used by the Agency:

1. body-worn cameras (BWC)
2. in-car cameras (ICC)

The Agency has adopted the use of DMVRs for purposes that include, but are not limited to:

1. enhancing officer safety;
2. collecting evidence;
3. providing a supplement to personal testimony in court by recording actions, conditions and statements which can be used to aid in the prosecution of those who violate traffic and criminal laws;
4. allowing for the viewing of events as they occurred and providing corroboration of officers' actions/ testimony;
5. providing material to be used in performance evaluations;
6. providing an effective aid for training;
7. assisting in criminal and administrative investigations; and
8. documenting prisoner transports.



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B. SCOPE

Officers will use the DMVR to record incidents that occur between officers and the public.

1. Officers will follow the procedures for DMVR equipment use as set forth in this policy.
2. All officers will receive training on the operation and utilization of assigned DMVR equipment.
3. Video recordings are records that can be used as evidence.
4. Those reviewing video recordings must be aware of and consider the limitations of video recordings. These limitations include:
 - a) The camera does not follow an officer's eyes and does not see what the officer sees.
 - b) The video may have different lighting characteristics than what the officer experienced.
 - c) The video may not capture important danger cues perceived by the officer.
 - d) The video does not account for an officer's reactionary speed.
5. Officers issued a BWC will follow this policy while performing Uniformed Secondary Employment.
6. Officers are not required to have a BWC when off-duty. If an off-duty officer becomes involved in an incident where a BWC would normally be required, the officer shall notify dispatch of the off-duty status.
7. Officers will not attempt to erase, reuse, tamper with, or attempt to modify recordings in any way.

C. DMVR EQUIPMENT

Management & Maintenance

1. Routine care and maintenance of BWC & ICC equipment is the responsibility of the officer assigned the equipment. Equipment will be maintained in accordance with this policy and manufacturer recommendations.
2. Pool / spare vehicles equipped with ICC equipment will be maintained and inspected monthly by a supervisor based on the division and section assigned.
3. Only authorized technicians will install, repair and/or modify DMVR equipment.
4. The Information Technology Division (ITD) shall be responsible for the following:
 - a) Management of DMVR system software,
 - b) Maintenance of download stations and storage servers.
5. Fleet Management shall be responsible for issuing of all BWC and the management of all permanent installation, repairs and / or modifications of ICC equipment.
6. Only DMVR equipment acquired by the Charles County Sheriff's Office will be utilized by Agency employees and / or installed in Agency vehicles.
7. Fleet Management is responsible for inventorying BWCs, two batteries, accessory kit, AC adaptor, and home charger.



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Malfunctioning Equipment

Officers will perform functions tests of DMVR equipment as described elsewhere in this policy. Upon the discovery of malfunctioning equipment, the officer will immediately notify their supervisor and arrange to have the malfunction corrected.

If immediate repairs cannot be made and the officer is placed in service with malfunctioning DMVR equipment, notification will be made to Communications for documentation in the officer's tour card.

BWC

1. **Mandatory Equipment:** The use of Agency issued body-worn cameras is mandatory.
2. **Wear & Display:** BWCs will be worn in accordance with the Uniform and Equipment Usage SOP.
3. **Function Tests:** At the beginning of each shift, the officer will perform a function test of the BWC. The BWC must meet these requirements:
 - a) Both batteries should have full charges.
 - b) Has no recordings from a previous shift.
 - c) Has full recording capacity.
 - d) Has no visible damage.
 - e) Is operational and properly functioning.

ICC

1. **Mandatory Equipment:**
 - a) In-Car Cameras will be installed in all marked Agency vehicles and correctional transport Vehicles.
 - b) In-Car Cameras may be installed in unmarked Agency vehicles at the discretion of the appropriate Assistant Sheriff.
2. **Function Tests:**
 - a) At the beginning of each tour of duty, officers will open the Frontend program on their docked Agency laptop computer. This ensures the officer's ID is registered on the incidents recorded on the in-car camera.
 - This is especially important when an officer operates a spare vehicle, which may have different operators from day to day.
 - b) Operators of correctional transport vehicles will open the Frontend program using the docked Agency tablet. This ensures the vehicle's assigned ID is registered on the incidents recorded on the in-car camera.
 - Individual officers assigned to the transport will be listed in each call sheet.
 - c) At the beginning of each tour of duty and throughout their shift, officers will ensure the front vehicle camera is positioned correctly and the zoom function is operating as intended.
3. **Cameras:**



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- a) The mounting device for the front camera allows for manual adjustment vertically and laterally. Officers shall ensure cameras are positioned properly for each incident where a recording is being made.
 - b) The back-seat camera is a micro compact with wide angle and is pre-focused on the back seat area.
 - c) Correctional transport vehicle cameras are micro compact with wide angle and are pre-focused on each prisoner compartment, and rear loading areas of the vehicle.
 - d) To prevent damage, only microfiber cloths will be utilized to clean the camera lenses.
4. **Vehicle Microphone:** The internal microphones allow audio recording of normal speech within the interior of the vehicle, independent of the BWC / remote audio transmitter. The interior microphone actively records whenever the system is in the record mode.
5. **Back-up System Battery:** The back-up system battery will be replaced by fleet technicians every two years.

D. DMVR RECORDING

1. **DMVR Activation:** Recording is commenced either manually or automatically the following ways:
 - a) Manually:
 - The activation button on the BWC camera housing / remote transceiver is pressed.
 - The activation button on the front vehicle camera is pressed.
 - The record function is initiated in the DMVR software on the officer's MDT.
 - b) Automatically:
 - The opening of a rear passenger door of a caged patrol vehicle.
 - The activation of a vehicle's emergency lights.
 - A vehicle collision (**Note:** if the DMVR does not automatically activate after impact, officers will activate manually)
 - When vehicle reaches 85 mph.
2. **DMVR Mandatory Use:** Unless unsafe, impossible, or impractical to do so, officers shall activate their DMVR in the following circumstances:
 - a) At the initiation of a call for service or other activity that is investigative or enforcement in nature.
 - b) During an encounter between officers and a member of the public or an arrestee at the Charles County Detention Center that is investigative or enforcement in nature, including emergency commitments for mental health evaluations.
 - c) During any encounter that becomes confrontational after the initial contact.
 - d) All officers who respond to a call, regardless of being dispatched or not, shall activate their DMVR upon exiting their vehicle.
 - e) Tactical situations.
 - f) During search warrant executions where interactions with the public are reasonably foreseeable.
 - g) Transport of any persons in an Agency vehicle for official Agency business (not including agency approved ride-alongs).



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- h) If circumstances occur which make it unsafe, impossible, or impractical to begin DMVR recording at the onset of an encounter, the officer shall activate the DMVR at the first reasonable opportunity to do so.
3. **Exceptions:** If an officer's commander determines that the displaying or use of a BWC could jeopardize a covert operation or investigation, the commander may make specific exceptions, or general exceptions, for certain situations or circumstances.
- a) These exceptions will be conveyed in writing within the unit SOP Manual or will be given in writing to an individual member of the commander's component.
- b) Individual members who, because of covert circumstances which arise unexpectedly, decide to exercise the exception of this section must be prepared to provide sufficient justification for their actions.
- c) During search warrant executions, once entry has been made and the location is secured with all occupants in custody, deactivation may only occur with the approval of the on-scene supervisor or commander.
- d) Prior to deactivating, officers should announce they are doing so per body worn camera policy and should be prepared to provide sufficient justification.
4. **DMVR Discretionary Use / Muting:** Officers may activate their DMVR to record incidents or events that would be beneficial to the public interest.
- a) **Muting:** Officers shall not mute their DMVR except in very limited circumstances. Examples of such circumstances include:
- Obtaining confidential or privileged information (such as information from the Department of Social Services or criminal history information).
 - Obtaining advice from a supervisor or agency counsel.
 - Obtaining information from the Narcotics section or other agency divisions about confidential informants, investigative techniques or procedures, or information that would prejudice an investigation.
- b) Prior to muting the audio, officers will announce that they are doing so and state the reason why. The audio must be unmuted as soon as the reason for muting is completed.
5. **Refusal to be Recorded:** Officers are not required to discontinue recording of an incident at the request of anyone other than a superior officer.
- a) If victims, witnesses, or other individuals wish to make a statement or share information, but refuse to do so while being recorded, or request that the camera be turned off, officers may turn off the DMVR in order to obtain the statement or information at their discretion. The DMVR will be re-activated immediately after receiving the information.
- b) If the encounter begins when the DMVR is not actively recording, the officer may, but is not required to, temporarily activate the DMVR for the sole purpose of documenting the person's refusal to be recorded.



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6. **Prohibited Use of DMVR:** DMVRs shall be used only in conjunction with official law enforcement duties. An officer shall not activate a camera to record:
- a) Agency personnel during routine administrative activities including operational briefings or roll calls.
 - b) Non-work related personal activity.
 - c) In court facilities and courtrooms, except with the express permission of the local administrative judge or the presiding judge. Additionally, the District Court of Maryland and Circuit Court for Charles County authorize the use of BWCs when an officer is "in service that is investigative or enforcement in nature, or during any confrontational encounter between a law enforcement officer and a member of the public."
 - d) Areas with high expectations of privacy such as bathrooms or locker rooms, unless involved in a mandatory use situation.
 - e) Officers shall be aware of medical patients' rights to privacy. Officers shall not record patients during medical or psychological evaluations or treatments. Officers must be aware of and take reasonable precautions to avoid violating a patient's right to privacy during treatment. Generally, officers should deactivate the DMVR / BWC upon entering a medical facility, unless responding to a call for service within the facility. However, if it can be reasonably anticipated that the use of force is likely, or that the employee may be accused of misconduct, the employee should continue recording.
 - f) Surreptitious recordings of conversations with citizens and/or Agency employees unless a crime is occurring or is about to occur.
 - g) If prohibited by another governmental agency in their facility (for example, if a neighboring county's detention center does not allow BWCs in their facility). The officer should comply with the other agency's policy as directed while within the facility.
 - h) First Amendment protected activities of individuals or groups to investigate, prosecute, disrupt, interfere with, harass, or discriminate against the individual or group for the purpose of punishing, retaliating, preventing, or hindering the person or group from exercising constitutional rights.
7. **Accidental Activation:** In the event of an accidental activation of a BWC where the resulting recording has no investigative or evidentiary value, the officer may submit a deletion request, in writing, to their supervisor, who will review the request and the video.
- a) If the supervisor approves the deletion, the request will be forwarded to the next level of the chain of command up to the division commander.
 - b) If deletion is approved, the request will be forwarded to ITD and the Custodian of Records. If the Custodian of Records allows deletion of the qualifying records outside the boundaries of the retention schedule, ITD will dispose of the approved recording and maintain a deletion log.
 - c) An appropriate log entry will be created documenting the reason for the deletion of the data.
8. **School Resource Officers:** All School Resource Officers (SROs) will comply with the provisions of this section outside of a school setting. Within a school, the following rules apply:
- a) DMVRs will be activated for "mandatory use" incidents.



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- b) DMVRs will not be used to record student's private records.
 - c) DMVRs will not be used to record meetings with school staff.
 - d) DMVRs will not be used to record student discipline matters handled by staff members, except while investigating a criminal offense.
9. **Criminal Investigations Division:** Detectives are not required to wear a BWC during the normal course of their duties except in situations outlined in the CID SOP. If a detective is working a uniformed assignment, they will comply with the provisions of this section.
10. **DMVR Notification of Recording / Consents:** Except as otherwise permitted by law or if unsafe, impractical, or impossible to do so, an officer shall notify the individual in a recording that the individual is being recorded.

Example: "Good morning, I am Officer Smith, ID #_____ of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. I am advising you are being audibly and visually recorded. You were stopped for exceeding the maximum posted speed limit."

- a) The notification requirement is satisfied even if other individuals become a party to the communication.
 - b) Multiple individuals at the scene of an incident do not require individual notification.
 - c) If multiple DMVR users are at the scene of an incident, the first officer on the scene equipped with a DMVR shall provide the notification.
11. **Ending a DMVR Recording:** Once a DMVR recording has been initiated, officers shall not end the recording until:
- a) The event or encounter has fully concluded. An arrest is "fully concluded" under the following circumstances:
 - When the arrestee has been released and left the scene.
 - The arresting officer has left the arrestee in another's custody, such as a youth facility, or another agency.
 - At the Charles County Detention Center the officer will end the recording when the officer is not engaged in a related investigative or enforcement activity.
 - b) The officer leaves the scene and anticipates no further involvement in the event.
 - c) A supervisor or agency policy has authorized that a recording may cease because the officer is no longer engaged in a related enforcement or investigative activity.
 - d) Prior to deactivating the DMVR, the officer should announce that the recording is ceasing and state the reason why.

E. CONFIDENTIALITY, ACCESS, STORAGE AND RELEASE OF DMVR RECORDINGS

Confidentiality of and Access to Recordings



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1. **Confidentiality:** All DMVR recordings are investigatory records of the Agency and are subject to the same rules of confidentiality as all other investigatory records.
 - a) Except as authorized by policy: copying, releasing, altering, erasing, or allowing unauthorized viewing of an Agency video recording is prohibited and may subject an employee to disciplinary action.
 2. **Access to View:**
 - a) Division Commanders, the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the Office of General Counsel are permitted to view all DMVR recordings without restriction.
 - b) The Custodian of Records, Records Supervisor, and Body Worn Camera technicians are permitted to view DMVR recordings for completion of official duties, subject to the restrictions below.
 - c) Officers are permitted to view their own DMVR recordings for completion of official duties, subject to the restrictions below.
 - d) Supervisors are permitted to view all DMVR recordings of their subordinates, subject to the restrictions below.
 - e) The primary investigator of a criminal or administrative investigation has discretion whether to allow an Agency employee to view DMVR footage of an incident prior to obtaining a statement from them.
 3. **Restriction of Viewing Access:**
 - a) The primary investigator, on scene supervisor, shift commander or command level officer may request to restrict access to DMVR recordings of the incident until the conclusion of the investigation.
 - b) Permission of the primary investigator is required before an officer may view DMVR recordings of a use of force event requiring supervisor or higher-level investigation until final review.
 - c) Officer review of DMVR recordings for investigations conducted by the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) is at the discretion of the IID until the conclusion of their investigation.
 - d) The Office of Professional Responsibility or the Commander of CID may also restrict access to DMVR recordings.

Storage, Classification and Maintenance of DMVR Recordings

4. **Ownership of Recordings:** All original DMVR recordings are the records of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and will be securely stored and retained according to the retention schedule and consistent with state law and existing records protocols, unless a specific request is made to store them for a longer period of time by a person authorized by the Sheriff.
5. **DMVR Classification:** Officers will catalogue the DMVR recordings captured on their BWC and ICC equipment with a classification and casefile number in their corresponding software program.
 - a) **Classification** – The following classifications will be used for DMVR recordings:
 - **Felony**– DMVR recordings resulting from felony investigations or warrants.



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- **Misdemeanor**– DMVR recordings resulting from misdemeanor investigations or warrants.
 - **Traffic Stop** – DMVR recordings from traffic stop investigations that do not result in felony or misdemeanor offences.
 - **Traffic Accident** – DMVR recordings resulting from traffic accident investigations that do not result in felony or misdemeanor offences.
 - **DUI / DWI & Vehicle Pursuit** – DMVR recordings resulting from DUI / DWI and vehicle pursuits.
 - **SRO Event** – An SRO event includes Maryland Center for School Safety mandated use of force incidents and other incidents of note which occur on Charles County Public School property which do not correspond to the other listed DMVR categories.
 - **Civil Event** – Civil events include, but are not limited to, emergency petition services (Court ordered or officer initiated), protective order service, peace order service, service of civil process if conducted by a sworn member of the agency, and evictions.
 - **Complaint** – DMVR recordings resulting from a citizen's complaint against a Sheriff's Office employee.
 - **Test / Accidental** – DMVR recordings resulting from an equipment test or accidental activation.
 - **Prisoner Transport** – DMVR recordings resulting when a Correctional Officer transports an incarcerated individual.
 - **No Prisoner** – DMVR recordings resulting when a Correctional Officer is operating a correctional transport vehicle without an incarcerated individual aboard.
 - **Other** – DMVR recordings resulting from events that do not apply to the other classification in this list.
- b) **Casefile Number** – The casefile number will be documented in the Case # File column.
- Events will be classified using the Charles County Sheriff's Office IR number if one has been issued at the time classification is made. If an IR number has not been issued, the officer will use the CCSO event number (no spaces or dashes) at the time they have cleared the event.
 - In the Test / Accidental and No Prisoner classifications, the Case # File column shall be left blank.
- c) **Classification Period** – All recordings shall be classified by the end of the officer's tour of duty.
- With supervisor approval, this may be extended to the officer's next shift.
 - The classification will determine the retention time for the recordings and interaction with the CCSO digital case management system.

6. **Storage of DMVR Recordings:**



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- a) The DMVR system completes an automatic upload of recordings contained on each system when the officer's vehicle parks at one of the following Agency facilities: District 1 station, District 2 station, District 3 station, Detention Center and the CCSO Annex.
- b) Recordings will be stored, duplicated, distributed or erased only in compliance with this policy.
- c) Records Management and ITD are responsible for the management, storage and security of all recordings.
- d) All DMVR videos will be retained as dictated in the retention schedule.

7. Monthly Supervisor Review of DMVR Recordings:

- a) Supervisors of those officers assigned DMVR equipment shall review, on at least a monthly basis, a minimum of one BWC recording and one ICC recording from different events per assigned officer, to assist them in the preparation of performance ratings.
- b) Corrections transport vehicle ICC recordings shall be reviewed on at least a monthly basis and include a minimum of one ICC recording from each assigned vehicle in the division.
- c) The reviews will be documented on the officer's Monthly Inspection Form #75.

8. Use of DMVR for Training Purposes:

- a) Recordings containing material deemed useful by the Commander, Training Division may be used for training purposes.
- b) Officers, supervisors and commanders are encouraged to forward information describing recorded incidents which may be beneficial in Agency training via a memorandum, through their respective chain of command, to the Commander, Training Division.

9. Release and Dissemination of DMVR Recordings:

- a) All requests by outside agencies or individuals for DMVR records will be processed and disseminated by the Custodian of Records in compliance with Agency policy and law concerning records release.
- b) **Media Relations:** Media Relations is authorized to release DMVR footage with the approval of the Commander of Executive Services and in compliance with the law for the purpose of public messaging. Video will be submitted to the custodian of records for redaction prior to release unless exigent circumstances exist.

F. TRAINING

- 1. **Officer Training-** All officers issued a Digital Mobile Video Recorder (DMVR) will undergo comprehensive training. This training may be delivered during the agency-specific training sessions, as appropriate. The training will encompass the proper use of the DMVR, relevant operational procedures, and policies governing its use. The training will be developed, maintained, and documented by the Training Division. Additionally, a thorough review of the current policy will be included to ensure full compliance and understanding.
- 2. **Supervisor Training-** Supervisors will receive training on the review and use of DMVR recordings and data management.



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G. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **Incident Reports-** Incident reports must state that a DMVR was used or, if not used, why not.
2. **Call Sheets-** For recordings containing material of essential or evidentiary value that are not related to an Incident Report, the use or absence of a DMVR should be indicated on a call sheet.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The Commander, Training Division will coordinate with other members of the Executive Command Staff an annual administrative review of the DMVR program with results provided to the Sheriff.

4-226 PATROL CHECKS

Patrol checks provide a valuable service to the citizens and business owners of Charles County. These checks keep officers up to date for where incidents have occurred or where citizens feel vulnerable. Patrol checks also allow citizens and business owners to have positive encounters with police officers.

Requests for patrol checks may be initiated by either a police officer or a citizen / business owner for various reasons, to include:

- past criminal history, high incidents of crime;
- residents away from the residence for an extended period of time (one month or longer and is not a vacant residence or business);
- valuable resources left on location with no security available.

Requests will be made by the completion of a Special Patrol Check Request Form #905 for a specific location or a geographical area. The request must be signed by the property owner or representative who has legal authority (business manager or police officer) and submitted to the shift commander of that district. If an unusual situation occurs (RRE, sexual assault) then a shift commander will be contacted for an immediate review of the request. The shift commander will then either approve or deny the request and determine the length of time the patrol check should remain in effect (if approved). If the request is denied, the shift commander will contact the requestor advising why the request was denied. If the shift commander is unavailable, the shift sergeant who works in that district can approve or deny the request. If the request is denied, the shift sergeant will contact the requestor advising why the request was denied. Approved requests will be forwarded to a district police station technician who will enter the patrol check into the CAD / RMS system and record the patrol check number onto the request form. Patrol checks initiated by a police officer will be reviewed by a shift commander or a shift sergeant if the shift commander is unavailable. Approved requests will be forwarded to a district police station technician who will enter the patrol check into the CAD / RMS system and record the patrol check number onto the request form. The original request will be kept on file at the district station for a period of one (1) year after the patrol check has been activated.

4-226.1 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors are responsible for making sure their squads are aware of current / active patrol checks. Prior to the start of each shift, the oncoming supervisor will ensure the officers check their MDTs for an updated list of the patrol checks for their district. Patrol officers will attempt to make at least one check per shift of any patrol check in their assigned beat. If a patrol check is completed, the officer will either notify Communications via the radio or complete the patrol check on their MDT.

4-228 NARCAN (NALOXONE)



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Narcan (Naloxone) is an opiate antidote. This prescription medicine blocks the effects of opiates, which include heroin, morphine, codeine, OxyContin, methadone, Percodan, and Vicodin. Narcan is intended to temporarily reverse the effects of an opiate overdose, including restoring breathing that has stopped or slowed down. It cannot be used to make a person high, and will not have any effect on a person who has not taken opiates. CCSO will utilize and administer the nasal form of this drug only.

This policy establishes guidelines and procedures governing the utilization of the nasal Narcan administered by officers. The objective of administering nasal Narcan is to treat opioid overdoses and minimize overdose deaths caused by opioids.

Only officers trained in the use of nasal Narcan are authorized to administer nasal Narcan in the field.

4-228.1 TRAINING

The Training Division will conduct training by use of a video provided by Narcan's manufacturer along with a review of CCSO policy and reporting requirements. The Training Division shall maintain the training records. Retraining shall be conducted every two years in conjunction with CPR recertification and anytime the method of administering the nasal form of Narcan changes.

4-228.2 ISSUANCE, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT

Nasal Narcan kits will be dispensed through the Training Division. The Training Division will handle the issuance and replacement of the kits.

Officers authorized to use nasal Narcan kits are responsible for the safe storage and inspection of the kit prior to each shift. A damaged or used nasal Narcan kit will be reported directly to the Training Division, which will replace or replenish the kit as soon as practicable. Lost kits will be reported on the Loss/Damage Report Form 310.

4-228.3 INDICATIONS AND USE

Authorized officers shall utilize nasal Narcan on subjects believed to be suffering symptoms, as outlined in training, from a potentially lethal opioid overdose.

Officers shall follow the protocols outlined in their nasal Narcan training, to include universal precautions against pathogens, performing patient assessment to determine unresponsiveness, absence of breathing and/or pulse.

Officers will update Communications that the patient is in a potential overdose state. Communications personnel will promptly notify EMS and a paramedic unit.

4-228.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Upon completing a medical assist with nasal Narcan use, the officer shall complete an incident report detailing the nature of the incident, the care the patient received, the fact that nasal Narcan was deployed, and whether the use was successful.

The incident report will be forwarded through the chain of command to the Records Section, which will forward a copy to DES and the Health Department for their documentation purposes.

By the fifth (5th) of each month, the Commander, Homeland Security will provide to DES and the Health Department the statistics of Narcan use for the prior month.



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4-229 EXCITED DELIRIUM / SUDDEN IN-CUSTODY DEATH / MEDICAL EMERGENCY

The United States' Death in Custody Reporting Act defines an in-custody death as: the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, in the process of arrest, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, or other local or state correctional facility (including juvenile facility).

Law enforcement officers periodically come into contact with individuals exhibiting unusual behavior. This behavior is often a result of alcohol intoxication, the influence of drugs, mental illness, uncontrolled anger, or a combination of these factors. However, in some cases unusual behavior may be associated with a serious medical condition often referred to as excited delirium, which in some instances may be fatal. Some experts believe that intense physical exertion, such as when a subject violently resists arrest for prolonged periods, may increase the risk of sudden death. Some experts also believe that rapid and appropriate medical intervention may reduce the possibility of a fatal outcome in such cases.

This policy is intended to complement the training provided by the Charles County Sheriff's Office on the management of subjects with excited delirium and to provide guidance and a plan of action for officers to deal with persons suffering from excited delirium.

4-229.1 RECOGNIZING EXCITED DELIRIUM

Law enforcement officers must be aware of behavior signs that are consistent with excited delirium, but it is not incumbent on them to differentiate true excited delirium from other behaviors that mimic it. When an officer reasonably believes an individual may be experiencing excited delirium, the individual is to be treated as if he is in a medical crisis and will require medical attention. The individual must receive medical attention regardless of whether the subject is also suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Four Phases of Excited Delirium:

- High Fever / Hyperthermia (may not always be present).
- Delirium with agitation (acute onset).
- Respiratory arrest (distress often during / after struggle).
- Cardiac arrest (often during / after restraint).

When someone develops excited delirium, his ability to focus, sustain, or shift attention is impaired, and he is easily distracted. The person's speech may be loud, rambling and incoherent, and it may be difficult or impossible to engage the person in conversation. The person may also be disoriented in regards to time, location, and purpose. He may become delusional or experience hallucinations. Due to an elevated body temperature, many of these individuals remove one or more items of clothing, and may even be completely naked, while sweating profusely. They appear to have extraordinary strength and often seem insensitive to pain. Violence towards objects, especially shiny objects, like lights, mirrors and glass, is a peculiar phenomenon that often accompanies excited delirium. Many reports of in-custody deaths attributed to excited delirium describe sudden calmness just prior to the person's unexpected demise.

Persons at Risk:

- 91%-99% male.
- 31-45 years of age (generally).
- Person usually involved in a struggle.
- Geographic location not a factor.
- Death usually follows bizarre behavior episode, and/or use of illegal drugs or prescription medications.



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Signs of Excited Delirium**Agitation/excitement****Paranoia/Fear****Aggressiveness****Rage****Confusion****Shouting****Sweating/disrobing****Increased activity level****Hyperthermia****Loud, rambling, incomprehensible or incoherent speech****Violence toward objects, especially shiny objects, like glass and mirrors****Violence towards others****Superhuman strength and endurance****Sudden calmness may be ominous, as it often precedes death****4-229.2 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**

Once Communications personnel or an officer concludes that an individual may be in an excited delirium state, the incident shall, in addition to whatever other law enforcement response may be required under the circumstances, including the use of reasonable force, be managed as a medical emergency.

4-229.3 COMMUNICATIONS ROLE

Communications personnel may be the first to recognize a case of excited delirium, based upon information provided by the reporting party, background noises that can be heard during the call, or knowledge of the subject's past behavior from previous encounters with the law. If a call taker or Police Communications Officer (PCO) reasonably believes that the person causing the disturbance may be in an excited delirium state, multiple officers and a supervisor will be dispatched to the scene. A paramedic unit will be requested immediately. The PCO will inform responding officers when paramedics are en route and request where they want them to stage.

4-229.4 OFFICER'S ROLE

If an officer responds to an incident and concludes that an individual may be in an excited delirium state, the officer shall, as soon as practical, request additional officers and EMS to respond, if they were not initially dispatched to the incident. If the subject involved or others at the scene pose a potential threat, the officer shall designate a nearby safe location for EMS personnel to stage until the scene is secure. If the person to be taken into custody is combative or otherwise poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of officers, other persons, or self, officers shall employ that amount of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect themselves and others at the scene and to take the person into custody.

If the person appears to be unarmed and does not appear to pose an immediate threat, officers shall, if practical, contain the subject while maintaining a safe distance and remove others from the immediate area. In this situation, the officers' objective is to gain the person's voluntary cooperation. If the officers determine it is appropriate to take the person into custody, one or more of the following tactics may be helpful in gaining the person's cooperation:

- Attempt to "talk the person down." Ideally, only one officer should engage the person in conversation.



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However, if the person is unresponsive or non-compliant with the first officer, attempts to communicate should be made by other officers present. The officers should project calmness and confidence and speak in a conversational and non-confrontational manner. The statements should include reassurance and that the officer is trying to help the person. Whenever possible, determine if the person can answer simple questions; this will give the officers at the scene an idea of the level of coherence of the person. Officers should also turn down their radios.

- Remember that the person's mind may be racing, or he may be delusional and/or suffering from hallucinations, so statements and questions may need to be repeated several times. The person may also be fearful and extremely confused based on their psychological state so officers should be patient. If the subject is contained and does not appear to pose an immediate threat, there is no rush. It may take some time for the subject to calm down.
- Attempt to have the individual sit down, which may have a calming effect.
- To the extent officer safety allows, refrain from maintaining constant eye contact, as this may be interpreted as threatening.
- If a family member or another person who has a rapport with the individual can safely participate, enlist his / her assistance in attempting to gain the individual's cooperation.

Once the subject is in custody and the scene is safe, paramedics shall be called in to assist with possible sedation and monitoring of the subject. Only paramedics who are authorized can chemically sedate the individual. Some individuals believed to be in an excited delirium state have gone into cardiac arrest shortly after a struggle ended. As a result, the person's breathing shall be monitored at all times and the person's position adjusted so as to maximize the person's ability to breathe (e.g., avoid lying on stomach and/or exerting excessive downward pressure on the upper torso). The person is to then be transported to a hospital emergency department for evaluation and treatment.

4-229.5 REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

Where a person suspected of being in a state of excited delirium is dealt with or taken into custody without resistance or injury, the appropriate report(s) will be completed. In all other cases where there is an altercation or injury, officers must thoroughly document the handling of the incident. This is especially true when a death takes place. When any in-custody death occurs, CID and IA shall be immediately notified. The reporting officers at the scene shall be as specific as possible when documenting the incident. Information may include, but is not limited to:

- Information received from Communications while en route to the scene;
- A description of what was observed upon arrival at the scene;
- A description of the person's behavior and appearance:
 - Naked or removing clothing;
 - Sweating profusely;
 - Yelling, screaming or incoherent;
 - Hallucinating;
 - Attacking bright shiny objects or lights.
- A description of the attempted and actual communication between the person and others at the scene;



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- A description of any force used for controlling the person and whether the force was effective or had to be escalated based on the person's response;
 - A description of how the person was restrained;
 - A description of the resistance offered during the attempt to control and/or restrain the person;
 - A description of how the person was positioned after being restrained;
 - A description of how the person was transported (i.e., by ambulance, by vehicle, seat belt and shoulder harness use, positioning of the person);
 - A description of the person's behavior during transport;
 - A description of how the person was monitored during transport, and by whom;
 - Where the person was transported and whether for processing, medical treatment, or emergency commitment;
 - List of witnesses who observed the event;
 - A description of any injuries to other persons at the scene;
 - List of other officers, fire, or EMS personnel present at the scene;
 - If applicable, a listing of any medical assistance or medication administered by paramedics at the scene; and
 - The results of a request of paramedics to obtain and record the body temperature of the person if deceased.

Attention to details may help medical examiners in determining the cause and manner of death. A history of violence or drug-related arrests, mental health treatments, and drug rehabilitation interventions, etc., should be reported.

4-229.6 TRAINING

The Commander, Training Division will ensure that all sworn and correctional employees receive entry level and refresher training on cases of handling excited delirium.

4-230 CHECK ON THE WELFARE – GABRIEL'S LAW

This policy establishes procedures for conducting wellness checks as mandated by Gabriel's Law, effective October 1, 2024. The policy ensures that law enforcement agencies and fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entities within the State of Maryland respond promptly and effectively to qualified requests for wellness checks. This policy applies to all law enforcement agencies and fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entities within Charles County.

Qualified Request: A verbal or written request that includes: Sufficient information regarding a specific life-threatening concern that necessitates immediate action. Details that enable a law enforcement agency to appropriately respond to the requestor.

Wellness Check: An in-person visit by a law enforcement officer to ascertain an individual's well-being based on



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a qualified request.

4-230.1 INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

Upon receiving a qualified request for a wellness check, Police Station Technicians, Police Communications Officers, and a Law Enforcement Officer must determine if the request pertains to a life-threatening condition. If the request includes details of a life-threatening condition, the Charles County Sheriff's Office must coordinate with the relevant fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity to ensure a simultaneous response. A new CAD entry code for these events should the welfare check qualify under this law. The situation code will be displayed as 10 35, CHECK ON THE WELFARE, ADULT, GBL.

4-230.2 JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If the individual requiring the wellness check is within the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction, the agency must conduct the wellness check without unreasonable delay. If the individual is not within the agency's jurisdiction, the agency must:

- Promptly provide the requestor with the contact information of the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the location of the individual. This process will occur in coordination with Police Station Technicians and or Police Communications Officers; and
- Notify the appropriate agency to ensure they are informed and can respond accordingly.

4-230.3 CONDUCTING THE WELLNESS CHECK

Officers must physically visit the location provided in the qualified request to assess the individual's well-being. If the request involves a life-threatening condition, officers must ensure that fire, rescue, or emergency medical services are on-site or enroute to assist. Officers should add notes in Police Mobile to document the individual's condition, any actions taken, and the outcome of the wellness check. In cases involving life-threatening conditions, fire, rescue, or emergency medical services should be notified immediately upon receiving the qualified request.

Gabriel's Law does not, by itself, authorize entry into a home. Prior to making entry, officers must assess the situation and determine if exigent circumstances exist to justify entry consistent with the Fourth Amendment.

4-231 RESPONSE TO PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM
- D. TRAINING
- E. RECOGNIZING CHARACTERISTICS OF MENTAL ILLNESSES
- F. POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES
- G. RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR SERVICE INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES
- H. [REDACTED]
- I. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A. PURPOSE

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) entitles people with mental illnesses or disabilities to the same services



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and protections that law enforcement agencies provide to anyone else. They may not be excluded from services or otherwise be provided with lesser services or protection than are provided to others.

The ADA calls for law enforcement agencies to make reasonable adjustments and modifications in their policies, practices or procedures on a case-by-case basis. For example, if a person exhibits symptoms of mental illness, expresses that he or she has a mental illness or requests accommodation for a mental illness (such as access to medication), officers and call takers may need to modify routine practices and procedures, take more time or show more sensitivity to extend the services or protections that would be extended to someone else in a similar circumstance.

This policy is intended to address the varying roles officers play in their encounters with people with mental illnesses. As first responders and law enforcers, they may encounter victims, witnesses or suspects who have mental illnesses. As service personnel, they may be called upon to help people obtain psychiatric attention or other needed services. Helping people with mental illnesses and their families obtain the services of mental health organizations, hospitals, clinics, and shelter care facilities has increasingly become a prominent role for police.

No single policy or procedure can address all of the situations in which officers, communications personnel and other Agency personnel may be required to provide assistance to persons who have mental illnesses. This policy is intended to address the most common types of interactions with people who have mental illnesses.

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to ensure a consistently high level of service is provided to all community members. Agency personnel shall afford people who have mental illnesses the same rights, dignity and access to police and other government and community services as are provided to all citizens.

B. DEFINITIONS

In this section, the following words have the meaning indicated.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – applies to people who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of their major life activities, including:

1. the ability to communicate, hold a job or care for themselves;
2. people who have a record of such impairment; or
3. people who are regarded as having such impairment.

The term “substantially limits” is not a clinical term; it is a practical term to distinguish between people who have a mild physical or mental impairment and those whose impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Behavioral Health Crisis- A situation involving an individual exhibiting signs of mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or emotional distress requiring intervention.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer – An officer who successfully completed Crisis Intervention Team 40 hour Certification Training held by Southern Maryland Regional Crisis Intervention Team or a comparable approved training.

Mental illness – Any of various conditions characterized by impairment of an individual's normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning, and caused by social, psychological, biochemical, genetic, or other factors, such as infection or head trauma.





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C. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM

The purpose of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program is to ensure safe and effective law enforcement responses to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. CIT employees are provided specialized training and receive certification in techniques for the response to citizens in a behavioral health crisis.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The CIT program is coordinated by the Agency Mental Health Liaison, with the assistance of a collateral duty sworn officer and correctional officer as co-coordinators. The coordination team will do the following:

1. Oversee participant selection, training, financials, metrics, and quality assurance.
2. Meet and collaborate with the regional CIT Steering Committee to facilitate the following:
 - a) Review program data.
 - b) Suggest program improvements.
 - c) Review program curriculum.
 - d) Address emerging challenges.
 - e) Plan and coordinate trainings and logistics.
3. Maintain agreements with local behavioral health providers to facilitate crisis referrals and transportation.
4. Collect and maintain statistics in reference to CIT utilization.
5. Complete Basic CIT Certification Training, CIT Instructor Training, and CIT International Coordinator Training.

CIT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Sworn or correctional officer.
2. Minimum of two (2) years of agency service.
3. Must be able to complete Basic CIT Certification Training and all refresher courses.

CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION

Civilian employees may participate in CIT training at the discretion of the coordination team and as class size will allow. Non-law enforcement participants may not receive certification. Alternate training routines for specialized positions, such as police communication officers, will be conducted at the discretion of the coordination team.

D. TRAINING

In order to prepare personnel who, during the course of their duties, may have to deal with persons with mental illnesses in an appropriate manner, the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall provide training to Agency personnel. The Agency will provide documented entry level and annual refresher training.

In addition, certain Agency officers who participate in the Crisis Intervention Team program will receive additional training. The selected officers will receive an additional forty (40) hours of training which emphasizes communication skills, mental illness symptom recognition and best practices for responding to people in crisis. The training also focuses on working with community partners in mental health and treatment services for better outcomes. Upon completion, CIT trained officers will receive additional specialized periodic refresher training.

E. RECOGNIZING CHARACTERISTICS OF MENTAL ILLNESSES

While many people with mental illnesses control symptoms successfully with the use of medications, others who



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do not have access to mental health services, fail to take their medications, or do not recognize that they are ill can experience psychiatric difficulties. Officers and other personnel must be prepared to deal with situations involving persons who have mental illnesses and know how to respond to these situations in an appropriate and sensitive manner.

Symptoms of different mental illnesses may include, but are not limited to:

1. loss of memory;
2. delusions;
3. depression, deep feelings of sadness, hopelessness or uselessness;
4. hallucinations;
5. manic behavior, accelerated thinking and speaking, or hyperactivity;
6. confusion;
7. incoherence; and
8. extreme paranoia.

The degree to which these symptoms exist varies from person to person according to the type and severity of the mental illness. Many of these symptoms represent internal, emotional states that are not readily observable from a distance, but are noticeable in conversation with the individual. The call taker or officer responding to the scene is not expected to diagnose a mental illness, but to decide on the appropriate response to the individual and situation. Recognizing that symptoms may indicate mental illness will help officers decide on an appropriate response and disposition.

Obtaining relevant information from family members, friends, or others at the scene who know the individual and his or her history, or seeking advice from mental health professionals, can also assist officers in taking the appropriate action. Officers on the scene will also have to determine the severity of the behavior, the potential for change in the behavior, and the potential for danger presented by the individual to themselves or to others.

F. POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The quality of information gathered and shared by call takers and Police Communications Officers (PCOs) can affect the way officers respond to and resolve a call for service. This includes those calls involving persons who may have mental illnesses. Gathering information is critical at all stages in assessing these situations, but is particularly critical at the onset.

When the Agency receives a call concerning the actions or behavior of someone who is suffering from mental illnesses, it is essential that the call taker collect information that will prepare an officer to respond to the scene, such as:

1. the nature of the problem behavior;
2. events that may have precipitated the person's behavior; and
3. the presence of weapons.

A family member, friend or concerned party calling about someone who needs help in accessing mental health may volunteer additional information such as:

1. past occurrences of this or other abnormal behaviors;
2. past incidents involving injury or harm to the individual or others;
3. prior suicide threats;
4. reliance on medication or failure to take medication;
5. relatives, friends or neighbors available to assist officers; and
6. physicians or mental health professionals available to assist officers.



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When dispatching calls for service involving people who may have mental illnesses, the PCO should provide all relevant background information to responding officers.

When possible, a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer shall respond to the scene to assist. The call disposition, including reporting requirements, shall remain the responsibility of the assigned investigating officer. Communications personnel will be provided a list containing the names of all current CIT officers. The necessary updates to this list will be made by the CIT Coordinator.

If a CIT officer is not listed on the line-up, Communications shall broadcast for any available CIT officer to respond to the call.

If no CIT officer is available, it shall be up to the discretion of the investigating officer and/or his supervisor to determine if a consult from the CIT Coordinator or their designee is necessary.

G. RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR SERVICE INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES

When responding to a call that involves a person who has, or exhibits symptoms of, mental illnesses, officers should obtain as much information as possible to assess and stabilize the situation. In particular, officers should gather information regarding the nature of the problem behavior and/or events that may have precipitated the person's behavior and particularly the presence of weapons.

The following specific guidelines detail how to approach and interact with a person who may have mental illnesses and who may be a crime victim, witness or suspect. These guidelines should be followed in all contacts, whether on the street or during more formal interviews and interrogations. If possible, only one officer should talk to the subject. Officers, while protecting their own safety, the safety of the person with mental illnesses and others at the scene should:

1. remain calm, give firm, clear directions and avoid overreacting;
2. be helpful and professional;
3. provide or obtain on-scene emergency aid when treatment of an injury is urgent;
4. check for and follow procedures indicated on medical alert bracelets or necklaces;
5. indicate a willingness to understand and help;
6. speak simply and briefly, and move slowly;
7. remove distractions, upsetting influences and disruptive people from the scene;
8. understand that a rational discussion may not take place;
9. recognize that the person may be overwhelmed by sensations, thoughts, frightening beliefs, sounds ("voices") or the environment;
10. be friendly, patient, accepting and encouraging, but remain firm and professional;
11. be aware that their uniform, gun, handcuffs and nightstick may frighten the person with mental illnesses; attempt to reassure him or her that no harm is intended;
12. recognize and acknowledge that a person's delusional or hallucinatory experience is real to him or her;
13. announce actions before initiating them;
14. gather information from family or bystanders.

While each incident will be different, when dealing with a person who may have mental illnesses, officers should be aware that their own actions may have an adverse effect on the situation. Actions that officers should generally avoid include:

1. moving suddenly, giving rapid orders or shouting;
2. forcing discussion;
3. direct, continuous eye contact;



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4. touching the person (unless essential to safety);
5. crowding the person or moving into his or her zone of comfort;
6. expressing anger, impatience or irritation;
7. assuming that a person who does not respond cannot hear;
8. using inflammatory language, such as "mental" or "mental subject;"
9. offering the subject multiple choices which can add to the subject's confusion;
10. challenging delusional or hallucinatory statements; and
11. misleading the person to believe that officers on the scene think or feel the way the person does.

Once sufficient information has been collected about the nature of the situation, and the situation has been stabilized, there are a range of options officers should consider when selecting an appropriate disposition. These options include the following:

1. refer or transport the person for medical attention if he or she is injured or abused;
2. outright release;
3. release to care of family, caregiver or mental health provider;
4. refer or transport to mental health services;
5. refer or transport to substance abuse services;
6. assist in arranging voluntary admission to a mental health facility, if requested;
7. transport for involuntary emergency psychiatric evaluation, if the person's behavior meets the criteria for this action; or
8. arrest, if a crime has been committed.

Officers should remember that having a mental illness is not a crime. No individual should be arrested for behavioral manifestations of mental illness that are not criminal in nature. Taking a person who has a mental illness into custody can occur only when:

1. the individual has committed a crime;
2. the individual presents a danger to the life and safety of the individual or others and meets the state's criteria for involuntary emergency evaluation; or
3. in response to a court order or directive of a mental health or medical practitioner who has legal authority to commit a person to a mental health facility.

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I. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

If a specific community resource (e.g., health department, victim services, crisis hotline, etc.) is needed during interaction with a person with mental illnesses, officers should contact Communications for assistance and referral information.



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4-232 EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION PETITIONS

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. EMERGENCY FACILITIES
- D. PETITION FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION
- E. DUTY OF PEACE OFFICER
- F. COURT / MEDICAL OFFICER ORDERED EMERGENCY EVALUATION
- G. EMERGENCY EVALUATIONS INITIATED BY OFFICERS
- H. ARREST OF AN INDIVIDUAL DISPLAYING A NEED FOR AN EMERGENCY EVALUATION
- I. EMERGENCY PETITION FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE CHARLES COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
- J. LAY PETITIONERS

A. PURPOSE

The Health Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland gives “peace officers” certain rights and responsibilities regarding persons who are diagnosed with, or are exhibiting behavior indicative of, a mental disorder. When dealing with such individuals, employees of the CCSO will follow the dictates of the law and any additional requirements placed by this section.

B. DEFINITIONS

Court - a district or circuit court of Maryland.

Emergency evaluatee - an individual for whom an emergency evaluation is sought or made under this section.

Emergency facility - a facility that the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene designates, in writing, as an emergency facility.

Mental disorder - the behavioral or other symptoms that indicate:

1. to a lay petitioner who is submitting an emergency petition, a clear disturbance in the mental functioning of another individual
2. to the following health professionals doing an examination, at least one mental disorder that is described in the version of the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - Mental Disorders that is current at the time of the examination: a physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist.

Mental disorder does not include intellectual disability.

Peace officer - a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a State Police officer, a County Police officer, a municipal or other local police officer, or a Secret Service agent who is a sworn special agent of the United States Secret Service or Treasury Department authorized to exercise powers delegated under 18 U.S.C. § 3056.

C. EMERGENCY FACILITIES

A list of emergency facilities is published each year by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Once received, the list will be distributed as follows:



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1. All division commanders.
2. North and South Patrol Commanders will require a copy of the current list be maintained at the front desk area of each district station.
3. The Support Services Commander will require a copy of the current list be maintained by each supervisor in the Communications Section.

Use of Emergency Facilities for Emergency Psychiatric Evaluation Petitions

1. In most instances, the nearest emergency facility will be Charles Regional Medical Center in La Plata (CRMC).
2. Officers must request Police Communications contact CRMC to determine whether or not they are able to accept the person.
 - a) If CRMC is unable to accept the evaluatee, an alternative nearby emergency facility may be used. Communications will contact the nearby facility to determine whether they will accept the evaluatee and notify the transporting officer.
 - b) If alternative arrangements cannot be made, CRMC will be required to accept the evaluatee.

D. PETITION FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION

A petition for emergency evaluation of an individual may be made only if the petitioner has reason to believe that the evaluatee has a mental disorder and presents a danger to the life or safety of the evaluatee or others.

The petition for emergency evaluation of an individual may be made by:

1. a physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, or a health officer or designee of a health officer who has examined the individual;
2. a peace officer who personally has observed the individual or the individual's behavior; or
3. any other interested person.

A peace officer who makes a petition for emergency evaluation commitment may base the petition on:

1. the examination or observation; or
2. other information obtained that is pertinent to the factors giving rise to the petition.

A petition shall:

1. be signed and verified by the petitioner;
2. state the petitioner's name, address, and home and work telephone numbers;
3. state the emergency evaluatee's name, and description;
4. state the following information, if available:
 - a) the address of the emergency evaluatee,



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- b) name and address of the spouse or a child, parent, or other relative of the emergency evaluatee or any other individual who is interested in the emergency evaluatee;
5. The narrative will contain the following:
- a) a description of the behavior and statements of the emergency evaluatee that led the petitioner to believe the emergency evaluatee has a mental disorder, and that the individual presents a danger to the life and safety of the individual or others
 - b) any other facts supporting the need for an emergency evaluation.

The petition form shall contain a notice that the petitioner:

- 1. may be required to appear before a court; and
- 2. makes the statements under penalties of perjury.

A petitioner who is a physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, health officer, or designee of a health officer shall give the petition to a peace officer for service.

The peace officer shall explain to the petitioner:

- 1. the serious nature of the petition; and
- 2. the meaning and content of the petition.

E. DUTY OF PEACE OFFICER

A peace officer shall take an emergency evaluatee to the nearest emergency facility if the peace officer has a petition that:

- 1. has been endorsed by a court within the last five (5) days; or
- 2. is signed and submitted by a physician, a psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, a health officer or designee of a health officer, or a peace officer.

After a peace officer takes the emergency evaluatee to an emergency facility, the peace officer need not stay unless:

- 1. the emergency evaluatee is violent and a physician asks the supervisor of the peace officer to have the peace officer stay; or
- 2. the evaluatee is under arrest.

If a physician asks that a peace officer stay, a physician shall examine the emergency evaluatee as promptly as possible.

When a juvenile has been taken into custody for emergency evaluation pursuant to court order, petition signed by a competent mental health authority, or a peace officer's observations, the juvenile's parent or guardian shall be notified to respond to the treating facility as soon as possible to grant permission for treatment.

F. COURT / MEDICAL OFFICER ORDERED EMERGENCY EVALUATION

Emergency petitions received by this Agency for service from a Maryland district or circuit court, a physician, a psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, or a



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health officer will be processed as follows:

1. The Judicial Services Section will receive the petition.
2. The petition will be entered into the Agency CAD system, scanned under the "Civil Paper" file as an active paper for service.
3. The petition will be forwarded to the appropriate Patrol Division for service.
4. Once served or returned, a copy of the documentation will be forwarded to the Judicial Services Section Civil Unit.
5. Judicial Services will update the status from "Active" to "Served" or "Returned".

If a petition is received after normal business hours and a representative from Judicial Services is unavailable, the appropriate Patrol Division will attempt service immediately. A copy of the petition will be forwarded to the Judicial Services Civil Unit to be scanned and entered into the CAD system at a later time.

Court Ordered Petitions

1. A petition issued by the court must be received within five (5) days of being endorsed by a judge.
2. A petition issued by the court must be served within five (5) days of being issued.
3. All service attempts will be noted on the service log.
4. Upon service of the court ordered petition:
 - a) A copy of the petition and completed return will be left with the emergency facility which assumes custody of the evaluatee.
 - b) A copy of the petition and completed return will be sent back to the court by the serving officer.
 - c) A copy of the petition, service log and completed return will be forwarded to the Judicial Services Section Civil Unit.
 - d) No report will be necessary, unless unusual circumstances arise during the period the subject was taken into custody and released to a hospital.
5. Petitions from the court not served within five (5) days of issuance:
 - a) A copy of the petition will be returned to the court with an indication of "Not Served" on the return.
 - b) A copy of the service log will be attached to the unserved petition for the court.
 - c) A copy of the unserved petition, service log and return will be forwarded to the Judicial Services Section Civil Unit.
 - d) No report will be necessary, unless unusual circumstances or pertinent information concerning the evaluatee are noted.

Medical Officer Ordered Petitions

1. There is no expiration date on petitions executed by physicians, psychologists, clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors, clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioners or licensed clinical marriage and family therapists, or health officers or designees of health officers. These petitions remain active until either served or recalled by a court order.
2. All service attempts will be noted on the service log.



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3. Upon service of the petition:
 - a) A copy of the petition and completed return will be left with the emergency facility which assumes custody of the evaluatee.
 - b) A copy of the petition, service log and completed return will be forwarded to the Judicial Services Section Civil Unit.
 - c) No report will be necessary, unless unusual circumstances arise during the period the subject was taken into custody and released to a hospital.
4. When petitions are received directly from a medical officer and the evaluatee is not immediately present:
 - a) A supervisor will be notified to review and approve the serving of the petition.
 - b) The assigned officer will attempt service immediately.
 - c) The service of the petition will be conducted as stated elsewhere in this section.

G. EMERGENCY EVALUATIONS INITIATED BY OFFICERS

When an officer observes behavior which fulfills the requirements for a petition, the officer may take a person into custody in the same manner as he would a person arrested. Once in custody, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The officer will complete a Petition for Emergency Evaluation (State Form # CC-DC-013) and Certification by Peace Officer (State Form # CC-DC-014).
2. The officer will take the evaluatee to the nearest emergency facility, as detailed in the Use of Emergency Facilities for Emergency Psychiatric Evaluation Petitions of this policy. If circumstances warrant, they may be transported by ambulance.
3. The officer will inform the evaluatee an emergency evaluation is going to be conducted and the evaluatee is not permitted to leave the medical facility until released by a physician.
4. Upon arrival at the emergency facility:
 - a) Constant observation of the evaluatee will be maintained either by the officer or hospital security personnel.
 - b) The officer will contact the attending physician or their designee and inform them of the evaluatee's actions and/or statements which led to the evaluatee being taken into custody.
 - c) The officer will remain with the evaluatee only until they are accepted by the emergency facility.
 - However, if the evaluatee is violent, and a physician asks the officer to stay with them, the officer will stay and call a supervisor to the emergency facility.
 - The responding supervisor will allow the officer to remain with the evaluatee at the emergency facility, providing the physician examines the person promptly.
 - If the supervisor leaves the facility, the supervisor will check with the officer occasionally to determine that the examination is completed in a timely manner.
5. Upon service of the petition:
 - a) The original completed petition and peace officer certification will be left with the emergency facility which assumes custody of the evaluatee.
 - b) A copy of the completed petition and peace officer certification will be forwarded to the Judicial



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Services Section Civil Unit to be scanned and entered into the Agency CAD system "Civil Paper" file.

6. An incident report will be completed, which will include the following:
 - a) The circumstances surrounding the need for the emergency petition.
 - b) Any injuries the evaluatee may have sustained.
 - c) Method of transportation.
 - d) The emergency facility taking custody of the evaluatee.
 - e) The physician or other person at the emergency facility the evaluatee was released to.
 - f) A scanned copy of the completed emergency petition will be attached to the incident report.

H. ARREST OF AN INDIVIDUAL DISPLAYING A NEED FOR AN EMERGENCY EVALUATION

The arrest of a mentally disordered individual may not be the best way to handle minor law violations. In serious cases where a violation of law has occurred, such persons may be arrested the same as any other. In cases where a felony has been committed, or where the officer has found it necessary to use significant force to effect the apprehension of an individual, charges are warranted.

In cases where the individual is arrested and transported to the detention center, the arresting officer will:

1. Document any observations of the arrestee's mental state in the probable cause section of the arrest document.
2. Complete a Security Notice (CCSO Form #389) and provide a copy to the intake officer.

I. EMERGENCY PETITION FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE CHARLES COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

When an incarcerated individual in the process of being released from the detention center is determined to be in need of an emergency evaluation, the ensuing procedures will be followed:

1. A supervisor will contact Communications and request a patrol officer respond to conduct an investigation.
2. The patrol officer will be provided a jail incident report and any information of evidentiary value by the correctional officer who witnessed the behavior of the incarcerated individual.
3. If the criteria for emergency evaluation is present, upon the incarcerated individual's release, the patrol officer will complete the petition for emergency evaluation process as describe elsewhere in this policy.
4. If the criteria for emergency evaluation is not present, the patrol officer will document any pertinent information in the call sheet notes.

When an incarcerated individual in the custody of the detention center, who is not being released, is determined to be in need of an emergency evaluation, the matter will be handled internally within the detention center by



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contracted mental health staff. Emergency Petition service at the detention center will be handled in accordance with Court Ordered or Medical Officer Ordered evaluations.

J. LAY PETITIONERS

When officers are questioned by a person who is not a physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner or licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, or a health officer, or designee of a health officer, concerning a person who may have a mental disorder, and who is not in the officer's presence, the officer will direct the person to the Clerk of the Court's Office. The person will be told of the requirements of the law regarding the request to the court for a petition.

4-233 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Last reviewed: 5/27/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DISPATCHING COMPLAINTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- C. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES
- D. LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LAP)
- E. CENTER FOR ABUSED PERSONS REFERRAL
- F. WARRANTLESS ARRESTS FOR MISDEMEANOR ASSAULTS
- G. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
- H. ORDERS FOR PROTECTION (INTERIM, TEMPORARY, AND FINAL)
- I. INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDERS
- J. TEMPORARY AND FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS PROCEDURES
- K. VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS
- L. OUT-OF-STATE PROTECTIVE ORDERS
- M. REMOVAL OF FIREARMS AND DOMESTIC STAND BYS
- N. PEACE ORDERS

A. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to respond as quickly as possible, take control of the scene, and protect victim(s) of domestic violence from further harm. Unless otherwise specified, "domestic violence" in this section refers to:

1. An assault in any degree or any act that places a person in fear of imminent serious bodily harm, and the parties are:
 - a) Spouses, whether married, separated, or divorced;
 - b) Have a child or children in common; or
 - c) Have been involved in a sexual relationship within the last 12 months.

An incident report will be generated for any assault where the parties are in one of the above relationships. In all other instances, officers should use their discretion in determining whether to generate an incident report.

When responding to calls where domestic violence is apparent or alleged, officers must be alert, impartial, and concerned with victim's needs. While being impartial and caring, officers must always anticipate the unexpected. Domestic conflicts can quickly escalate into a dangerous situation due to the explosive range of intense emotions involved. Officers called upon to act in cases of domestic violence should have the following goals and purposes in mind:



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1. Protecting victims of domestic violence;
2. Apprehending violators of the domestic violence laws, ex parte orders, and protection orders;
3. Providing information for obtaining continued protection from abusers;
4. Providing information concerning support services for victims of domestic violence; and
5. Reducing domestic violence in Charles County by providing information concerning avenues of relief and consequences of acts of domestic violence to affected families.

All domestic violence incidents will be approached with professionalism and thoroughly investigated to determine if a crime was committed. Evidence will be collected in the same manner as with other crime scenes using all available resources. If probable cause exists that an act of domestic violence has occurred, an arrest shall be made when allowed by law, or charges applied for prior to the end of the officer's shift.

B. DISPATCHING COMPLAINTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The response classification for complaints of domestic violence will be assigned in accordance with the Emergency Response Classifications and Guidelines policy of this Manual and information received from the reporting person. A minimum of two (2) officers shall be assigned to the call. The Communications officer shall provide the officers all available information regarding the call.

Communications shall make note in the computer record that a Victim / Witness Pamphlet was / was not issued to the victim and if a Lethality Assessment Program Form (LAP) was completed. If the officer clearing the call does not advise that a pamphlet was issued, Communications will inquire of the officer concerning it. If, upon clearance, the pamphlet was not issued for a call which remains classified as domestic violence, Communications will cause a copy of the call to be printed and forwarded to the officer's commander for review. The commander will ensure that the appropriate action was taken as required by this policy.

C. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

The following six (6) basic steps to effective intervention in domestic violence calls will be considered in these cases:

1. establish a safe environment;
2. defuse the situation by calming the disputants;
3. use communication skills to elicit information to determine the cause of the problem, while maintaining a neutral, non-judgmental attitude
4. provide the victim protection against further injury;
5. provide information concerning the courses of action available to the victim; and
6. provide information concerning the support services available to the victim.
 - a) Upon arrival on the scene, officers will identify themselves and request permission to enter the home. If confronted by one of the involved parties who declines assistance, officers should insist that the other involved party come to the door to determine whether violence has occurred.
 - Officers should enter homes only when invited and when significant opposition to the invitation is not displayed.
 - A forcible entry into the home by police may be made if exigent circumstances exist. Such circumstances may include screams, report of screams, assault, visible signs of violence, and information obtained through Communications.
 - Officers must examine the facts of the situation to determine an appropriate action.
 - Officers may make a forcible entry to terminate a violent altercation or remove children whom the officer believes are in immediate danger; however, the perception of danger must be the officer's, not the parent's.



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When responding to calls of domestic violence, officers shall adhere to the following policy:

1. Officers shall refrain from forcibly entering a home merely to obtain clothing or personal items that are not of an absolute necessity.
2. Officers will not assist in removing children from a home in which one spouse opposes, no custody order or other court order is in effect, and circumstances do not indicate that the children are in imminent danger.
3. Officers will restore order by gaining control of the situation, then:
 - a) assess the need for medical attention and call for medical assistance if indicated, and
 - b) interview all parties, collect, and record evidence, and
 - c) where appropriate, take photographs of injuries and property damage.
 - If a person meeting the domestic violence criteria alleges to have been abused, or exhibits an injury, an incident report will be completed.
 - Where the necessary elements for a warrantless arrest are present, an arrest shall be made.
 - Where probable cause exists that a crime has been committed and the suspect is not on the scene, the officer shall:
 - give a look-out and conduct or request a check of the immediate area, or other areas, as indicated by information obtained;
 - obtain pertinent information about the suspect from victims and witnesses; and
 - if not immediately located, apply for charges against the suspect before the end of the shift.
 - Officers who respond to calls for assistance regarding domestic violence will present the complainant and / or other abused person(s) with the Victim / Witness Pamphlet. The officer will explain the pamphlet to the victim (such as how to apply for an ex parte order and how to contact organizations offering support and / or shelter). The officer will answer any questions the complainant may have regarding the information presented.
 - The officer will record his name, I.D. number, date of the incident, case number, and Agency telephone number on the pamphlet. Officers will note in the Offense / Incident Report the names of persons provided the pamphlet. When clearing the call, the clearing officer will advise communications that a Victim / Witness pamphlet was issued.
 - Under Maryland law, any law enforcement officer, responding to a request for assistance in domestic violence cases, shall, by law, be immune from civil liability, in complying with the request, if acting in good faith and in a reasonable manner.

D. LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LAP)

Officers shall conduct a lethality assessment for domestic violence events as defined in this policy when a report is written. These assessments are designed to mitigate circumstances which have the potential for significant or even deadly harm occurring to one or more of the persons involved in the domestic violence event.

For assaults that do not meet the domestic violence criteria, the need for an incident report is at the discretion of the officer, especially when the LAP does not apply as listed below:

1. parent - child events;



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2. sibling relationships; or
3. those involving a dating relationship, where the parties involved are not, or have not, lived together.

The Center for Abused Persons (CAP) Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) form is the device used to collect the needed data for lethality assessment decision-making. The victim of the domestic assault will be asked each of the eleven questions contained on the form. The victim's answers will be recorded on the form.

An affirmative response on any of the first three questions or an affirmative response to four of the remaining eight questions indicates a high danger situation and will require a referral to the Center for Abused Persons.

1. LAP forms will be completed using the "domestic" sub-tab under the victim's person tab on the report writing application at the time the initial contact and report is made with the victim(s).
2. When a lethality screen assessment is completed as part of an incident report, the report must be completed prior to the end of shift. This report will be automatically emailed to CAP and the Domestic Violence Unit as soon as the report is reviewed and approved.
3. In the instance of a technical issue, an alternate copy (PDF) of the form shall be used to record the victim(s) responses. The form shall be completed on the report writing application via a supplement report when the technical issues are resolved by transcribing from the alternate copy into the reporting writing application.
4. The alternate copy is discoverable and will be scanned by the completing officer and attached to the report via the reporting writing application content tab as a PDF.
5. Faxed or emailed copies will be returned to the officer's supervisor so the officer can enter it into the report writing application.
6. When utilizing an alternate copy of the LAP, officers should ensure they are using the most up to date version of the form.

E. CENTER FOR ABUSED PERSONS REFERRAL

When a lethality assessment indicates a high danger situation, based on the victim's responses to the questions asked from the assessment form or the officer's belief, the officer will call the Center for Abused Persons Hotline. CCSO Communications will maintain the current telephone number, should the officer not have it available. The officer is not required to utilize their personal cell phone. The officer, upon completion of the call, will notate in the call sheet if the lethality screen was completed and if the hotline was called.

It is preferable to call from the victim's telephone (with the victim's permission) and then have the victim talk with a counselor. If the victim refuses, the officer should explain the LAP just completed indicates a danger level threshold where a conversation with a counselor is recommended. If the victim still refuses, the officer should disconnect with the counselor and leave the victim the telephone number of the hotline and reaffirm the request to call it.

Documentation of all activities should be made on the domestic assault report, especially the victim's refusal to speak with a counselor. If the officer is unable to contact the Center on the telephone while at the scene, a call should be initiated at the officer's earliest opportunity in order to inform the Center of the results of the Lethality Assessment Program Form. (LAP).

F. WARRANTLESS ARRESTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS



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Summary of Warrantless Arrests for Domestic Violence

Officers responding to a complaint of domestic violence as defined in this policy shall make a warrantless arrest if:

1. The officer has probable cause to believe a felony had been committed;
2. The officer has probable cause to believe a misdemeanor is occurring in the officer's presence; or
3. The criteria for a warrantless arrest under §2-204 of the Criminal Procedure Article exist.

§2-204 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland also authorizes a police officer to arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person battered:

1. a current spouse or other individual with whom the person resides; and
2. there is evidence of physical injury; and
3. a report to the police was made within 48 hours of the alleged incident; and
4. unless the person is immediately arrested:
 - a. the person may not be apprehended;
 - b. the person may cause injury to the person or damage to the property of one or more other persons; or
 - c. the person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence.

In those cases involving spouses, persons with children in common, or in a sexual relationship within the last 12 months, a warrantless arrest shall be made where the elements for a warrantless arrest exist. If an officer is unable to make the arrest because the suspect could not be located, an application for charges shall be made as soon as possible unless a prosecutor from the State's Attorney's Office advises not to charge.

§2-204 of the Criminal Procedure Article relates only to a spouse or other persons living in the home. §2-204 relates only to a spouse or other persons living in the home, even unrelated persons. §2-204 does not include boyfriend / girlfriend relationships where the parties are dating but not living together.

§2-204 also does not require *visible* signs of injury. It requires only "evidence of injury" that is credible to an officer. Such evidence may include a victim's description of injury or physical actions / reactions; or a stated intention to seek medical treatment may satisfy the evidence of injury requirement.

§2-204 requires that if the officer has probable cause to believe that mutual battery occurred and a warrantless arrest is necessary under this law, the officer shall consider whether one of the parties acted in self-defense when making the determination whether to arrest the person whom the officer believes to be the primary aggressor.

G. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Law enforcement agencies in the State of Maryland are committed to prevention of crimes and the arrest and prosecution of offenders, including those offenders found within the ranks of law enforcement. Communication between law enforcement agencies is critical to the effective enforcement of state law, federal law, and Agency policies. It is the policy of this Agency to thoroughly report crimes of domestic violence.

When an officer of this Agency is serving an ex parte / protective order or responds to a call for domestic violence and finds the alleged offender is a law enforcement officer from another agency, he shall:

1. complete a Commanders' Information Report and any other reports as required; and
2. ensure notification to the involved officer's agency is made within four (4) hours of the incident. The assistance of the Domestic Violence Unit may be obtained in making the required notifications.

When an officer of this Agency is serving an ex parte / protective order, or responds to a call for domestic violence



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and finds that the alleged offender is a law enforcement officer from the Charles County Sheriff's Office, he shall:

1. immediately call for a supervisor to respond to the scene; and
2. complete an I.R. and Commanders' Information Report, regardless of whether an arrest is made.

Supervisor's responsibilities:

1. respond to the scene of all domestic violence incidents involving a law enforcement officer;
2. ensure an investigation is completed, that the incident is properly handled in accordance with procedures set out in this section and is properly documented; and
3. ensure notification to the involved officer's agency is made within four (4) hours of the incident and that all other required notifications are made.

When any law enforcement officer is served an ex parte or is involved in a domestic violence related crime, the appropriate individual (duty officer, commander, internal affairs, etc.) at the officer's agency shall be contacted to determine if the service weapon should be recovered, even when not so ordered by the court. In addition, where ordered by the courts, all other firearms in the home shall also be confiscated.

When an officer of this Agency is served as a respondent under an ex parte / protective order, he shall ensure immediate notification is made to his supervisor, or if unavailable, an on-duty supervisor. The supervisor shall immediately notify the respondent officer's commander, who shall make notification through the chain of command to the Sheriff.

For incidents involving officers of this Agency where the courts have not ordered that firearms be confiscated, the authorization to carry any off-duty firearm will be withdrawn during the period that the order is in effect.

The duty status of Charles County Sheriff's Officers who are respondents in domestic violence cases will be determined as outlined in Discipline policy of this Manual that deals with suspensions.

H. ORDERS FOR PROTECTION (INTERIM, TEMPORARY, AND FINAL)

DEFINITIONS RELATING TO ORDERS FOR PROTECTION

In the context of orders for protection, the following words have the following definitions:

Abuse: means any of the following acts:

1. an act that causes serious bodily harm;
2. assault in any degree;
3. an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
4. rape or sexual offense or attempted rape or sexual offense;
5. false imprisonment;
6. abuse of a vulnerable adult,
7. stalking; or
8. abuse of a child, including "abuse" as defined in the Family Law Article (FL § 5-701).
9. revenge porn under §3-809 of the Criminal Law Article

NOTE: Reasonable punishment of a child, including reasonable corporal punishment by a parent or legal guardian of the child, is not "abuse."



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Persons eligible for relief (ex parte / protective order): includes:

1. the current or former spouse of the respondent;
2. a co-habitant of the respondent ("cohabitant" means a person who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent and resided with the respondent in the home for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition);
3. a person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;
4. a parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within 1 year of the incident or the filing of the petition;
5. a vulnerable adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs; or
6. an individual who has a child in common with the respondent; or
7. an individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

Respondent: a person alleged to have caused a domestic disturbance or act of abuse.

Petitioner: a person who is eligible to request or is requesting relief from domestic violence.

I. INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDERS

An interim protective order may be issued by a District Court Commissioner when either the Circuit or District Courts are closed for business. Such interim orders are effective until a temporary protective order hearing is held by the court or until the end of the second business day on which the Office of the District Court is open for business. An interim protective order may provide for the following relief:

1. order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats of abuse of a person eligible for relief;
2. order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;
3. order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of a person eligible for relief;
4. if a person eligible for relief and the respondent are residing together at the time of the alleged abuse:
 - a) order the respondent to vacate the home immediately;
 - b) award temporary custody of a child;
 - c) use reasonable and necessary force to remove a child from the home if necessary; and
 - d) award temporary use and possession of the home to the person eligible for relief;
5. in a case alleging abuse of a child, award temporary custody of a minor child of the respondent and the person eligible for relief;



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6. in a case alleging abuse of a vulnerable adult, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living in the home;
7. order the respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or the home of other family members.

INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCEDURES

1. The commissioners email the interim protective order to the police station technicians via protectiveorders@ccso.us
2. Upon service of the order, the serving officer will complete the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet (Form # 70) with the respondent.
3. The Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet will be returned to the station along with the return of service.
4. The information sheet will be retained in the protective order folder for the duration of the order, and the contents may be used to both locate the respondent for future services, and update / pack the NCIC record.
5. The contents of the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet will be used by the Judicial Specialist to update the respondent's local profile.

Within one (1) hour after serving an interim protective order to the respondent, the patrol officer will transport the served order to the nearest district station.

1. Within one (1) hour after receipt of a served interim protective order, the police station technician or Judicial Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served.
2. If an interim protective order is served on behalf of a Maryland jurisdiction outside of Charles County, the Police Station Technician or Judicial Specialist will enter the required information into the new VINE Direct Notification Form within one (1) hour of service of the order.
 - a) This act will send a Service Notification Administrative Message (SNAM) to the originating agency and will automatically trigger notification to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) that the order has been served.
3. If an interim protective order is served on behalf of an agency outside the State of Maryland, the Police Station Technician or Judicial Specialist will fax the Return of Service to the originating agency within one (1) hour of service of the order.
 - a) The new law does not change current policy and procedure in regard to orders served on behalf of agencies outside the State of Maryland.
4. If an interim protective order was faxed from Charles County to a Maryland jurisdiction outside of Charles County, the Police Station Technician will await notification of service via the Service Notification Administrative Message (SNAM).
 - a) The Police Station Technician will then forward the SNAM to the Domestic Violence Unit. Upon receipt of the SNAM, the Judicial Services Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served and which agency has served the order.



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5. If the service of an interim protective order occurs on the date of the order's expiration, the notification of service must be completed through the VINE Direct Notification Form in METERS, as the METERS system will not allow an entry to be modified on the date that the order is set to expire.
 - a) This will be completed by the Police Station Technician or Judicial Specialist within one (1) hour after service of the order.
6. If an interim protective order has been served by an agency outside the State of Maryland, the Judicial Services Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served.
 - a) This will occur within one (1) hour after the specialist has been notified by the serving agency that the order has been served, usually after receipt of the Return of Service from the serving agency via U. S. mail or fax directly to the Domestic Violence Unit.

J. TEMPORARY AND FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS

1. Within one (1) hour after serving a temporary or final protective order to the respondent, the Domestic Violence Officer will transport the served order to the Domestic Violence Unit.
2. During service of the temporary or final order, the serving officer will complete the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet (Form # 70) with the respondent.
3. The Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet will be returned to the station along with the return of service.
4. The information sheet will be retained in the protective order folder for the duration of the order, and the contents may be used to both locate the respondent for future services, and update / pack the NCIC record.
5. The contents of the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet will be used by the Judicial Specialist to update the respondent's local profile.

Within one (1) hour after receipt of a served temporary or final protective order, the Domestic Violence Officer or the Judicial Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served.

1. If the final protective order is not served to the respondent at the Charles County Courthouse, the Domestic Violence Officer will mail the order to the respondent's last known address as allowed by law.
 - a) The final protective order will be mailed on the same date as the issuance of the order. Once mailed, the final protective order will be considered served on the respondent.
2. If a temporary or final protective order is served on behalf of a jurisdiction outside Charles County, the Domestic Violence Officer or the Judicial Specialist will enter the required information into the new VINE Direct Notification Form within one (1) hour of service of the order.
3. If a temporary or final protective order is served on behalf of an agency outside the State of Maryland, the Police Station Technician or Judicial Specialist will fax the Return of Service to the originating agency within one (1) hour of service of the order.
 - a) The new law does not change current policy and procedure regarding orders served on behalf of agencies outside the State of Maryland.



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4. If the Domestic Violence Officer or the Judicial Services Specialist has faxed a temporary or final protective order from Charles County to a Maryland jurisdiction outside Charles County, the Judicial Services Specialist will await notification of service via the Service Notification Administrative Message.
 - a) Upon receipt of the SNAM, the Judicial Services Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served and which agency has served the order.
5. If the service of a temporary protective order occurs on the date of the order's expiration, the notification of service must be completed through the VINE Direct Notification Form in METERS, as the METERS system will not allow an entry to be modified on the date that the order is set to expire.
 - a) This will be completed within one (1) hour after service of the order by the Domestic Violence Officer or the Judicial Services Specialist.
6. If a temporary or final protective order has been served by an agency outside the State of Maryland, the Judicial Services Specialist will modify the METERS / NCIC entry to indicate that the order has been served.
 - a) This will occur within one (1) hour after the specialist has been notified by the serving agency that the order has been served, usually after receipt of the Return of Service from the serving agency via U.S. mail or fax directly to the Domestic Violence Unit.

K. VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Officers of this Agency have a responsibility to enforce certain provisions of these orders. Officers shall make warrantless arrests or, when the respondent cannot be immediately located, apply for charges as soon as possible.

The violation of certain provisions of a protective order is a misdemeanor for which an arrest can be made. These provisions are as follows:

1. order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats of abuse of a person eligible for relief;
2. order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;
3. order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of a person eligible for relief;
4. order the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the respondent's possession and to refrain from possession of any firearm;
5. order the respondent to vacate the home; and
6. order the respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or home of other family members.

NOTE: Residence includes yards, grounds, outbuildings, and common areas surrounding a dwelling.

Any officer needing to verify the existence of a valid order may request an immediate METERS inquiry be made or may contact the agency responsible for service of the order. Protective orders issued by a judge in any Maryland jurisdiction are valid throughout the State of Maryland.

If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that a respondent is a military service member in violation



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of a Military Protection Order entered into NCIC, the law enforcement officer shall notify the law enforcement agency that entered the Military Protection Order into the NCIC database of said violation.

NON-ARRESTABLE PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOLATIONS

Officers are cautioned that the following provisions of these orders are not grounds for arrest:

1. child custody;
2. child visitation;
3. emergency family maintenance;
4. use and/or possession of a vehicle;
5. attending counseling; and
6. order to stay away from a childcare provider of a person eligible for relief while the child is in the care of the provider.

These violations should be referred to the appropriate court by the person eligible for relief and could subject the person violating the provision to sanctions by the court. Officers are reminded they should arrest only for those provisions listed in this policy.

L. OUT-OF-STATE PROTECTIVE ORDERS

An ex parte / protective order issued by a court of another state (to include the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territorial possession) or Indian tribe shall be accorded full faith and credit by a court of this state and shall be enforced only to the extent that the order affords relief that is permitted in Maryland under FL § 4-505 and 4-506 (d).

Officers of this Agency shall, where the out-of-state order meets the criteria outlined in this section of the Manual, arrest, with or without a warrant, any person whom they have probable cause to believe is in violation of a civil protective order issued by a court of another state or Indian tribe. The order must be in effect at the time of the violation, and the person seeking the assistance of a law enforcement officer must:

1. have filed a copy of the order with the District or Circuit Court of Maryland and provide proof of filing; or
2. display to the officer a copy of a non-expired out-of-state order, wherein the violation is one that is consistent with a violation of a Maryland protective order for which an arrest can be made.

The officer is not required to authenticate an out-of-state order which appears valid on its face. An officer shall examine the order for the:

1. proper names of the parties;
2. date of issuance of the order;
3. any expiration date;
4. terms and conditions against the abuser;
5. name of the issuing court; and
6. signature of a judicial officer.

Absent a METERS / NCIC record of the order having been filed with the court, an officer may make a telephone inquiry of a court if the person eligible for relief states the order was recently filed with the court. If the officer is unable to view the out-of-state document or to determine it has been filed with the court, the officer will refrain from making an arrest except for arrest for other Maryland violations (assault, destruction of property, disorderly, etc.).

If an arrest cannot be made, the officer will take such steps as are possible to assist the victim with safety planning



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or direction to services available for victim assistance. The officer will provide any reasonable assistance to connect the victim with available services.

M. REMOVAL OF FIREARMS AND DOMESTIC STAND BYS

When responding to the scene of an alleged act of domestic violence, a law enforcement officer may remove a firearm from the scene if:

1. the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that an act of domestic violence (as described in Family Law) has occurred; and
2. the law enforcement officer has observed the firearm on the scene during the response.

Firearms will also be removed when so designated in temporary protective orders and in all final protective orders. When a temporary protective order states that the respondent will surrender all firearms, the officer(s) serving the order will inquire of the respondent whether he possesses any firearms. If so, the officer will instruct the respondent that they must immediately surrender the firearms or subject themselves to arrest. When the respondent denies possessing a firearm, the officer will instruct the respondent that possession of a firearm is a violation of law and would subject the respondent to an immediate arrest. Whenever a firearm is removed in any of the above cases, the officer shall:

1. advise the owner that the firearm is being recovered pursuant to provisions in Family Law and will be placed in Property Held;
2. advise the owner that he should contact the Firearms Tracking Specialist for information on the release of the firearm;
3. place the recovered firearm(s) in Property Held after completing a Property Report Form #60 with detailed information on the circumstances of recovery, along with a computer printout of the wanted check on the weapons attached to the form;
4. complete an incident report for DV Firearms transfer for recovered property which details the circumstances concerning the removal of the firearm(s), complete a Firearms Affidavit Form #903, and complete a Receipt of Firearms form #198.
5. if a current ex parte / protective order is in effect, attach a copy to the Incident reports.

DOMESTIC STANDBYS

Maryland law requires law enforcement officers to provide standbys to a victim of domestic violence upon request. Officers shall accompany the complainant to the family home so that the complainant may remove the following items, regardless of who paid for the items:

1. the personal clothing of the complainant and of any child in the care of the complainant; and
2. the personal effects, including any medicine or medical devices, of the complainant and of any child in the care of the complainant that are required for the immediate needs of the complainant or the child.

Only items considered immediate necessities shall be removed. Items such as televisions, stereos, and DVD players are not considered necessary personal effects. Officers should use good judgment in deciding what personal effects are necessary (usually limited to toiletries, clothing, and items necessary for work).



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Officers should refrain from forcibly entering a home merely to obtain clothing or personal items, unless such items (i.e., needed medication) are an absolute necessity that if not obtained may create a life-threatening situation. In cases where there is opposition to entrance into the home to collect items, officers shall consult with a supervisor. The supervisor may, if circumstances warrant, authorize forced entry.

Officers should be cautioned that if a respondent of an ex parte / protective order requests police assistance in entering a residence where the courts have ordered him / her away, that this would constitute a violation of the order. Officers in these instances will only offer advice about the legal way of obtaining the personal items. Such advice might include the possibility of obtaining property through a third party or family member, not a part of the court order.

N. PEACE ORDERS

A person who is not eligible for an ex parte / protective order may seek relief from violence or harassment through a temporary peace order / peace order. A petitioner must apply under oath for a temporary peace order through the courts.

Once granted, a temporary peace order may be effective for not more than seven (7) days after service of the order and will include a date and time of a peace order hearing. A peace order may be granted and extend the relief to the petitioner for up to six (6) months after the hearing. The following violations will warrant the issuance of a temporary peace order:

1. an act that causes serious bodily harm;
2. an act that places the petitioner in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
3. assault in any degree;
4. false imprisonment;
5. harassment;
6. stalking;
7. trespassing; or
8. malicious destruction of property.

Peace orders may provide for the following relief:

1. order a respondent to refrain from committing or threatening to commit an act specified above;
2. order a respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing the petitioner;
3. order a respondent to refrain from entering the residence of the petitioner; and
4. order a respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of the petitioner (residence includes yard, grounds, outbuildings, and common areas surrounding the residence).

INTERIM PEACE ORDER

An interim peace order may be issued by a District Court Commissioner when the District Courts are closed for business. Such interim orders are effective until a peace order hearing is held by the court or until the end of the second business day on which the Office of the District Court is open for business.

An interim peace order may offer the same relief as a temporary peace order.

PROCEDURES

Upon the issuance of an interim peace order by a District Court Commissioner, the procedures outlined below will be followed:



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1. The District Court Commissioner in Charles County will send the peace order via email to protectiveorders@ccso.us;
2. If an order is issued by an out-of-County jurisdiction, a copy will be sent by fax to the Charles County Sheriff's Office District I Station;
3. If available, the Police Station Technician will notify the Domestic Violence Unit and a member will pick up the interim peace order; if not available, the Police Station Technician will enter a call into the CAD computer to have a patrol officer pick up the interim peace order for service.

When an officer is directed by Communications to pick up and serve an interim peace order, the procedures outlined below will be followed:

1. The officer will respond to either the Commissioner's office or the District I Station to pick up the order;
2. The officer will take the interim peace order to the District I Station or to the Domestic Violence Clerk, where personnel there will copy the order and Return of Service, provide the officer with the respondent's copy, and enter the information into the local computer;
3. If the order is to be served in the District II, III or IV area and a Domestic Violence Officer is not available to serve the order, it will be faxed to the appropriate police station technician for service;
4. The supervisor in the affected district will be notified by Communications or the Police Station Technician and will coordinate an immediate attempt to serve the interim peace order on the respondent;
5. In all cases where there is a vacate order, a minimum of two officers will be assigned to serve the order;
6. Upon service of the order, the serving officer will complete the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet (Form # 70) with the respondent. The Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet will be returned to the station along with the return of service. The information sheet will be retained in the peace order folder for the duration of the order, and the contents may be used to locate the respondent for future services. The contents of the Peace / Protective Case Order Information Sheet will be used by the Judicial Specialist to update the respondent's local profile;
7. If the interim peace order is served, a copy of the Return of Service will be faxed to the District I Station and the technician will be notified by phone; the original is to be sent by Agency mail to the Domestic Violence Office;
8. The red folder with a copy of the order and a copy of the Return shall remain in the filing drawer at the District I Station;
9. The next working member of the Domestic Violence Unit will pick up any served and unserved orders;
10. When no Domestic Violence Unit officers are scheduled to work, on-coming shift supervisors will check the file drawer for any unserved orders and will coordinate the attempt to serve during their shift.

When an officer responds to the District I Station with an interim peace order, personnel there will:

1. make a copy of the order and Return of Service;
2. fax a copy to the appropriate jurisdiction if the order requires service outside the jurisdiction of Charles



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County, and make a note inside the jacket on the attempt service sheet what jurisdiction was notified;

3. obtain a jacket number and provide the officer with the respondent's copy, the Return of Service the information sheet, and the Peace / Protective Order Case Information Sheet (Form #70);
4. enter the required information into the local computer system;
5. when notified by the serving officer that the interim peace order was served, update the local computer and fax and mail a copy of the service to the Domestic Violence Unit; and
6. if served on behalf of a jurisdiction outside of Charles County, fax a copy to that jurisdiction and send a copy of the order and the Return of Service to the Domestic Violence Unit.

TEMPORARY PEACE ORDER

Once granted, a temporary peace order may be effective for not more than seven (7) days after service of the order and will include a date and time of a peace order hearing. A peace order may be granted and extend the relief to the petitioner for up to six (6) months after the hearing. The following violations will warrant the issuance of a temporary peace order:

1. An act that causes serious bodily harm;
2. An act that places the petitioner in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
3. Assault in any degree;
4. Rape or sexual offense, or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree;
5. False imprisonment;
6. Harassment;
7. Stalking;
8. Trespassing; or
9. Malicious destruction of property.

VIOLATIONS OF PEACE ORDERS

An individual who fails to comply with the relief granted in a temporary peace order / peace order, as stated above, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Officers of this Agency have a responsibility to enforce certain provisions of peace orders. Officers of this Agency shall make warrantless arrests in these cases if they have probable cause to believe that a person is violating the provisions of a peace order. In cases where an immediate arrest cannot be made, officers shall make application for charges as soon as possible.

4-234 EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDER

4-234.1 PURPOSE

Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) are meant to prohibit a respondent from possessing a firearm where there is sufficient information to believe that the respondent poses an **IMMEDIATE** and **PRESENT DANGER** of causing personal injury to the respondent, the petitioner, or another individual by possessing a firearm. The purpose of the ERPO is to reduce gun deaths and injuries by restricting a respondent's access to firearms.

A petition for or the issuance of the ERPO does not in any way affect the ability of law enforcement to remove or seize firearms and/or ammunition from any person or property as permitted by any other law.



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4-234.2 DEFINITIONS

Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) means: a civil interim, temporary, or final protective order prohibiting the respondent from possessing and purchasing a firearm and ammunition and ordering the respondent to surrender to law enforcement any firearm and ammunition in the respondent's possession for the duration of the Order.

- An **Interim ERPO** is issued when the District Court is closed. Issued by the District Court Commissioner, an Interim Order will be effective until a Temporary ERPO hearing is held in District Court.
- A **Temporary ERPO** is issued by the District Court. A hearing will be held with the petitioner at which a Temporary ERPO may be issued by a District Court Judge. A Temporary ERPO shall be effective for not more than seven (7) days after service of the Order unless extended by the judge.
- A **Final ERPO** is issued by the District Court. If a Temporary ERPO is issued, there will be a hearing at which a District Court Judge may issue a Final ERPO. A Final ERPO shall be valid for a period stated in the Order not to exceed one year unless superseded by a Circuit Court Judge's order or the Order is modified, rescinded, or for good cause shown, extended for 6 months beyond the period specified.

Ammunition means: a cartridge, shell, or any other device containing explosive or incendiary material designed and intended for use in a firearm.

Firearm means: a weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; or the frame or receiver of such a weapon. Firearm includes a handgun, rifle, shotgun, and starter gun.

Petitioner means: an individual who files a petition for an Interim, Temporary, or Final ERPO. A petitioner may be any one of the following people:

- Physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical marriage or family therapist, or designee of a health officer who has examined the individual;
- A law enforcement officer;
- The spouse of the respondent;
- A cohabitant of the respondent;
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent;
- A current dating or intimate partner of the respondent; or
- A current or former legal guardian of the respondent.

Respondent means: a person against whom a petition for an ERPO is filed.

Possessing a firearm and ammunition means: The respondent has firearms and/or ammunition within their control; this includes those firearms and ammunition where the respondent has access to or is within their easy reach. Possession also includes firearms and ammunition in other locations inside and outside of the respondent's residence where the respondent is not the owner of the property, but the respondent has reasonable control over



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the firearms and/or ammunition.

4-234.3 DETERMINING WHEN AN ERPO IS APPROPRIATE

An ERPO would be appropriate when information is known to the petitioner that the respondent poses an **immediate** and **present** danger of causing personal injury to the respondent, the petitioner, or any other person by possessing a firearm.

The petitioner must be able to provide supporting facts concerning the behavior and statements of the respondent or any other information that led the petitioner to believe that the respondent presents an **immediate** and **present** danger.

The petitioner must be able to describe of the number, types, and location of any known firearms believed to be possessed by the respondent;

The petitioner may also have supporting documents or information regarding:

- Any unlawful, reckless, or negligent use, display, storage, possession, or brandishing of a firearm by the respondent;
- Any act or threat of violence the respondent made against the petitioner or against another person, whether or not the threat of violence involved a firearm;
- Any violation by the respondent of a protective order or peace order;
- Any abuse of a controlled dangerous substance or alcohol by the respondent, including any conviction for a criminal offense involving a controlled dangerous substance or alcohol; and
- Where disclosure is permitted or not otherwise prohibited by law, any health records or other health information concerning the respondent.

In all instances in which an officer believes there is sufficient information to support the issuance of an ERPO, the officer shall also advise the complainant of the procedures to obtain a protective order or peace order, whichever is applicable to the situation. This is in addition to providing information on how to obtain the ERPO.

4-234.4 LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

Any time an officer has a reasonable belief that an individual poses an **immediate** and **present** danger of causing personal injury to themselves or to other persons by possessing a firearm, the officer shall investigate the circumstances to determine whether an ERPO is appropriate. Qualifying incidents would include, but are not limited to:

- Domestic / family violence or disputes,
- Neighborhood disputes,
- Threats and harassment complaints,
- Threats of mass violence,
- Suicidal subject calls,
- Threats against law enforcement or other governmental entities, and
- Any call involving violence or threats of violence with a firearm.

If the investigation determines the individual does pose such a danger, the investigating officer shall immediately

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notify a supervisor and request they respond to the scene. The officer shall also make a determination as to whether the complainant meets the criteria to be eligible to petition the court for an ERPO. In either event, this investigation shall be documented on an incident report.

Once it is determined that petitioning for an ERPO is appropriate, the investigating officer should make a good faith and legal effort to secure firearms and ammunition in the Respondent's possession during the original call for service. This action should result in an effort to eliminate the potential harm and the need to secure the weapons and ammunition at a later time once the ERPO is issued. If the ERPO is not issued or the petition is subsequently dismissed, the weapons and ammunition can be returned to the lawful owner if the individual is not prohibited from possessing the firearms and ammunition by state or federal law.

Complainant Qualifies as the Petitioner:

For instances in which the complainant is eligible to be a petitioner, the officer shall explain to the person what an ERPO is and the process to obtain the interim or temporary order as is appropriate. Officers shall provide the complainant with the ERPO pamphlet which explains the process for the filing of the petition.

In most cases the complainant is in the best position to obtain the ERPO since the complainant has the necessary background information regarding the respondent's behavior and the specific facts and any relevant supporting facts and information. For this reason, the officer shall encourage the complainant to immediately respond to the District Court in order to obtain a Temporary ERPO or the District Court Commissioner's Office to obtain an Interim ERPO if the courts are not open. The officer will provide transportation to the complainant if necessary.

It is always the supervisor's discretion, even in cases where the complainant qualifies to file the ERPO petition, to initiate the filing of a petition by an officer. If the complainant indicates that they will not be pursuing an ERPO, the supervisor should determine whether it is appropriate for an officer to file the petition. In instances in which the complainant qualifies to be the petitioner, however the respondent poses an immediate and present danger to the general public, the supervisor shall initiate the filing of a petition by an officer.

Process for Filing an ERPO Petition by an Officer:

This section describes the procedure to be followed if the supervisor believes the circumstances warrant the filing of an ERPO petition by an officer.

Unless circumstances require the *immediate* filing of a petition, the supervisor will contact the General Counsel prior to the filing of a petition. Based on the information provided, the General Counsel will determine whether an interim, temporary, or no petition should be filed.

If the decision is made to file a petition, the supervisor will designate an officer to be the petitioner. The petitioner will also assume the responsibility of primary investigator for the ERPO and will conduct the investigation as directed by the Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel will assist the petitioner in drafting the petition.

Upon receiving the ERPO from the Court or the Commissioner, the petitioning officer shall immediately turn the order over to the Commander of the Judicial Services Section for service. If the Judicial Services Commander is not available, the officer will turn the order over to the on-duty shift commander, who will then arrange for service. The order will also be entered into the computer systems as required elsewhere in policy. In addition to providing the commander the order, the officer shall also brief the commander of the circumstances surrounding the order and any noteworthy information to assist with the order being served. The serving officer will notify the Office of General Counsel that the ERPO has been served and provide a summary of what occurred during service.

In the event the General Counsel is not available, the decision to file a petition may be made by a lieutenant or above. The General Counsel will be notified as soon as possible that a petition was filed.



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Petitions for Emergency Evaluations:

If an officer has an encounter with a subject which results in the officer either taking the person into custody for an involuntary emergency evaluation or assisting the person with a voluntary evaluation, the officer will determine if the subject poses an **immediate** and **present** danger to themselves or another by possessing a firearm. If not, the officer will document their findings on an incident report or make the appropriate notation on the event sheet if no report is required. If the subject does pose such a danger, the officer shall document their findings on an incident report and shall petition for an ERPO based on those facts.

4-234.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Officers responding to any call for service of a violent nature or a threat of violence shall determine if the incident qualifies for the issuance of an ERPO. If the incident did not qualify, the officer shall make that part of the disposition of the call.

If the officer determines there is justification for the issuance of an ERPO, the officer shall note that in the disposition of the call. If the incident qualifies for the officer to create an incident report, their investigation related to the ERPO will be documented in that report. If there is no other need for an incident report, one will be generated to document the investigation relative to the need for an ERPO.

An ERPO pamphlet will be given to the complainant by the officer handling any incident involving violence or a threat of violence handled, whether the incident qualified for an ERPO or not. The issuance of the pamphlet shall be documented in disposition of the call as well as in the officer's incident report.

4-234.6 COURT PROCEEDINGS

An officer who files a petition for an ERPO does so in the officer's capacity as a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Ultimate decision making authority to proceed or not proceed with an ERPO rests with the Sheriff and not with the petitioning officer. Attorneys with the Office of General Counsel are designated by the Sheriff to make decisions regarding ERPOs on the Sheriff's behalf.

The Office of General Counsel will handle all court matters regarding ERPOs on behalf of the Sheriff unless the Office of General Counsel is not available for anticipated court hearings or some other reason prevents representation. The Office of General Counsel will coordinate the service of court subpoenas with Judicial Services.

The officer filing the petition and obtaining an ERPO shall appear for all court appearances as directed by the Office of General Counsel. In the event an officer receives notice of other court action, such as an appeal, the officer shall send that notice to the Office of the General Counsel.

If the Office of General Counsel is unavailable to handle the court matters, it will be the officer-petitioner's responsibility to ensure the witnesses are made aware of all court dates and stress the importance of their appearance to ensure an order is continued.

The officer-petitioner must also obtain subpoenas for witnesses through the District Court Clerk's Office. Subpoenas shall be obtained for all necessary witnesses to compel them to attend the hearing for the Final ERPO. Any subpoenas obtained by the officer will be given to the Judicial Services Section Commander for service. As available, the Office of General Counsel will provide advice to the petitioner about the court proceeding.



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4-234.7 SERVICE OF INTERIM AND TEMPORARY ERPO ORDERS – CITIZENS ERPOS

When the Agency receives a copy of an Interim or Temporary ERPO for service during business hours, the order shall be processed in the Judicial Services Section and assigned to an officer for service. If the Agency receives an Interim or Temporary ERPO for service after hours, the ERPO will be given to a Shift Commander, who shall assign the order to an officer for service. The officer shall immediately attempt to serve the order on the respondent.

In the event the Agency receives an ERPO for service on an individual not residing in this County, the officer receiving the ERPO will immediately forward an electronic copy of the ERPO (to be followed by a hard copy to be mailed) to the designated law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which the respondent resides.

Upon receiving any ERPO for service on the respondent or a copy which was served on the Sheriff's Office, the Judicial Services Section shall enter the order into the Sheriff's RMS system as well as METERS, or update the order if previously entered. If after hours, the District 1 Police Station Technician shall be responsible for entering / updating the order into both RMS and METERS.

In the case of an interim order, the Agency will send a return of service to the District Court Clerk's Office.

Within 2 hours after service of all ERPO, the Agency will electronically notify the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services of the service using an electronic system approved and provided by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The service of the ERPO and any subsequent firearms and ammunition recovery based on the order will be documented on a supplemental report to the original incident. This will be the responsibility of the officer serving the order and/or recovering the firearms and ammunition. If there is no original report, the serving / seizing officer will create an incident report for the event.

Referrals to Law Enforcement for Emergency Evaluation on an ERPO

Interim Order: A court commissioner may make a referral on the order that he/she finds, based upon the information contained within the petition, there is probable cause to believe the respondent meets the requirement for an emergency evaluation under Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the Health General Article. A referral notation on the order in and of itself does not provide law enforcement the legal authority to take the respondent into custody for an evaluation. It is a finding by the commissioner for law enforcement to make a determination as to whether the respondent should be taken into custody for an emergency evaluation.

Temporary / Final Orders: A judge may make a notation on the order that he/she finds, based upon the information contained within the petition, there is probable cause to believe the respondent meets the requirement for an emergency evaluation under Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the Health General Article. The judge will then cause a separate order to be issued directing law enforcement to take the respondent into custody and transport him/her to the nearest emergency facility for an examination by a physician. If the petitioner is an officer, the judge must be informed if an emergency petition was already completed and/or if the respondent is in the custody of the Detention Center.

4-234.8 SEIZING FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION UNDER AN ERPO

Upon serving an Interim or Temporary ERPO or upon coming into the possession of a Final ERPO, officers shall make a good faith effort to secure all firearms and ammunitions in the possession of the respondent.

- Upon receiving an ERPO for service, the serving officer shall review the document to determine what firearms should be in the respondent's possession. Additionally, the officer shall conduct a Maryland Gun database search on the respondent to determine what, if any, regulated firearms the respondent has



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registered to them in Maryland. This search will not identify unregulated firearms such as most rifles or shotguns and will not identify any ammunition in the respondent's possession.

- Upon serving an Interim, Temporary, or Final ERPO, the officer will order the respondent to surrender any and all firearms in their possession. If the officer believes the respondent is not fully cooperating, the officer may request consent to search for the firearms or may make application for a search and seizure warrant to attempt to locate the firearms. This will be the responsibility of the officer serving the order.
- **Consent Search:** Although every situation is different, officers may develop information that firearms and/or ammunition are in the possession of the petitioner or other individuals. In this case, the petitioner or other individuals may have the legal authority to give consent to the officers and allow officers access into the home or other locations to secure any firearms and/or ammunition. The respondent may also have the legal authority to give officers consent to search the home or other location.
- **Search Warrant:** Officers, during their investigations of the initial call or while attempting to obtain the firearms and/or ammunition in the service of the ERPO, may develop probable cause to apply to the court for an Order to search a specific location or locations in situations where the respondent has failed to surrender firearms and/or ammunition. Officers shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain the firearms and/or ammunition regarding the service of an ERPO

4-234.9 RESPONSIBILITY UPON TAKING POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Officers or other Agency personnel coming into possession of firearms and/or ammunition in accordance with an ERPO shall at the time of surrender or seizure:

- Issue the respondent a Firearms / Ammunition Receipt (CCSO Form #198) to the respondent identifying the make, model, caliber, serial number, and condition of all firearms and ammunition seized or surrendered as a result of an ERPO;
- Attach a copy of the receipt to the incident report;
- Provide information to the respondent on the process for retaking possession of the firearms and/or ammunition on the expiration or termination of the Order;
- All firearms shall be photographed and placed in a protective case if available. Officers or other personnel shall not place any marks on the firearms for identification or other purposes.
- Complete a property held sheet and place the firearms / ammunition in Property Held in accordance with current recovered firearms procedures.

4-234.10 EXPIRATION OF THE ERPO

Upon the expiration or termination of an ERPO, the Agency shall:

- Notify the respondent they may request the return of the firearms and/or ammunition;
- Before releasing firearms and/or ammunition to the respondent, verify that the respondent is not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms and/or ammunition.
- On request of the respondent who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms and/or ammunition, the Agency shall return the firearms and/or ammunition to the respondent no later than:



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- 14 days after the expiration of an Interim or Temporary Order; or
- 14 days after the court terminates a Final Order;
- 48 hours after the expiration of the Final Order.

A respondent who does not wish to recover firearms and/or ammunition or who is otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms and/or ammunition may sell or transfer the firearms and/or ammunition to:

- A Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer (the FFL must provide written proof that the respondent has agreed to transfer the firearms and/or ammunition to the dealer and this Agreement must be verified with the respondent and the verification documented in writing);
- Another person who is not prohibited from possessing the firearms and/or ammunition under State and/or Federal Law and who does not reside in the same residence as the respondent (the person must provide written proof that the respondent has agreed to transfer the firearms and/or ammunition to the person and the Agreement must be verified with the respondent and the verification documented in writing);

A respondent may request the Agency destroy the firearms and/or ammunition.

If an individual other than the respondent claims ownership of a firearm and/or ammunition surrendered or seized as a result of an ERPO, the Agency shall only release the firearm and/or ammunition to the individual if:

- The individual provides proof of ownership of the firearm and/or ammunition; and
- The Agency determines the individual is not otherwise prohibited from possessing the firearm and/or ammunition.

In the event a firearm and/or ammunition is not reclaimed within 6 months after the notice to a respondent, no party shall have the right to assert ownership of the firearm or ammunition, and the Agency may destroy the firearm and/or the ammunition.

4-234.11 VIOLATIONS OF AN ERPO

Violations of the conditions of an ERPO are a misdemeanor and punishable by imprisonment of up to 90 days for the first offense and 1 year for subsequent offenses. Officers **shall arrest** with or without an arrest warrant any person whom the officer has probable cause to believe is in violation of an Interim, Temporary, or Final ERPO in effect at the time of the violation.

4-234.12 TRANSFER OF FIREARMS UPON CONVICTION OF DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIME

When a defendant is convicted of or pleads guilty to a disqualifying crime that the court determines to be a domestically related crime, the court shall inform the defendant that the defendant is prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm, a rifle, or a shotgun as defined by Maryland law. The court shall also order the defendant to transfer all regulated firearms, rifles, or shotguns owned by the defendant or in the defendant's possession.

By law the transfer of the regulated firearms, rifles, or shotguns shall be made within two business days after the conviction or guilty plea. The Defendant must surrender their firearms to a state or local law enforcement agency or to a federally licensed firearms dealer. The defendant ordered to surrender the firearms may designate a representative to transfer the firearms to a state or local law enforcement agency or to a federally licensed firearms dealer.

4-234.13 RECEIVING TRANSFERRED FIREARMS



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The law enforcement agency or federally licensed firearms dealer accepting a transferred firearm under this law shall issue a written proof of transfer to the person transferring the firearm. The CCSO Firearms Transfer Report (CCSO form #356) will be used for firearms turned into the CCSO under this section.

Officers receiving the firearms transferred under this law shall follow all other property procedures for recovered firearms located in section 4-500 of the AOM. The CCSO Firearms Transfer Report and a copy of the court order will be attached to the required property report.

4-234.14 COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT ORDER

Charles County Courts will make notification to the Charles County Sheriff's Office that a defendant has been ordered to transfer their firearms. The supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit shall review all court notifications and will determine if the named defendant resides in Charles County. If so, the supervisor will check to determine if the defendant, or their designee, have transferred their firearms to the CCSO or the federally licensed firearms dealer as required by the court order. If the defendant has not surrendered their firearms, the supervisor shall cause an investigation to be conducted to determine if the defendant is in violation of the court's order. If it is determined that the defendant is in violation, the case will be forwarded to the Narcotics Enforcement Section's ATF task force member for follow up.

If the Domestic Violence Supervisor determines the defendant resides outside of Charles County, the supervisor will immediately forward an electronic copy of the court order (to be followed by a hard copy to be mailed) to the designated law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which the defendant resides. Likewise, any order received by the CCSO from another jurisdiction will be handled by the Domestic Violence Supervisor in the same manner as an order received from the court.

4-234.15 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Any and all investigative steps completed after receiving a court notification of a conviction will be documented in an incident report. Even in the event an order is sent for service outside of Charles County, an incident report will be completed documenting which agency it was sent to. If the defendant complies with the order and surrenders his firearms to this agency, the Firearms Transfer Report will be attached to a Property Report which will fulfill the reporting requirement for this section. A separate incident report will not be needed unless there is additional investigation required.

4-234.16 SEARCH WARRANTS

Upon probable cause to believe the defendant has failed to surrender one or more regulated firearms, rifles, or shotguns, in accordance with the court order the defendant may be guilty of possession of a regulated firearm under section 5-133 or a rifle and or shotgun under sections 5-205 or 5-206 of Maryland Public Safety Article. An officer may make application for a search and seizure warrant for the removal of any regulated firearm, rifle or shotgun at any location where there is probable cause to believe a firearm owned or possessed by the defendant is located.

4-234.17 STORAGE OF TRANSFERRED FIREARMS

Any firearms received as the result of a court order based on the conviction of a domestically related crime shall be retained by the CCSO Property Management Section until such time as all possibilities of an appeal have been exhausted. Once the appeals have been exhausted, any firearms received by CCSO based on this court order is subject to disposition and will be disposed of by the Property Management Section in accordance with existing policies related to the disposition of firearms.



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4-235 STOP AND FRISK

A person may be stopped by a police officer upon a specifically based reasonable suspicion that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit, a crime. Reasonable suspicion is more than a “hunch” but less than evidence which amounts to probable cause to arrest a person. The factual circumstances of each case will dictate the reasonableness of the stop and frisk. The following circumstances may be considered by the police officer in determining whether reasonable suspicion exists, thereby justifying a stop. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive:

- Observation of unusual conduct and actions of the person;
- Appearance or demeanor of the person;
- The time of day;
- The location;
- The clothing of the person (e.g., any suspicious bulges appearing through the person’s clothing);
- Whether the person is carrying anything and, if so, the nature thereof;
- Proximity to a known crime scene;
- Prior knowledge of the officer, including the person’s prior records and any other information obtained relating to the person and their conduct;
- Information obtained from citizens or other officers.

Once sufficient reasonable suspicion is established and the officer decides to initiate a stop, the officer:

- must announce their status as a police officer; and
- may request the person’s identification; and
- may request the person’s license and vehicle registration if the person is in a vehicle; and
- may question the person to determine if they are armed with a weapon; and
- may conduct a frisk of the individual if the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the person may be armed and presently dangerous to the officer or others.

The officer may decide to frisk an individual they have stopped based on the officer’s observations, information, and experience, and if the officer reasonably believes that:

- the person may be wearing, carrying, or transporting a weapon; and
- the person poses a threat to the officer or others; and
- it is impractical to obtain a search warrant; and
- to protect the officer or others, swift measures are necessary to discover whether the person is armed.

Both the stop and the frisk must be supported by reasonable and articulable suspicion to suspect criminal activity.

If a frisk is justified, it must be limited to a “patting down” of the outside of the person’s clothing solely to determine if the person is carrying a weapon. If the frisk fails to identify any evidence of a suspected weapon, no further search is permissible. However, if during the frisk, the officer discovers an object which is readily apparent to the officer to be a weapon, the officer is authorized to search that part of the person’s clothing containing the object, but may not search further.

If the object felt and found in the course of the search is in fact a dangerous or deadly weapon, and the evidence is that the possession thereof is in violation of law, the officer may then and there arrest the person for a crime committed in his presence. As incident to such lawful arrest, the officer may make a further search of the person and his immediate surroundings and seize anything in the nature of contraband, evidence, or fruits of the crime.



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If, after the frisk and then subsequent search, the object believed to have been a weapon is actually found to be an item of contraband or evidence of a crime, the object may nonetheless be seized and the person may be arrested.

If, during the initial frisk, it is readily apparent to the officer that the object felt is not a weapon, but is contraband, the object may be retrieved and if the object is in fact contraband, it may be seized and the person may be arrested. During the frisk, the immediate identification of the contraband must be made without squeezing, moving, or other manipulation of the object by the officer.

4-235.1 REPORTING

Any officer who conducts a stop and frisk shall document the circumstances surrounding the incident by completing a Field Interview Report (Form #389) with the first line in the narrative section stating "Stop and Frisk." The officer shall also be responsible for completing any associated incident or arrest reports related to the stop and frisk. The FIR must be completed within 24 hours of the event.

The FIR shall include the following information at a minimum:

- Name, race, and DOB of the person;
- Date, time, and location of the incident;
- A description of the circumstances surrounding the stop and frisk, including the officer's reasonable suspicion;
- Whether any items were recovered and if so, a description of the items.

The officer shall print and forward a hard copy of the completed FIR to the Records Section. It will then be forwarded by the Records Section to the Maryland State Police.

4-236 MISSING PERSON CASES AND REPORTING

CCSO will dispatch an officer to all reports of a missing person and thoroughly investigate all such reports. Officers will initiate Missing Person Reports following the procedures outlined in this section of the AOM. Electronic report writing via Police Mobile will be used to complete missing person reports which comply with the State of Maryland reporting requirements.

There is no age limit or time period a person must have been missing for the Agency to initiate a Missing Person Report and investigation. In accordance with CJIS policy, all missing person reports will be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and METERS computer network within 2 hours after receipt of the minimum information necessary to make the entry. Each missing person will need their own incident report number, so the entry into NCIC and METERS can be tracked properly. For example, when taking a report for multiple persons missing from the same location, each person needs a separate incident report number and report completed.

Initial Missing Person Reports will contain, at a minimum, the physical description, clothing description if known, vehicle description if applicable, circumstances of disappearance, and all investigative steps taken to locate the missing person.

In all critical missing person, child abduction, and unidentified found child cases, a supervisor and CID will be notified. The Search Management Function should only be contacted based on the Search Urgency Form (Form #297) criteria. In critical cases where the missing person is not located during the initial investigation and search or where a found child cannot be readily identified, CID will be responsible for the follow-up investigation. In child abduction cases that meet the required criteria, CID will be responsible for activation of the Maryland Amber Plan.



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In cases of persons having cognitive disorders, particularly the elderly or those with Alzheimer's Disease, the Silver Alert Program will be initiated in those cases where the required criteria are met. CID will be responsible for coordinating the activation of the Silver Alert Program.

4-236.1 DEFINITIONS

Adult - a person 18 years of age or older.

Abduction - a person taken by an unknown individual, through force or persuasion, usually in furtherance of additional victimization or when a non-custodial family member flees with a child, usually in direct violation of a court ordered custody arrangement.

Critical Missing Person - a missing individual whose circumstances require an increased response.

Maryland Amber Plan - a cooperative partnership between law enforcement, the broadcast media, and other agencies for the immediate communication of vital information about a serious child abduction to as wide an audience as possible.

Maryland Purple Alert Program - a public notification system to broadcast information about missing persons who have cognitive impairments, brain injury, mental disorders, developmental / intellectual disability, or hearing loss, but does not meet the criteria for a Silver Alert.

Maryland Silver Alert Program - a coordinated notification plan that is activated when certain criteria are met involving a missing person with a cognitive disorder, generally the elderly or a person with Alzheimer's Disease.

Missing Adult – means a person who is:

- 18 years old or older; and,
- Whose disappearance is not voluntary; or,
- A person is absent from their accustomed network of social and personal relationships to the extent that people within that network define the absence as a reason for concern for the health or welfare of the person.

A missing adult is considered **CRITICAL** when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Is 75 years old or older;
- Has a cognitive disorder or intellectual developmental disability;
- Has a known or suspected serious injury, illness, or physical handicap;
- Is currently suicidal;
- Is missing following a catastrophic event;
- And/or foul play is suspected.

Missing Child – means a person who is:

- under the age of 18 years; and,
- the subject of a Missing Person Report filed with a law enforcement agency in this state and whose whereabouts are unknown.

A missing child is considered **CRITICAL** when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Suffers from a mental or physical handicap or illness;



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- Has a cognitive or intellectual developmental disability;
- Has been the subject of a child abuse report;
- A child under 8 years of age, who generally has not established independence from parental control and who does not have the survival skills necessary to protect themselves from exploitation;
- Is missing following a catastrophic event;
- The disappearance is of a suspicious or dangerous nature;
- The person filing the report of a missing child has reason to believe that the missing child has been abducted.

All children are considered missing upon receipt of a complaint, and a report will be taken.

Runaway - a child, most often a teenager, who leaves home voluntarily for a variety of reasons.

Search Management Function – Group of Agency members specifically trained in techniques like Lost Persons Behavior used to assist in locating a missing person.

Throwaway Child - a child whose caretaker makes no effort to recover the child who has run away or who has been abandoned or deserted.

Unidentified Person - a found person, whether living or deceased, who cannot be readily identified.

4-236.2 SEARCH MANAGEMENT FUNCTION (TEAM)

The Search Management Team, assigned to the School Resources Section of CSD, is a group of specialized assignment officers specifically trained to manage search activities surrounding critical missing persons, manhunts, and large scale catastrophes. Using the scientific principles of Lost Person Theory, specialized management training, and best practices developed in conjunction with regional partners from the Council of Governments, search managers utilize the appropriate resources to locate the search subject as quickly as possible while balancing the safety of the search teams and other organizational considerations.

4-236.3 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Call takers, upon receiving the report of a missing person, will be responsible for:

- obtaining as much information as possible to make an initial determination about what type of missing person is being reported (i.e., child, adult, critical);
- obtaining an initial description for the missing person, or vehicle(s) involved, and in the case of abduction, any suspect descriptions; and
- entering the call information into the CAD system immediately to facilitate a police response.

Police Communication Officers (PCOs) will be responsible for:

- immediately dispatching an officer to the scene of the report and informing the officer about any look-out obtained;
- notifying the appropriate supervisor of all potential critical missing person cases; and
- broadcasting the initial and subsequent descriptions obtained and making other notifications as requested.

4-236.4 RESPONDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES – CRITICAL MISSING



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In responding to critical missing person cases, officers are, as circumstances dictate, responsible for:

- obtaining information from the complainant and completing the Missing Person Report (SOM Form #79);
- completing the Search Urgency Evaluation Form (CCSO Form #297);
- establishing the Point Last Seen (PLS), a key component for additional searching;
- conducting a thorough search of the location where the missing person was last seen, especially if that location is a structure. Children will often hide within a building as if playing a game;
- supplying Communications with lookout information and following up on any locations where the missing person may be located, with the assistance of additional responding officers if necessary;
- facilitating entry of all necessary and available information into the METERS / NCIC computer networks within 2 hours as required by law.

4-236.5 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES – CRITICAL MISSING

In responding to critical missing person cases, supervisors are, as circumstances dictate, responsible for:

- obtaining a briefing and ensuring all required written reports are completed;
- review of the Search Urgency Evaluation Form and comparing incident to defined critical missing person;
- responding to the determination of score on the Search Urgency Form, by either determining no additional resources or consultation is necessary, or by contacting the appropriate Patrol Commander to respond and take command of the incident;
- ensuring entry or removal of all necessary and available information into the METERS / NCIC computer networks.

4-236.6 COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES – CRITICAL MISSING

In responding to critical missing person cases, commanders are, as circumstances dictate, responsible for:

- obtaining a briefing and ensuring all required written reports are completed;
- reviewing the Search Urgency Evaluation Form;
- contacting the on-call Search Manager for a consultation, unless an on duty Search Manager is available, and gathering information to determine the operation length, scope, and area of operations;
- establishing a command post and staging area for any missing person search mission;
- serving as the overall incident commander and facilitating the ICS process for CCSO and serving in the Unified Command, if necessary;
- utilizing available Patrol resources to conduct hasty searches in the immediate search area or at locations where the missing person may be located prior to Search Management's arrival;
- ensuring entry or removal of all necessary and available information into the METERS / NCIC computer networks.

4-236.7 SEARCH MANAGEMENT FUNCTION – RESPONSIBILITIES

In responding to critical missing person cases, search managers, as circumstances dictate, are responsible for:

- responding to the command post for a critical missing person incident;
- determining the assets necessary to conduct the search, to include K-9, drones, etc., and facilitating their response;
- filling the position of Operations Chief in the ICS structure;
- determining the operations area of the search mission;
- establishing work objectives for responding resources to locate the missing person;



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- advising the incident commander on operations, scope, and area of operations;
- approving all out-of-county law enforcement personnel or non-governmental organization responses;
- incorporating CID detective into operations work group to facilitate information sharing;
- facilitating all of the paperwork required to conduct the search.

4-236.8 CID RESPONSIBILITIES – CRITICAL MISSING

In responding to critical missing person cases, CID personnel are, as circumstances dictate, responsible for:

- responding to the scene of all critical missing person cases;
- assuming investigative responsibility for the incident;
- gathering information about recent family history;
- interviewing parent(s) / reporting person(s) and all witnesses, and reconciling any conflicting information;
- reviewing and evaluating all available information and evidence collected;
- developing an investigative plan for follow-ups;
- determining if additional investigative resources or specialized services are required;
- facilitating or making required entries, updates, and cancellations in METERS / NCIC;
- ensuring the AMBER Plan / Silver Alert is activated where required;
- in coordination with Homeland Security and Intelligence Section and the Media Relations Officer, creating missing person bulletins / flyers with photographs and descriptive information;
- securing missing person's latest medical and dental records;
- establishing a telephone hotline for receipt of tips and leads;
- assigning detective as liaison to the Search Management Team; and
- executing the investigative follow-up plan.

4-236.9 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST FOR CRITICAL MISSING PERSONS

This checklist is adapted from a list prepared by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and is meant to provide a framework for considerations and actions for CCSO when investigating critical missing person cases. During the preliminary investigation of critical missing persons, officers will, as circumstances dictate:

- interview parent(s) / person making the initial report;
- verify that the critical missing person is, in fact, missing;
- if missing person is a child, verify the custody status;
- identify the circumstances of the disappearance;
- complete the Search Urgency Form (#297);
- request a supervisor to respond if necessary;
- obtain and note permission to search home or building where incident took place;
- conduct an immediate, thorough search of the missing person's home, even if the missing person was reported missing from a different location;
- determine when, where, and by whom the critical missing person was last seen;
- interview the individuals who last had contact with the critical missing person;
- obtain a detailed description of the critical missing person, abductor, and any vehicles used;
- relay detailed descriptive information to Communications for broadcast updates;
- brief and bring up-to-date all additional responding personnel, including supervisors and investigative personnel;
- ensure that all persons at the scene are identified and interviewed separately and that their interview and identifying information is properly recorded;
- determine relationship to the critical missing person of each person present;
- note information that each person may have about the critical missing person's disappearance;



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- determine when / where each person last saw the critical missing person and ask each one, "What do you think happened to the critical missing person?"
- obtain names / addresses / telephone numbers of critical missing person's friends / associates and other relatives and friends of the family;
- continue to keep Communications apprised of all appropriate developing information for broadcast updates;
- treat the area as a crime scene and protect the scene and area of the critical missing person's home (including personal articles such as hairbrush, diary, photographs, and items with the critical missing person's fingerprints / footprints / teeth impressions) so that evidence is not destroyed;
- determine if any of the critical missing person's personal items are missing;
- evaluate contents and appearance of the critical missing person's room / residence;
- obtain photographs / videotapes of critical missing person / abductor;
- ensure that information regarding the missing person is entered into METERS / NCIC missing person file and that any information on a suspected abductor is entered into the NCIC wanted person file (carefully review NCIC categories before entering the case, and be sure to utilize the child abduction flag whenever possible); and
- complete all required reports.

4-236.10 NON-CRITICAL MISSING PERSON CASES

Officers assigned responsibility for investigation of cases not meeting the definition for critical missing person incidents will:

- seek to determine the circumstances surrounding the disappearance;
- verify that the person is, in fact, missing by conducting a thorough check of the home;
- initiate a Missing Person Report;
- search the immediate area;
- check peers' congregation locations;
- contact friends and / or relatives;
- exhaust any and all investigative leads provided by the complainant on the day of the initial report;
- provide Communications with any updated lookout; and
- submit the Missing Person Report and any supplement(s) to their immediate supervisor for approval, and provide a copy to the Police Station Technician, who is responsible for facilitating entry and / or removal of the missing person in the METERS / NCIC missing person network, according to their guidelines.

The missing person will be entered into Police Mobile immediately following the entry into NCIC by the Police Station Technician. The missing person entry will stay active on the Police Mobile site until a closing supplement is provided by an officer to a Police Station Technician for removal. If the missing person is not found within 10 days the originating officer or officer assigned to the day shift sector of the geographical area in which the missing person resides will complete a supplement, have the missing person removed from Police Mobile by a Police Station Technician, and forward to the Criminal Investigations Division using the directions discussed in this policy.

For the 10 day period in which the missing person investigation is the responsibility of patrol, the investigating officer, or if unavailable, the patrol officer assigned to the geographic patrol sector in which the missing person resides, will make at least one check daily on the missing person's residence by contacting the complainant listed on the Police Mobile record. The check will be the responsibility of the investigating officer, or if the investigating officer is off, will be the responsibility of the day shift officer assigned the sector in which the missing person resides.

This check will be completed through the Police Mobile site and will be completed in the same manner in which



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an officer completes a Patrol Check. If any information is learned on the Missing Person Check which may point to the whereabouts of the missing person, the officer conducting the check must immediately follow up on this information and complete a supplement. Notes will be added to the Missing Person Check record if any information is learned during the check.

Nothing will preclude an officer from a shift other than day shift from completing a Missing Person's Check.

The information entered into the Missing Person Checks on Police Mobile will then be used by the investigating officer to complete a supplement documenting the follow ups. The reporting officer will complete at least two supplements during the ten day period detailing the attempts made and information obtained during the missing person checks.

If the original investigating officer is not working on the tenth day when the investigation will be transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division, it is the responsibility of the day shift officer assigned to the geographic sector in which the missing person resides to contact the complainant. The officer will confirm the person is still missing, complete a closing supplement, and ensure removal of the record from Police Mobile.

After ten (10) days from the date of the initial report, the reporting officer's supervisor, or if unavailable, the day shift supervisor of the officer assigned to the geographic sector in which the missing person resides will ensure the closing supplemental report has been completed. This supervisor will then notify the Major Crimes Unit by sending an email to DG_CID_Major_Crimes_Unit@ccso.us requesting the case to be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

CID investigators will then assume responsibility for subsequent follow-up search, investigation, and updates into METERS / NCIC.

4-236.11 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASES

All cases of unidentified persons, whether living or deceased, where identity cannot be established during the preliminary investigation, will be turned over for investigation to CID. CID will be responsible for entering or facilitating entry of all available information into the NCIC Unidentified Person File and for ensuring cancellation of all notifications after identification is confirmed.

4-236.12 ACTIVATION OF THE MARYLAND AMBER PLAN

The Maryland Amber Plan is a cooperative partnership between law enforcement, the broadcast media, and other agencies for the immediate communication of vital information about a serious child abduction to as wide an audience as possible. In Maryland, this partnership includes local law enforcement, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Department of Transportation, area broadcasters' associations, cable telecommunications' associations, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and the Maryland Center for Missing Children.

The Maryland Amber Plan will be set in motion by the Maryland State Police, only upon a request made by a law enforcement agency. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must first determine that the following criteria exist:

- law enforcement verifies that a child has been abducted;
- law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate the child is in serious danger of bodily harm or death;
- there is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, or a suspect vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert would aid in locating the child; and
- the abductor and/or child are likely to still be in the broadcast area.



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Unless an investigating agency can articulate a reasonable suspicion that a parent intends to physically harm a child, abduction by a non-custodial parent is not a case which would routinely meet the Maryland Amber Plan criteria.

A member of CID will review the circumstances regarding the case and, if satisfied that the criteria are met, will contact the Maryland State Police Headquarters' Duty Officer and request that the Maryland Amber Plan be activated. Contact with the Duty Officer may be made by telephone, fax, or through the METERS teletype.

After making an initial notification to the MSP Duty Officer, the requesting agency will be immediately contacted by the designated Amber Plan coordinator from either the MSP Criminal Enforcement Command or the Maryland Center for Missing Children (MCMC). The coordinator will review all requests to ensure they meet the established criteria. When abduction is confirmed and it meets all points for activation of the Plan, MSP will:

- enter the necessary information into the designated web site or authorize the reporting agency to do so;
- notify the Maryland / DC Emergency Activation System (EAS) stations by telephone and fax of the activation of the Plan and provide the necessary information for broadcast;
- notify the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, and the Statewide Operations Center (SOC) of the activation of the Plan and provide the necessary information for display on the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and broadcast over the Highway Advisory Radios (HAR).

Upon notification, EAS stations will broadcast a civil emergency / child abduction message to all media outlets. Participating media outlets will then broadcast the lookout to the public. The SOC will display the lookout information on the DMS and broadcast the information over the HAR. They will contact the Maryland Transportation Authority to display the information on the DMS signs.

EAS stations will, as programming permits, broadcast alerts four times per hour for the first two hours. They will then continue with three broadcasts per hour for the next three hours. Updated alerts may be broadcast if significant new information is developed or if a child is located. Alerts are self-canceling after 24 hours.

Broadcast alerts conclude with a statement that any person(s) who may locate the abductor or vehicle should take no action other than to call 911 as soon as possible and provide law enforcement with the location.

For any missing child who has not been located within twenty-four (24) hours of the filing of the initial Missing Person Report, where there is reason to believe the person may be located in another jurisdiction, the Maryland State Police and Maryland Center for Missing Children shall be notified.

Notification will be made by CID by phone / fax and by Records Management, by forwarding a copy of the original report. In cooperation with the local agency, the MCMC will assist and coordinate in-state and national efforts to locate the missing child.

4-236.13 ACTIVATION OF THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM

The Silver Alert is a public notification system in the United States to broadcast information about missing persons, especially senior citizens with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, or other mental disabilities, in order to aid in their recovery.

When warranted, officers investigating a qualifying disappearance will contact the MSP Headquarters Duty Commander. Upon confirming the Silver Alert criteria, MSP will initiate public notification procedures which, in applicable situations, may include contacting the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and requesting an emergency alert. This alert is sent to all Maryland police departments, media outlets, and 911 centers. The State Highway Administration will display the alert on highway signs in the geographic area in which the missing



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person was last seen.

Only law enforcement agencies may request the issuance of a Silver Alert. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must first determine that the following criteria exist:

Silver Alert – Vehicle

- The missing person is at least 60 years of age; and
- The missing person suffers a cognitive impairment, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia; and
- The missing person's disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual; and
- The missing person is traveling in a vehicle and there is enough descriptive information about the missing person and the vehicle for law enforcement to issue an alert; and
- The investigating agency has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlets in their jurisdiction; and
- The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

The responsibility to activate the Silver Alert- Vehicle rests with CID in qualifying cases.

Silver Alert Non- Vehicle

- The missing person is at least 60 years of age; and
- The missing person suffers a cognitive impairment, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia; and
- The missing person's disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual; and
- The missing person is not likely traveling in a vehicle and there is enough descriptive information about the missing person for law enforcement to issue an alert; and
- The investigating agency has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlets in their jurisdiction; and
- The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

The responsibility to activate the Silver Alert- Non Vehicle rests with the Incident Commander / designee or CID in qualifying cases.

4-236.14 ACTIVATION OF THE PURPLE ALERT PROGRAM

Purple Alerts are a public notification system to broadcast information about missing persons who have cognitive impairments, brain injury, mental disorders, developmental / intellectual disability, or hearing loss, but does not meet the criteria for a Silver Alert. This does not include any physical, mental, or emotional disability related to substance abuse.

When warranted, officers investigating a qualifying disappearance will contact the MSP Headquarters Duty Commander. Upon confirming the Purple Alert criteria, MSP will initiate public notification procedures which, in applicable situations, may include contacting the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and requesting an emergency alert. This alert is sent to all Maryland police departments, media outlets, and 911 centers. The State Highway Administration will display the alert on highway signs in the geographic area in which the missing person was last seen.

Only law enforcement agencies may request the issuance of a Purple Alert. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must first determine that the following criteria exist:



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- The missing person suffers from a cognitive impairment, brain injury, mental disorder, intellectual or developmental disability, or hearing loss.
- The missing person's disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual due to age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, as determined by the law enforcement agency.
- The missing person does not meet the criteria for activation of a Silver Alert.
- The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

The responsibility to activate the Purple Alert system rests with the Incident Commander / designee or CID in qualifying cases.

4-236.15 PROJECT LIFESAVER

Project Lifesaver is an electronic tracking system for individuals who may suffer from a mental disorder and easily become disoriented and lost. The tracking system uses an electronic transmitter attached by a wrist band or pendant to track a lost individual.

The CCSO provides this service to individuals who qualify based on an existing medical condition and who have exhibited a tendency to wander off from their residence and become lost.

The coordinator for Project Lifesaver is the supervisor of the Community Engagement Unit of the Community Services Division. Officers assigned as project operators may be selected from all areas of the Agency and must complete an operator certification course as well as maintain proficiency with the electronic equipment. Operators are subject to being called out anytime day or night in the event of a Project Lifesaver incident.

4-236.16 VOLUNTARY REGISTRY PROGRAM

The focus of this program is to accommodate citizens who have physical, behavioral, developmental, and / or sensory needs. It will be extraordinarily helpful for officers to have information regarding diagnosis, triggers, and tendencies during interaction. The information provided by individuals or caregivers to the Charles County Sheriff's Office is housed in the agency's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

The Voluntary Registry Program Enrollment Form #341 will be used to capture the personal information of the registrant. The form includes name, date of birth, race, gender, height, weight, hair color, and eye color. The diagnosis, disability, and / or deficiency with associated triggers are also included.

All Agency personnel can distribute the form to a potential candidate. The completed form must be sent to the supervisor of the Community Engagement Unit for vetting.

Participants enrolled in the program will be entered by the program coordinator and will be flagged in the CAD with a Caution Code "RP" designator. The Caution Code is the most efficient method for alerting personnel to the participation of a registrant. The Caution Code, which is automatically populated, will notify personnel to review the "notes" within the CAD. The notes will describe the registrant's triggers to better assist responding officers. Pictures will be provided and entered into the CAD system. Pictures collected from caregivers (absent Charles County Detention Center background) are not to be used in Photo Lineups or Photo Arrays.

4-237 SUSPENSION ROUTINE PATROL DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

4-237.1 GUIDELINES



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When weather or road conditions become so adverse as to make routine patrol unduly hazardous, a sector supervisor may request authority from the district / shift commander to suspend routine patrol activities.

- The suspension of routine patrol may be implemented in conjunction with a state or county-wide snow emergency plan; however, either one may be implemented independently of the other.

If the district / shift commander grants the request he will notify Communications, who will broadcast suspension of routine patrol status to the affected sector.

- Suspension of routine patrol may also be requested during other major storms, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, and the flooding conditions that may accompany them.

Implementing suspension of routine patrol shall not limit police responses to emergencies or unusual calls for service which require personal police assistance. During this period, all calls which do not demand an on-scene police presence may be taken over the telephone.

The district / shift commander will assign one or more patrol or CID officers to station duty during the period of suspension to facilitate telephone incident reporting.

The district / shift commander will ensure that all available personnel are utilized to their best advantage during a weather-related emergency. This may include the temporary reassignment of CID personnel to supplement or assist patrol officers until normal operations are resumed.

4-237.2 CANCELLATION OF SUSPENSION OF ROUTINE PATROL

When the unfavorable weather conditions preceding the suspension of routine patrol cease to exist, a sector supervisor may request authority from the district / shift commander to cancel the suspension. The district / shift commander will direct the Communications Supervisor to notify all affected personnel to return to normal operations.

- The return to routine patrol may be implemented in conjunction with a cancellation of state / County-wide snow emergency plan; however, either one may be canceled independently of the other.

4-238 YELLOW AND BLUE ALERT PROGRAMS

- A. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM PURPOSE
- B. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM DEFINITIONS
- C. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM PROCEDURES
- D. BLUE ALERT PURPOSE
- E. BLUE ALERT PROCEDURES

A. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Yellow Alert Program was established by the Maryland State Police, as a requirement by the State of Maryland, to provide a system for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating and apprehending a missing suspect who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death.

Maryland has a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in cases of critically missing juveniles (Amber Alerts), vulnerable adults (Silver Alerts), and serious attacks on law enforcement officers (Blue Alerts). Such alerts involve the use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), State Highway Administration Overhead Dynamic Message Signs, and notification to local 911 centers and the



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media to air a description of the known facts. Expanding on this partnership, and to assist in the investigation of certain hit and run accidents, Maryland has enacted a Yellow Alert Program.

B. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Missing Suspect: an individual whose whereabouts are unknown, who is suspected of a violation of the Transportation Article relating to failing to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death, and whose vehicle the reporting law enforcement agency is able to describe, including any information about the vehicle's registration plate.

Serious Bodily Injury: an injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious permanent or serious protracted disfigurement; causes serious permanent or serious protracted loss of the function of any body part, organ, or mental faculty; or causes serious permanent or serious protracted impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

C. YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM PROCEDURES

Requesting an Alert

Law enforcement agencies investigating hit and run accidents involving a missing suspect who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death, will promptly request an activation of a Yellow Alert through the Maryland State Police Headquarters Duty Officer at (410) 653-4200. The request will be made at the direction of the investigating officer by the dispatch supervisor, the investigating officer, or their designee.

Yellow Alerts will be activated only when there is enough descriptive information about the missing suspect's vehicle to enable law enforcement to assist in the suspect's apprehension.

A Yellow Alert will not be activated when releasing information to the media or public would compromise the integrity of the investigation.

Deactivating an Alert

A law enforcement officer or agency that locates a missing suspect or vehicle that is the subject of a Yellow Alert will immediately notify the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer and the investigating law enforcement agency that the missing suspect or vehicle has been located.

If the missing suspect or vehicle has not been located within 24 hours, the alert is self-canceling.

D. BLUE ALERT PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Blue Alert is used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a violent criminal who has seriously injured or killed a local, state, or federal law enforcement officer.

E. BLUE ALERT PROGRAM PROCEDURES

When the criteria is met, the MSP Headquarters Duty Commander will be contacted. MSP will initiate public notification procedures which, in applicable situations, may include contacting the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and requesting an emergency alert. This alert is sent to all Maryland police departments, media outlets, and 911 centers. The State Highway Administration will display the alert on highway signs in the geographic area in which the missing offender was last seen.



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Only law enforcement agencies may request the issuance of a Blue Alert. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must determine the following criteria exist:

1. A law enforcement officer must have been killed or seriously injured by an offender.
2. It has been determined that the offender poses a serious risk or threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel.
3. A detailed description of the offender's vehicle, vehicle tag or partial tag must be available for broadcast to the public.

CID will be responsible for coordinating the activation of a Blue Alert. A law enforcement agency that apprehends the missing offender shall immediately notify MSP and the law enforcement agency that filed the report resulting in the Blue Alert.

4-239 POLICY CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

4-239.1 DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY DEFINED

Diplomatic immunity is an expression of reciprocal international courtesy, and it may be broadly defined as the immunities, rights, privileges, and exemptions accorded foreign governments, foreign ambassadors and other public ministers, and their families and members of their official household including secretarial, servant, and consular personnel in the United States. As official representatives of foreign governments, diplomats should be accorded the maximum degree of respect possible under whatever the circumstance may be. The police handling of incidents in this country may have a direct effect on the treatment of U.S. diplomats abroad.

Those persons with diplomatic immunity may not be arrested or imprisoned and their property shall not be searched or seized. This is qualified with the understanding that a host country does not give up its right to protect the safety and welfare of its populace and retains the right, in extraordinary circumstances, to prevent the commission of a crime. Thus, in circumstances where public safety is in imminent danger or a serious crime may be committed, police may intervene to the extent necessary to halt such activity. This naturally includes the power of the police to defend themselves from personal harm.

The U.S. Department of State, in many incidents involving persons with immunity, will request a waiver of that immunity if a local prosecutor advises that they would be willing to prosecute or otherwise pursue charges. If the charge is a felony or crime of violence, and the diplomat's home country does not waive immunity, the U.S. Department of State will require that person to depart the United States and not return, except to submit to the jurisdiction of the court. Upon the subject's departure from the U.S., a warrant may be issued and entered into NCIC.

4-239.2 GENERAL PROCEDURES - CONTACTS WITH PERSONS CLAIMING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

The following procedures will be followed when handling an incident involving a person who claims diplomatic immunity:

- Request and verify identification. Individuals claiming immunity may be delayed until immunity is verified;
- If a diplomatic identification card or U.S. Department of State driver's license is presented, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, contact the U.S. Department of State to verify immunity or driver's status. Communications has current phone numbers for verifying information;
- If immunity is verified, record all necessary descriptive information, issue citations or other charging



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documents as required, and immediately release the individual;

- In all cases the officer shall complete the appropriate report(s). Dependent on the circumstances, the officer should document the incident completely for possible prosecution at a later time. The terms “detained” or “detention” should be avoided and words such as “delayed” or “held for protection” should be used;
- A copy of all reports should be faxed or mailed to the U.S. Department of State as soon as possible. In serious cases, contact with the Department of State should also be made by telephone.

4-239.3 ASSAULT ON OFFICER BY DIPLOMAT

As with any ordinary citizen, when an individual enjoying diplomatic immunity commits an assault upon a police officer, the officer may use whatever force necessary to subdue the individual.

An arrest will not be made. However, the incident must be investigated by an officer’s immediate supervisor and properly documented on the appropriate report.

4-239.4 VEHICLES WITH DIPLOMATIC TAGS OR OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

The property of a person enjoying full diplomatic immunity, including vehicles, may not be searched or seized. Such vehicles shall not be impounded, but may be towed the distance necessary to remove them from obstructing traffic or endangering public safety. If a vehicle owned by a diplomat is suspected of being stolen or involved in the commission of a crime, occupants shall be required to present identification and vehicle documentation. The vehicle’s status can be checked through NLETS. Should the vehicle prove to have been stolen or is being used by unauthorized persons in the commission of a crime, the inviolability to which the vehicle would normally be entitled must be considered temporarily suspended, and a normal search of the vehicle and, if appropriate, its detention, are permissible.

4-239.5 GENERAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

Stopping a diplomat and issuing a traffic citation does not constitute arrest or detention and is permissible. The violator’s signature on the citation may not be required. Accordingly, a police officer should never hesitate to follow normal procedures to intervene in a traffic violation which he or she has observed. Even if immunity ultimately bars any further action at the scene, the officer should take enforcement action against persons committing moving violations. If the person with diplomatic immunity refuses to sign a citation, the officer should write “Diplomat-Refused” on the citation, and provide a copy to the violator.

4-239.6 MOVING VIOLATIONS AND SERIOUS TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

The Maryland Transportation Article, (TR § 16-901 - 16-905) applies to an individual who displays a driver’s license issued by the U.S. Department of State or who otherwise claims immunity. The article applies to violations of Criminal Law, § 2-209, “manslaughter by vehicle or vessel”; § 2-503, “homicide by motor vehicle or vessel;” § 3-211, “life threatening injury;” and DWI / DUIs, and all other moving violations.

Officers handling such incidents should proceed as they normally would, short of making a physical arrest. Sobriety tests, including a PBT, may be offered, but may not be required or compelled. The officer should issue the appropriate citation, and complete the appropriate report and any other paperwork related to the case.

If the officer determines that the individual’s ability to drive safely is impaired, the officer shall not allow the individual to continue to drive. The officer’s primary concern should be for the safety of the community and the impaired



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driver. Depending on the circumstances, there are several options. The officer may, with the individual's permission, take the individual to the district station or other location where he or she may recover sufficiently to drive. The officer may summon, or allow the individual to summon, someone else to drive; or the officer may call a taxi for the individual. If appropriate, with supervisory approval, police may choose to provide the individual with transportation.

4-239.7 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE REQUIREMENTS

As required under the Maryland Transportation Article (TR § 16-901-905) cited above, the following procedures shall be complied with:

- The involved officer shall, as soon as practicable, contact, or have Communications contact, the U.S. Department of State in order to verify the driver's status and immunity, if any;
- The officer shall record all relevant information from the individual's driver's license or identification card;
- The officer shall complete any and all reports, citations or other charging documents, related to the incident, by the end of the next business day. If the incident occurs on the last day of an officer's shift, the report will be submitted by the end of the shift. If unable to complete the report by the end of the shift, the report will be submitted with as much information as possible, and a supplement will be submitted by the end of the next business day.
- All reports will be submitted to a supervisor for approval as soon as completed. A note will be attached to all related reports / citations notifying the Records Section that the incident is related to diplomatic immunity.
- The Records Section will process all reports / citations related to traffic incidents involving diplomatic immunity, as soon as possible, to ensure that copies may be forwarded, as required by law, to the Motor Vehicle Administration within five days of the incident.

4-239.8 PARKING VIOLATIONS - VEHICLES BEARING DIPLOMATIC TAGS

Parking violations will be handled in the same manner as other vehicles except that no vehicle owned by an individual with diplomatic immunity will be impounded.

4-239.9 NOTIFICATION IN CASE OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO DIPLOMAT

When a diplomat is seriously injured or dies in the County, the appropriate division commander or district / shift commander will make direct notification to the diplomat's Embassy, the U.S. Department of State and as required in the AOM Section 4-710.

4-239.10 DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONTACTS

If a question arises regarding diplomatic immunity or notification concerning an incident needs to be made, Communications has current telephone numbers for the U.S. Department of State.

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4-241 CRIME SOLVER TIP LINE

The Charles County Crime Solvers program is an innovative approach to solving crimes and capturing wanted persons. The program has spread nationwide, assisting law enforcement agencies as an aid in solving crimes which have little or no solvability factors.

The program is a blend of police, community, and media involvement. The program is coordinated by the Sheriff's



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Office. Rewards, by-laws, and treasury are coordinated through the assistance of public, civil, and fraternal organizations. The media's role consists of donating public service time on radio and in newspapers to air information about crimes in the County.

4-241.1 PROCEDURES - REWARD OFFERED

The Crime Solvers Program offers up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest or indictment with information received through the Crime Solvers Tip Line. A tipster has three ways of communicating to Crime Solvers with a tip: call in, text, or web-based tip. The tip is received and assigned a number. The Crime Solvers program does not need the caller's name or anything about him, just the information about the crime. The Agency Coordinator reviews the tip and disseminates it to the proper unit for investigation. If the caller's information turns out to be valuable, the information is then presented to Crime Solvers at their monthly meeting. The members of Crime Solvers hear the tip and the type of case it involves (arrest warrant, drug related, or general criminal activity) and determines the amount of reward to be paid. The tipster is recognized by their assigned number only. It is the tipster's responsibility to follow up with the Coordinator regarding the reward payout.

4-241.2 PERSONAL USE PROHIBITED

Personal use of the Crime Solvers Tip Line shall be prohibited.

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[REDACTED]

4-244 RACIAL, COLOR, RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, HOMELESSNESS AND DISABILITY BIAS (HATE CRIMES)

The Annotated Code of Maryland (Public Safety Article) requires that data concerning incidents apparently directed against an individual or group, because of race, color, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, homelessness, or disability be collected and analyzed. The law places that responsibility with the Maryland State Police and requires that local law enforcement and the State Fire Marshal provide this information to the State Police.

Within the CCSO, the responsibility of providing this information to the Maryland State Police will be that of the Records Section. All employees of this Agency will cause a report of such incidents to be made, when they become aware of information concerning them, in order that the Records Section may carry out this Responsibility.

4-244.1 DEFINITIONS

Hate Crimes - A hate crime is a criminal act motivated or perceived by the victim to be completely or partly motivated by race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, homelessness or disability. Maryland's hate crime statutes can be located in the Criminal Law Article, Title 10, Subtitle 300.

Hate - Based Incident - An act, which appears to be or perceived by the victim to be completely or partly motivated by bias or hatred toward a race, color, religious belief, national origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, homelessness or disability. An example of a hate-bias incident could be using demeaning language or making threats against another person or group.

Some incidents may not clearly fit a specific definition. A common sense approach must be used. If it appears to be a hate-bias incident, it should be reported as such. The key criteria for determining whether a crime or incident is of a hate-bias nature is the motivation behind the act.

4-244.2 DETERMINATION OF INCIDENT

An incident will be classified as falling under the reporting requirements of Maryland law if:

1. racial, religious, ethnic, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, homelessness, or reference to disability statements are made during the incident;
2. hate group symbols are displayed;
3. the motive of a crime is to harm, injure or intimidate a particular group or organization;
4. the complainant believes the incident is motivated by one of the aforementioned factors; and
5. the investigating officer, supervisor, or investigator can reasonably determine that the incident is hate motivated.

A report will be made in all of these cases even if there is no specific violation of law. There is no requirement of a criminal act necessary, in order that a report must be made under Maryland law.



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4-244.3 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The responding officer shall, in addition to the normal responsibilities required on any call for service, assure the following:

1. that a supervisor is advised of and given all the known information regarding any verified incident covered under this section; and
2. that a preliminary investigation is conducted, including a neighborhood canvass to locate witnesses and/or to develop information and investigative leads; and
3. that the scene is processed for latent lifts, photographed, and any evidence collected; and
4. ensure the district/ shift commander is notified of the incident; and
5. a full and complete report, classified as a "Hate Crime" with a sub-classification of what type of bias (racial, color, religious, ethnic, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, homelessness or disability), of the incident and associated information and evidence is completed and submitted prior to the end of the officer's tour of duty.

4-244.4 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor will respond to the scene of all verified incidents of a Hate Crime which may have media attention, or of impact because of injury, damage or community tension and covered under this section, or in the event there is no scene, will meet with the victim, and:

1. determine the need for the immediate involvement of a criminal investigator and request the investigator as appropriate; and
2. in cases involving the setting or attempt to set a fire, the Fire Marshal will be notified; and
3. reassure the victim of the Agency's commitment to investigate and resolve incidents covered by this section; and
4. notify the district/ shift commander of the facts and circumstances of the incident.

If the supervisor determines that his presence at the scene or to meet the victim is not necessary, the supervisor will still confirm that all mandates of this section have been complied with. The supervisor will ensure a Commanders' Information Report has been completed and submitted.

4-244.5 COMMANDER, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commander, Criminal Investigations Division will monitor reports of all incidents covered by this section. In any case where there appears to be an organized effort behind an incident or group of incidents, the appropriate resources will be afforded. The Commander will cause a follow-up investigation to be conducted in all cases:

1. which show repeat incidents in a particular area or against a particular group or individual; or
2. which have made a large media impact or have raised considerable tension or apprehension within the community; or



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3. which involve serious injury or great property damage; or
4. which involve the commission of a felony.

4-244.6 DISTRICT/ SHIFT COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The district/ shift commander shall monitor the activities of Agency personnel who have responded to incidents covered by this section. Reports of such incidents will be forwarded to the Sheriff, the Assistant Sheriff of Operations, and the Commander, CID. In cases of considerable media attention, or of considerable impact because of injury, damage or community tension, the Assistant Sheriff of Operations and the Sheriff will be contacted and informed of the circumstances of the incident. Commanders will make a determination if a Patrol Check is needed for the incident.

4-245 CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS ON INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

4-245.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines regarding service of criminal process or other legal documents on incarcerated individuals in the Charles County Detention Center.

Adherence to this policy is essential for the efficient operation of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, as well as for the protection of the Agency from possible lawsuits.

4-245.2 GENERAL

Whenever civil or criminal process, such as warrants, criminal summons, indictments, summons, or any other legal document, is served on an incarcerated individual at the Charles County Detention Center (CCDC) by a member of this Agency, a copy of said document(s) shall be left by the serving member with Intake Records at CCDC. The officer shall also indicate on the copy to be turned into the Records Management Section or Civil Unit of the Charles County Sheriff's Office the name of the Intake Records officer to whom the copy was given.

Subject to the regulations of the Charles County Detention Center, and in accordance with any applicable policies found elsewhere in this Manual, sworn officers and Agency Civil Process Server Specialists may have contact with incarcerated individuals at any time for purposes of conducting official business. This includes warrant and civil process service, as well as conducting interviews and investigations. Officers and Agency Civil Process Server Specialists must present proper law enforcement identification prior to contact with incarcerated individuals.

Private civil process servers are not permitted contact with incarcerated individuals for process service. Employees approached by private civil process servers wishing to either make personal service on an incarcerated individual, or requesting the employee accept the process for service on the incarcerated individual, will refer the process server to the Civil Unit of the Judicial Services Section.

4-246 RETURNS OF CIVIL PROCESS

On all returns, write "Troy D. Berry" in the block indicating served. Directly under the Sheriff's name, write "by," if not already on the paper, and the name of the officer serving the process.

4-248 EXTRA - JURISDICTIONAL INCIDENTS OUTSIDE CHARLES COUNTY (Criminal Procedure, Title 2)



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NOTE: this law gives sworn officers some powers of arrest not previously available before its enactment. It does not cancel or modify any authority or powers previously available to sworn law enforcement officers who are in pursuit of fleeing felons into another jurisdiction. This law applies only within the geographical boundaries of the State of Maryland.

4-248.1 GENERAL

Any sworn officer who discovers an incident requiring police attention in another Maryland jurisdiction shall cause notification to be made to the police agency for the area of occurrence.

The sworn officer need not standby for the other agency. However, if immediate action is necessary to prevent personal injury or property damage, the sworn officer may take such action if permitted by law (see Section 4-248.3).

When taking action in another jurisdiction, the officer continues to be governed by the Charles County Sheriff's Office policy and procedures. A violation of a rule, regulation, or directive of this Agency subjects the officer to administrative sanctions. Such violation does not, and is not intended to, abrogate the legality of any law enforcement action taken pursuant to the authority prescribed by law and described herein.

All provisions of this section apply to on-duty and off-duty actions.

4-248.2 DEFINITIONS (Apply to Sections 4-248 and 4-249)

Emergency - A sudden or unexpected happening or an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to protect the health, safety, welfare, or property of an individual from actual or threatened harm, or from an unlawful act.

Federal Law Enforcement Officer - An officer who is empowered to effect an arrest with or without a warrant for violations of the United States code and who is authorized to carry firearms in the performance of the officer's duties.

Home Jurisdiction - Political jurisdiction in which the officer is normally employed to perform police service, e.g., Charles County in the case of a Charles County Sheriff's Deputy.

Host Jurisdiction - Political jurisdiction where an incident physically occurs and where the visiting officer takes police action.

Host Agency - Law enforcement agency in the host jurisdiction which received official notification of the visiting officer's police actions.

4-248.3 EXTRA - JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY OF OFFICERS

Charles County Sheriff's Office sworn employees may exercise police powers in other Maryland jurisdictions if:

1. An emergency, as defined in Section 4-248.2, exists; or
2. Requested by the host jurisdiction's police officer or by a sworn employee of the Maryland Department of State Police; or
3. Assisting an officer, even if such assistance was not specifically requested; or
4. Operating in a joint investigation or task force involving other federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies, provided that at least one of those agencies has local jurisdiction.



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When taking action in one of these situations, officers are empowered with full police authority, except that they shall not enforce any motor vehicle law under the provisions of this section. The officers may make criminal arrests, seize evidence, conduct investigations, and take other appropriate actions to enforce state laws.

While performing these duties in the host jurisdiction, the officer enjoys the same immunities from liability that apply to him in his home jurisdiction, as well as any immunities that apply to Maryland State Police officers. The officer remains for all purposes a Charles County Sheriff's Office employee.

4-248.4 NOTIFICATIONS

Officers who take action in another jurisdiction shall cause notification to the host jurisdiction's police department (or Sheriff's Office when no police department exists) as soon as practical. If the officer is tactically involved and does not have access to a police radio, he may ask a citizen to telephone the local police.

If the incident occurred in a municipality, notification shall be made to the municipal police rather than the County agency. If the incident occurred on state owned or controlled property, notification shall be to the Maryland Department of State Police (or where applicable, the Department of Natural Resources Police, the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, the Maryland Port Administration Police or the Mass Transit Administration Police).

When the action is taken pursuant to a task force or joint investigation, the officer shall cause notification in advance of the action, if practical. Notification to the host jurisdiction's participating officer may be sufficient, although other procedures may be required for certain agencies.

When making notification, the officer may request that the host agency respond to the scene of any incident; such a request is mandatory if:

1. an arrest was made; or
2. the officer displayed a weapon or used force; or
3. any person was injured or medical attention was requested; or
4. a felony occurred; or
5. a victim desires to file an incident report; or
6. evidence is available for processing, or unattended property needs to be recovered or guarded; or
7. there is reason to believe that further disturbances will occur following the officer's departure.

The officer shall notify, or cause to be notified, the Charles County Sheriff's district commander / shift commander, immediately if possible, or if not, within one hour following completion of an extra - jurisdictional action, except when that action was taken as part of his standard duties in a task force or joint investigation.

4-248.5 TRANSPORTING PRISONERS

If the officer makes an arrest and does not have a Sheriff's Office vehicle appropriate for prisoner transport, he shall request that the host agency make the transport. If the host agency refuses, the officer shall contact the Charles County Sheriff's district / shift commander for guidance.

Unless authorized by the district / shift commander, or other Charles County Sheriff's official, prisoner transports in privately-owned vehicles are prohibited except in emergencies or when timely contact with appropriate authorities is physically impossible, e.g., arrest occurring in an isolated rural area without phone or radio.

Prisoners shall be transported to a police or court facility in the host jurisdiction and shall not be brought back to Charles County, except when transport to a different location is specifically authorized within a task force or joint investigation.



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4-248.6 TRANSFER OF INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The law does not require responsibility for a case, or custody of a prisoner, to transfer to the host agency. However, Charles County officers taking action in other jurisdictions shall offer such a transfer unless the officer discharged a weapon, injured a person during his action, or took that action in the course of a joint investigation or task force operation.

If the officer's firearm discharged or an injury occurred, the officer shall cause notification to the Charles County district / shift commander for determination regarding any transfer. The officer may consult with the district / shift commander in any other situation where he believes transfer may be inappropriate.

If the action occurred as a result of a task force or similar joint investigation, procedures previously agreed upon, by the participating agencies, will establish who has investigative responsibility, or identify the individual who will make that decision.

The host agency may accept or decline a transfer of investigative responsibility. If the host agency accepts, the officer shall yield authority to the assigned host investigator, cooperate with that investigator, and make himself available as a police witness for court.

If the case is not accepted by the host agency, the officer shall have complete investigative responsibility as if the crime occurred in Charles County. If he has made an arrest, he shall charge his prisoner on a Statement of Charges and present him to a Commissioner in the host jurisdiction. He shall also recover and process evidence, obtain statements, coordinate with the local State's Attorney's Office, and perform all other appropriate follow-up investigation.

The officers' district commander may request an investigator to assist the officer with follow-up duties, if appropriate.

4-248.7 PROCESSING AND REPORTS

Whenever an officer takes action (which requires the use of police powers, e.g., makes an arrest or uses force) in another jurisdiction, he shall complete an Offense / Incident Report upon his return to Charles County. The report shall:

1. describe the officer's actions and identify the reasons why action was taken; and
2. list the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all known victims, witnesses, and suspects (if the host agency processes a Charles County officer's apprehended prisoner, list the host agency's processing I.D. number for that prisoner); and
3. record the date, time, and method of notification to the host agency, and identify, by name, the host agency official who received that notification; and
4. describe the host agency response or supporting actions, and indicate whether a transfer of custody or investigative responsibility occurred; and
5. list the out-of-County address of occurrence in the location block.

If the officer makes an arrest and the host agency, because of the nature of the case, assumes custody of the prisoner, the host agency may prepare the charging document, complete an Arrest Report, process the prisoner, and present him to the Commissioner. This may occur in serious felony cases requiring extensive case preparation. In these cases, no documents other than the above-described Incident Report are required of the officer.



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If the host agency does not accept custody and the prisoner is charged by the Charles County officer, the officer shall obtain a Charles County arrest / ID number for use with the charging document, and shall complete a Charles County Arrest Report upon his return to the County. He shall also fingerprint and, if possible, obtain a photograph of the prisoner using host agency facilities and print cards. If the host agency refuses to provide cards or allow use of its equipment, he shall not process the prisoner and shall note the host agency's refusal in the Incident Report narrative.

4-248.8 DISTRICT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification that an officer is involved in an extra - jurisdictional action, the district / shift commander shall immediately notify the appropriate host agency by telephone unless the officer has already done so. If a local host agency cannot be identified or contacted, the Maryland State Police shall be notified. The district / shift commander shall make all Sheriff's Office Command Staff notifications as would be required for an incident happening within Charles County.

The district / shift commander shall ensure that the name and assignment of the host agency official accepting notification is provided to the officer involved in the extra - jurisdictional action.

4-248.9 SCHEDULED PRISONER TRANSPORTS

Scheduled transports are routine deliveries of a prisoner from one police, corrections, or court facility to another for presentment before a Commissioner or other Judicial Officer, investigative purposes, medical purposes, etc. Such transports do not include removal of prisoners from the scene of an arrest.

Officers shall maintain custody and control of prisoners during scheduled transports in other jurisdictions, using the same degree of force necessary to control the prisoner or prevent escape as would be permitted in Charles County.

4-249 EXTRA - JURISDICTIONAL INCIDENTS INSIDE CHARLES COUNTY (Criminal Procedure, Title 2)

4-249.1 GENERAL

Sheriff's Office personnel shall assist officers from other jurisdictions who take lawful emergency police action in Charles County. Assistance includes, but is not limited to, transporting prisoners, investigative support, processing evidence, and providing fingerprint cards and equipment.

Because outside officers from other Maryland jurisdictions and Federal Officers (see Section 4-248.2 for definition of Federal Officer) have full police authority when acting under provisions of the extra - jurisdictional authority statute, Charles County officers are not required to confirm probable cause or examine all facts of a case before rendering general assistance. They shall initially rely upon a good faith expectation that the other officer is acting properly unless circumstances suggest otherwise.

Prior to any Charles County officer transporting a prisoner, or accepting transfer of investigative responsibility for a case, the facts of the case shall be examined and the probable cause for any arrest confirmed. If the officer believes that the outside officer's conduct is improper or that an arrest is illegal, he shall request the assistance of a supervisor.

If the supervisor also doubts the probable cause or finds the outside officer's actions improper, he shall ensure that no transfer of prisoner custody or case responsibility occurs, and that the prisoner is not transported by a Charles County officer. Obtaining an alternative means of transport shall be the outside officer's responsibility.

If probable cause is judged insufficient or his actions improper, the outside officer may still be allowed to utilize



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Sheriff's Office facilities, including holding cells and processing equipment, in order to expedite the prisoner's presentment to a Commissioner. Sheriff's Office personnel shall not accept custody of the prisoner, and shall limit control over the outside officer and his prisoner to the extent necessary to ensure the safety and security of the processing facility.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent a CCSO officer from taking appropriate action in a case where another officer's conduct is illegal. Likewise, when a prisoner is in jeopardy because of the illegal actions of the arresting officer, CCSO officers may take actions necessary to protect any person. These cases should be handled in the same manner as an Internal Affairs case, and the appropriate investigative and supervisory notification made.

4-249.2 NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS

Any employee receiving notification of an extra - jurisdictional action in Charles County by another jurisdiction's officer shall notify the available district commander, shift commander or sector supervisor.

If no Charles County sworn officer is currently on the scene, or otherwise handling the event, the appropriate commander / supervisor shall cause the dispatch of a Charles County patrol officer if:

1. the outside officer is still at the scene; or
2. any imminent conflict or hazard has not been completely resolved by the outside officer's action; or
3. an Incident Report remains to be taken from someone still at the scene.

If none of these conditions exist, the commander / supervisor shall request the call be assigned to an appropriate investigator. The investigator may be either a patrol officer or other sworn investigator as deemed appropriate by the commander / supervisor. The investigator shall conduct an investigation and cause the necessary report(s) to be written. The extent of the investigation shall be determined by the seriousness of the incident, and may involve no more than an inquiry to the outside officer's agency, when appropriate.

The patrol officer or investigator shall complete an Incident Report. If no criminal offense is confirmed, he shall title the report Extra - jurisdictional Incident. If a criminal offense is confirmed, he shall title the report with the appropriate criminal violation; e.g., robbery, and write Extra - jurisdictional Incident in bold letters at the beginning of the narrative section.

The report shall:

1. list the outside officer's name, I.D. number, agency, and agency phone number; and
2. list names, addresses, and phone numbers of all victims, witnesses and suspects; and
3. describe the actions of the outside officer and the assisting Charles County officers, indicating whether any transfers of prisoner custody or investigative responsibility occurred or were offered.

Officers who assist outside officers, and employees who receive notifications of extra - jurisdictional actions, shall request the outside officer or agency to forward copies of the other agency's reports and records of the incident to the Charles County Sheriff's Office Records Section.

NOTE: Statistical information for UCR shall not be gathered from these incidents. This responsibility rests with the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

4-249.3 TRANSFER OF INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Sheriff's Office may accept custody of prisoners and assume investigative responsibility for a case if the other jurisdiction's officer is willing. In such instances, the outside officer shall be asked to provide a written statement regarding his actions and be summoned as a police witness. If custody of the prisoner is transferred, a Charles



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County officer shall prepare the charges, complete the Arrest Report, process the prisoner, and present him to a commissioner.

If the extra - jurisdictional incident involves a felony, the appropriate investigative component of the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall be notified and shall make an effort to assume investigative responsibility, including accepting custody of all legally arrested suspects. If the outside officer refuses to relinquish the case, the officer's agency shall be contacted with a request for cooperative transfer of the investigation. A supervisor or commander will make this request. If the outside agency refuses, appropriate support will continue to be provided and the refusal shall be noted in the Incident Report.

The Sheriff's Office may decline to accept custody of any prisoner and responsibility for any case, including felonies, if circumstances warrant. These instances will be approved by the district / shift commander.

4-250 FOOT PURSUIT POLICY

4-250.1 DEFINITIONS

Foot Pursuit — When an officer pursues, on foot or bicycle, a person who is attempting to evade law enforcement.

Reasonable Articulate Suspicion (RAS) — A well founded suspicion based on specific, objective, articulable facts, taken together with the officer's training and experience, that a subject has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime.

Probable Cause (PC) – Facts and circumstances within an officer's knowledge, that are sufficient in themselves, to warrant a reasonable officer to believe that a subject has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime. Probable Cause (PC) is a higher standard of proof than RAS.

4-250.2 JUSTIFIED PURSUITS

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) that officers may engage in foot pursuits with suspects only when there is at least:

- Reasonable Articulate Suspicion (RAS) to believe that the suspect has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime; and/or
- The suspect is believed to have an active warrant for their arrest; or
- The subject is believed to have a Court Ordered Emergency Petition; or
- The officer, based on observation or other information, has reason to believe that the subject has a mental disorder and presents a danger to the life or safety of the subject or others.

The mere act of flight alone by a person shall not serve as justification for engaging in a foot pursuit. Officers are prohibited from basing an investigative stop only on a person's response to the presence of police, such as a person's attempt to avoid contact with an officer or flight.

4-250.3 OFFICER, COMMUNITY AND SUSPECT SAFETY

When deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, officers must continuously balance the objective of apprehending the suspect(s) with the risk and potential for injury to officers, bystanders, or the suspects. Officers must act reasonably, based on all of the circumstances.

4-250.4 DECISION TO PURSUE



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Deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit is a decision that an officer must make quickly and under unpredictable and dynamic circumstances. It is recognized that foot pursuits may place CCSO officers and the public at risk. Officers should consider the following factors when initiating a foot pursuit:

- The severity of the crime; and/or
- Whether the subject is an immediate threat to the officers or others.

Any doubt by participating officers or their supervisors regarding the overall safety of any foot pursuit should be decided in favor of communication, coordination, surveillance, and containment.

Surveillance and containment are generally the safest tactics for apprehending fleeing persons.

In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, officers and supervisors should continuously consider reasonable alternatives based upon the circumstances and resources available, such as:

- Containment of the area;
- Saturation of the area with law enforcement personnel, including assistance from other agencies;
- A canine search;
- Thermal imaging or Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) technology;
- Air support; and/or:
- Apprehension at another time when the identity of the suspect is known or there is information available that would likely allow for later apprehension, and the need to immediately apprehend the suspect does not reasonably appear to outweigh the risk of continuing the foot pursuit.

Once a subject is contained and the active foot pursuit has terminated, officers and supervisors will proceed with a search for the individual using the resources available and the appropriate tactics and techniques to locate, and take the subject into custody.

If during the search, the subject is located and a subsequent foot pursuit occurs, the guidelines of this policy will apply.

4-250.5 PROHIBITED ACTIONS

Officers shall not engage in a foot pursuit when their initial RAS or PC is for a violation that would constitute a:

- Civil violation;
- Citation-only violation, excluding those offenses in which a warrantless arrest is authorized; or
- Any non-arrestable violation.

4-250.6 PURSUIT GUIDELINES

Officers should consider these factors when deciding to engage in, or continue, a foot pursuit:

- Whether the officer is acting alone;
- Whether the officer is unsure of their location and direction of travel;
- Whether the officer is uncertain of their ability to control the suspect if apprehension is made;



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- Whether the officer loses radio contact with Communications or with assisting or backup officers;
 - Whether the officer becomes aware of unanticipated circumstances that unreasonably increase the risk to employees or the public;
 - Whether the officer reasonably believes that the danger to the pursuing officers outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension;
 - Whether the officer or a third party is injured during the foot pursuit, requiring immediate assistance, and there are no other emergency personnel available to render assistance;
 - Whether the suspect's location is no longer known;
 - Whether the identity of the suspect is established or other information exists that will allow for the suspect's apprehension at a later time, and it reasonably appears that there is no immediate threat to CCSO officers or the public if the suspect is not immediately apprehended;
 - Whether the officer's ability to safely continue the foot pursuit is impaired by inclement weather, darkness, or other environmental conditions, such as steep terrain, worn-out structures, piles of debris, etc.;
 - Whether the presence of vehicular traffic in the area of the pursuit and risk of emergency vehicle response by additional officers create safety concerns;
 - If acting alone and the pursuit results in an officer chasing two or more suspects simultaneously;
 - If two or more officers have multiple suspects detained and one suspect flees, an officer should consider not pursuing the fleeing suspect if that leaves their fellow officer(s) in an unsafe tactical situation; and/or
 - An officer shall not initiate or continue a foot pursuit if the officer knowingly loses possession of their firearm, radio, or other essential equipment which may endanger the officer or public if recovered by another person.

4-250.7 RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOOT PURSUITS

4-250.8 INITIATING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Unless relieved by another officer or a supervisor, the initiating officer shall be responsible for coordinating the progress of the pursuit and containment.

Early communication of available information is essential. Officers engaging in a foot pursuit must initiate a radio broadcast within the first few seconds to ensure that adequate resources are coordinated and deployed to assist and manage the pursuit to a safe conclusion. The broadcast should contain the following information, at minimum:

- Location and direction of travel;
- Unit identifier/call number;
- Reason for the foot pursuit, such as the crime incident type;
- Number of suspects and physical descriptions, to include name if known; and
- Whether the suspect is known or believed to be armed with a dangerous weapon.

Officers should be mindful that radio transmissions made while running may be difficult to understand and may



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need to be repeated.

Absent exigent circumstances, any officer unable to promptly and effectively broadcast this information should terminate the foot pursuit. If the foot pursuit is discontinued for any reason, immediate efforts for containment should be established and alternatives considered based upon the circumstances and available resources.

When acting alone, the initiating officer should consider the dangers of making an apprehension alone and may consider keeping the suspect in sight until sufficient officers are present to assist with safely apprehending the suspect.

In the event that the suspect enters a building, structure, confined space, wooded or otherwise isolated area, the initiating officer shall assess the situation, notify police dispatch of their location and determine whether to wait for the arrival of responding officers and a supervisor so a perimeter around the area can be established.

4-250.9 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOOT PURSUITS INVOLVING TWO OR MORE OFFICERS

Officers should try not to separate, should remain in sight of each other, and maintain communications. Officers separating can compromise their safety and impair their ability to assist or effectively communicate with each other. Officers separating should be used only when necessary to protect others from imminent harm or to gain a tactical advantage.

When two or more officers become separated, lose visual contact with one another, or obstacles separate them to the degree that they cannot immediately assist each other should a confrontation take place, it is generally recommended that a single officer keep the suspect in sight from a safe distance and coordinate the containment effort.

4-250.10 BACKUP OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever any officer announces that they are engaged in a foot pursuit, all other officers should minimize non-essential radio traffic to provide the involved officers with maximum access to radio communications.

Respond in a safe manner, and take an active role in the apprehension of the suspect by assisting the initiating officer.

4-250.11 TERMINATING A FOOT PURSUIT

When a foot pursuit terminates, the officer will notify the dispatcher of their location and the status of the foot pursuit termination (e.g., suspect in custody, lost sight of suspect, etc.) and will direct further actions as reasonably appear necessary, to include requesting needed medical aid for officers, suspects, or other persons.

4-250.12 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware of a foot pursuit, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to ascertain sufficient information to direct responding resources and to take command, control, and coordination of the foot pursuit.

The supervisor will respond to the area whenever possible. The supervisor does not need to be physically present to exercise control over the foot pursuit. The supervisor shall continuously assess the situation in order to ensure the foot pursuit is conducted within established Agency guidelines.

The supervisor shall terminate the foot pursuit when:



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- It reasonably appears either that the pursuit lacks a lawful purpose or is unsupported by RAS (e.g., cases of mistaken identity where actual suspect has been apprehended elsewhere);
 - The danger to pursuing officers or the public appears to unreasonably outweigh the objective of immediate apprehension of the suspect.; and/or
 - The pursuit is otherwise not in compliance with this policy.

Upon apprehension of the suspect, the supervisor will promptly proceed to the termination location to direct the post foot pursuit activity when possible.

Upon arriving at the scene, the supervisor will check for any injuries to victims, bystanders, officers or suspects and ensure proper care is provided. All injuries shall be documented.

The supervisor shall review:

- DMVR footage of the event from the initiating officer and other responding officers;
- Any written reports that were generated from the event;
- Any other information available regarding the incident;
- Whether the foot pursuit was in compliance with this policy;
- Whether opportunities for de-escalation, prior to flight, or prevention of flight were missed and what tactics may have been useful;
- If any tactics used could have been improved; and
- The findings and provide feedback to the officers involved.

Following the supervisory review of the foot pursuit, the supervisor shall take corrective action if needed and report any necessary policy improvements, training issues or observed tactical considerations through the chain of command via memorandum.

4-250.13 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or becoming aware that a foot pursuit is in progress, Communications is responsible for:

- Clearing the radio channel of non-emergency traffic;
- Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved officers;
- Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary;
- Ensuring that a supervisor is aware of the foot pursuit and ensuring the Shift Commander is notified, if needed; and



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- Notifying and coordinating with neighboring agencies when necessary and practicable.

4-250.14 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within the body of the narrative of an offense/incident report and/or charging documents when necessary, officers shall include details surrounding the foot pursuit, such as, but not limited to:

- RAS and/or probable cause for any offenses;
- Reason and circumstances surrounding the foot pursuit;
- Course and approximate distance of the foot pursuit;
- Involved vehicles and officers;
- Any use of force;
- Any injuries and/or medical treatment; and/or
- Any property or equipment damage.

In the following cases, when an incident report is not required, a Field Interview Report (FIR) shall be completed:

- A known subject eludes officers during a foot pursuit; or
- The foot pursuit of a known subject is terminated prior to apprehension; or
- If a subject is detained pursuant to a foot pursuit and it becomes apparent that there is no probable cause to continue to hold the subject. (Example: no further probable cause to effect an arrest for a criminal violation was developed or an individual was detained pursuant to a presumed warrant, but after further investigation, the warrant could not be validated). Therefore, the subject may be released; and
- There is no reportable use of force, injuries or property or equipment damage.

In those instances when a foot pursuit is terminated or a subject is not located, and the identity of the subject is unknown, all pertinent information will be entered into the call sheet and no further reporting beyond the call sheet is required.

4-300 TRAFFIC AND PARKING CITATIONS

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION
- C. CITATIONS
- D. TRAFFIC WARNING NOTICES
- E. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS



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A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will enforce all traffic laws and ordinances in an equitable manner. The primary objective of such enforcement is the promotion of traffic safety and the resultant reduction in traffic collisions. Normal traffic law enforcement involves visible traffic patrol by officers.

Officers are expected to exercise discretion, based upon their training and experience, in carrying out traffic enforcement duties. In enforcing vehicle laws officers have the discretion to issue written warnings, citations or to make arrests. Enforcement actions should be based on the circumstances of the violation.

Officers are not limited as to the number of citations, Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO) and / or warnings that may be issued to a single violator. Officers should use sound judgment in deciding how many charges to place and should avoid citing numerous separate charges that the courts might tend to merge.

B. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION

ELECTRONIC

The Agency has been approved by the District Court to write and submit electronic citations, safety repair orders, warnings, and parking violations. This enables the officer to complete the traffic citations and warnings in the MDT. The system is designed to issue both warnings and citations during a single stop. The system will print one copy of the citation for the violator and upload the citation information to the court system. This eliminates the need to have a court copy of the citation.

Officers who have been trained and enabled to issue electronic citations shall issue citations with the electronic system; however, they shall also carry citation books in the event the electronic citation system goes down. The officer will comply with the training and requirements of the system being used to issue the electronic citations.

PAPER

Citation books are accounted for by serial numbers assigned to the citations contained within the citation books. Employees shall control or possess only those citation books which have been properly issued to the employee. A logbook maintained in the Records Management Section and any other location from which citation books are issued will be used to record the issuance of a particular series of citations to an individual employee.

The Quartermaster's Office is responsible for ordering citation books through the MVA. The main supply of citation books is securely stored at the Quartermaster's Office. A portion of the citation books are distributed and stored securely at each of the district stations. Supervisors are responsible for issuing new citation books to their officers. Once issued, the supervisor will complete the tally sheet from the citation book and enter the issuance into the logbook for accountability. The tally sheet will be filled out and forwarded to the Records Management Section. The Records Management Section is responsible for tracking the citations once the citation book is issued to an officer for use.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Warning / FIR / Security Notice Form #389 is ordered through the Quartermaster's office and a supply will be kept at all district stations.

MUST APPEAR TRAFFIC STOPS

When an officer conducts a traffic stop where no Incident Report is generated and only a must-appear traffic citation is issued, the officer will request an IR number for Traffic Stop-Must Appear which will be used to classify DMVR recordings. The incident report will automatically close with no further required input from the officer.



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C. CITATIONS

Officers not utilizing an electronic citation will submit remaining copies of issued citations, except the officer's copy and the violator's copy, at the end of the tour of duty in which they are written. Supervisors and support staff will ensure that these citations are promptly forwarded to Records Management. The Deputy Director, Records Management Section will cause Charles County parking citations to be forwarded to the Accounting Section on a daily basis. All County parking citations should reach the Records Management Section by the next working day after they are written. Officers issuing citations for parking violations will utilize electronic citations. If that is unavailable, a County citation book will be used.

Officers will ensure that witness information is entered on the reverse side of the court copy of the Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation. When a violator is arrested and is taken before a Commissioner, a Statement of Probable Cause (Form #DC / CR-4) will be completed and presented to the Commissioner along with the citation. Processing will be in accordance with traffic arrest procedures.

Officers issuing electronic citations need to print out only the violator's copy of the citation. The violator's copy will be provided to the violator; however, the violator's signature is not required when issuing an electronic citation. Officers will make every available effort to provide the citation to the violator in person. In those situations where in person service is not possible, and the only viable option is service by mail, the following steps will be taken:

1. The officer will obtain supervisory approval to provide the citation via mail;
2. The citation will be sent via certified mail and will require a signature upon receipt; and
3. The circumstances which occurred during the traffic law violation, how the violator was identified, name of supervisor granting approval, and all certified mail attachments will be documented in an incident report.

The information concerning the traffic violation will remain in the electronic citation system and an additional copy of the citation can be printed if needed at a later time. Once the electronic citation is printed, the information will be submitted directly to the District Court, and no additional copies of the citation need to be forwarded to the Records Management Section.

The District Court utilizes the information entered into the electronic citation system to subpoena witnesses.

VOIDING CITATIONS

The Deputy Director, Records Management Section shall have the authority to void a citation which has been improperly written upon. If an officer makes an error while writing a citation, the issuing officer will submit a Void Citation Form #113, which will be forwarded through the chain of command, along with all copies of the citation, to the Deputy Director, Records Management Section. All copies of the citation must be included, or it cannot be voided. The Form #113 must be properly endorsed by the employee's supervisor and commander. A citation which has been signed by the violator, and the violator copy has been issued, may not be disposed of in this manner; it must be disposed of in open court, either through dismissal by a District Court Judge or a declaration of Nolle Prosequi.

Voided electronic tickets should be submitted to Records within 15 days of the issue date on the citation with the required signatures on Form #113 in the same manner as traditional hard copies. Records will then forward the voided packet to the District Court Traffic Processing Center to be disposed of in open court, either through dismissal by a District Court Judge or a declaration of Nolle Prosequi. If the ticket was reissued, the officer will include the citation number of the reissued citation.

D. TRAFFIC WARNING NOTICES



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The Charles County Sheriff's Office Warning / FIR / Security Notice Form #389 may be issued to any motorists, Maryland residents or non-residents. Officer use of this notice is discretionary for any non-jailable traffic violation, parking violation or vehicle equipment defects.

Officers will advise the recipients that they are receiving a Warning Notice and will fully explain the violation for which the notice is being issued. No signature is required from the violator on the Warning Notice form.

ELECTRONIC WARNING NOTICE DISTRIBUTION

The printed copy of the warning will be left with the violator.

HANDWRITTEN WARNING NOTICE DISTRIBUTION

1. Violator is given the yellow copy (2nd copy);
2. Officer retains the goldenrod copy (4th copy);
3. The remaining white and pink copies are sent to Records Management.

E. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

The Maryland Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO, Form #MSP 157) shall be issued when a vehicle is stopped for, or found to have, defective equipment. SEROs may be issued only for a motor vehicle or trailer which is assigned permanent Maryland registration plates.

The Agency's electronic citation system shall be used to issue SEROs by those officers equipped with the electronic system. The system is designed to issue both warnings, SEROs and citations during a single stop.

ELECTRONIC SAFETY REPAIR ORDER DISTRIBUTION

Violator given printed order.

HANDWRITTEN SAFETY REPAIR ORDER DISTRIBUTION

Safety Equipment and Repair Order distribution (booklet copies):

1. Transmitted to Records
 - a) State Police copy (white)
 - b) Officer's copy (pink)
2. Given to Violator
 - a) Inspection Station copy (yellow)
 - b) Owner copy (gold)
 - c) Hard copy (pale yellow)

CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT REPAIR ORDER

When a request for certification of a Maryland Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO) is made of a sworn member of the Agency, the following procedures shall be adhered to:

1. Only those items on the form designated by an asterisk (*) can be certified by a sworn police officer. If there is more than one cited for inspection and one of those items is not designated by an asterisk (*), the inspecting officer shall refrain from certifying that item and advise the individual presenting the Safety Equipment Repair Order to contact an authorized state inspection station.



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2. Certification of Maryland Safety Equipment Repair Orders should be performed at a district station; however, if an officer is approached while on patrol for this service, the officer will notify Communications of a call for service, then conduct the inspection and certification. Following the completion of the inspection, the officer shall make the required entries on the form and submit the police department copy to the Records Management Section prior to the end of the officer's tour of duty.
3. Inspections generally will not be conducted during inclement weather or darkness unless the inspection can be appropriately completed.

PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING CERTIFICATION

All SERO certifications should be completed electronically unless a paper copy was issued to the owner of the vehicle. The officer should sign electronically and provide the printed copy to the citizen. Upon determining that repairs are within lawful limits, the officer will enter the following information at the bottom of the paper SERO in the spaces provided:

1. Officer's rank / signature / I.D.
2. Date
3. Charles County Sheriff's Office
4. ZH for Agency code
5. Mailing address of the Agency

ISSUING CITATIONS FOR DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT

A Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation may be issued to the operator of any motor vehicle or trailer which has defective equipment, as described in the Transportation Code of Maryland (Title 22). A Citation may be issued along with a SERO.

4-301 TRAFFIC STOPS
(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES
- D. HIGH RISK (FELONY) TRAFFIC STOPS
- E. PLAINCLOTHES TRAFFIC STOPS
- F. JUVENILE TRAFFIC CHARGES
- G. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
- H. TRAFFIC STOP DATA SHEET
- I. TRAINING
- J. DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED
- K. VIOLATIONS OCCURRING OFF OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS
- L. REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF DRIVER

A. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office that all investigative and enforcement traffic stops will be based upon reasonable articulable suspicion or probable cause. Law enforcement actions, including traffic stops, based solely or primarily on a person's race, ethnicity, age or gender are absolutely prohibited. This policy establishes guidelines for conducting constitutionally valid investigative and enforcement traffic stops.



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Law enforcement officers have a duty and authority to investigate suspicious activities that may be associated with the violation of criminal and motor vehicle laws. This duty does not include pursuing hunches or stereotyping, but is limited to reasonable articulable factors which would likely lead any knowledgeable, reasonable officer to the same conclusion; i.e., that a violation is occurring or has occurred.

Actions taken by the officer must be reasonable under the existing circumstances and based on the officer's knowledge at the time. Officers must be able to point to and describe the specific factors that raised suspicions and led him to take action in connection with the stop. Once the underlying basis for the initial stop has concluded, a police-driver encounter (subsequent seizure) is over. A continuation of the stop is permissible only under the following circumstances:

1. When the driver consents to the continuing intrusion.
2. When the officer has, at a minimum, a reasonable articulable suspicion that criminal activity is afoot.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to alter the authority of a law enforcement officer to make an arrest, conduct a search or seizure, or otherwise fulfill the officer's law enforcement obligations.

B. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined as they relate to this policy:

Enforcement Stop - a stop initiated based on probable cause of the criminal or traffic code.

Investigative Stop - a stop based on reasonable articulable suspicion of criminal activity or a violation of traffic code. Information may originate with another officer or by independent investigation.

Seizure - in the context of traffic stops, a seizure takes place when an officer makes an investigative or enforcement stop. Seizures during all traffic stops are subject to constitutional constraints.

Subsequent Seizure - the continued detention of a motorist after the original reason for the stop has been satisfied.

Whren or "Pretext" Stop - a stop initiated for an observed traffic violation even though the true reason for the stop is the officer's interest in investigating whether the motorist is involved in other criminal activity.

C. PROCEDURES

Traffic stops shall be made in accordance with the procedures taught in initial and in-service training. Officers shall be mindful of the dangers inherent in approaching a vehicle, when it is not known exactly what may be within the vehicle. Officers will also consider the hazards presented by the stop environment and use the available roadway shoulder and vehicle positioning to create the safest stop possible.

Officers making a traffic stop will:

1. Choose a safe stop location.
2. Notify Communications of the stop and record the violator's license plate number for officer safety.
3. Stop the cruiser behind the violator in a safe position with emergency lights activated.
4. Approach the violator's vehicle cautiously.
5. Greet the violator courteously and clearly identify themselves, utilizing, at a minimum, last name, I.D. number, Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the reason for the stop.
6. Advise the citizen of the violation and request their driver's license and registration.
7. Take the appropriate enforcement action by issuing a written warning, a citation or making an arrest. Offenders will not be released with only a verbal warning.



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When a violator is charged with an offense for which a Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation may be issued, the officer issuing the citation will advise the violator of the following information:

1. The Transportation Article (TR § 26-203) of the Maryland Annotated Code requires that the violator acknowledge the receipt of the citation.
2. Failure to sign the citation shall necessitate the violator being taken into custody and brought before a Commissioner. State law allows the arrest of an individual who does not acknowledge the citation after a verbal warning. If the signature is being required on a written citation due to a malfunction of the officer's electronic citation system, an arrest shall not be made if the violator does not sign the citation. If a written citation is issued due to system malfunction, ensure the electronic citation is voided.
3. The act of signing the citation is not an admission of guilt, and that it is only the violator's written promise to appear in court when notified by the Court unless an optional fine is paid prior to the court date.
4. Failure to appear in court or to pay the fine pursuant to the written promise may result in the suspension of the violator's driving privileges.

D. HIGH RISK (FELONY) TRAFFIC STOPS

Officers will conduct high risk (felony) traffic stops in accordance with their training. High risk traffic stops include:

1. vehicles stopped at the conclusion of a vehicle pursuit;
2. suspects believed to have committed a felony;
3. suspects believed to be in possession of a weapon;
4. stolen vehicles;
5. other unusual or threatening circumstances as articulated by the involved officer(s).

When appropriate and when time allows, additional resources (i.e. K-9) should be requested and should be in the area before a high risk traffic stop is initiated. Unless exigent circumstances exist necessitating the need for immediate action, officers will wait for assistance to arrive before initiating the stop. Officers will position their vehicles in a manner that provides the maximum tactical advantage while also keeping officer safety and the safety of bystanders as primary considerations. Additionally, officers conducting the stop should, when practical:

1. Advise Communications of location; license plate number and state, make, model and color of the vehicle; and number of occupants.
2. Stop traffic from approaching behind the police vehicles. Consideration should be given to stopping oncoming traffic as well.
3. Occupants should be ordered out of the vehicle. Officers should avoid approaching the vehicle.
4. Each occupant should be handcuffed, searched for weapons, and debriefed about any remaining occupants or weapons in the vehicle.
5. Once all known occupants are out of the vehicle, officers will tactically approach the vehicle while avoiding potential crossfire and scan the inside of the vehicle to assure there are no other occupants.
6. When safe to do so, police vehicles should be repositioned to allow the normal flow of traffic to resume.

E. PLAINCLOTHES TRAFFIC STOPS

Plainclothes officers in unmarked vehicles should refrain from making traffic stops unless the violation creates a significant danger to persons or property. Officers attired in civilian clothes and operating a marked cruiser shall make traffic stops only when the violation creates a significant danger to persons or property; however, every sworn member of the Agency, unless assigned to covert operations, shall maintain a Traffic and Civil Citation book.



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Maryland law provides for displaying one's license to a uniformed police officer. Plainclothes officers effecting a traffic stop shall:

1. clearly identify themselves with appropriate police credentials;
2. advise the citizen of the violation and request their driver's license;
3. if the citizen refuses to produce a license, he will be advised such a refusal prevents the officer from writing a traffic summons in lieu of an arrest and may subject the violator to arrest;
4. if the citizen continues such refusal, the officer shall call for a uniformed officer and request that the citizen await his arrival; and
5. if the citizen awaits the uniformed officer's arrival, the plainclothes officer will write the summons following his receipt of the violator's credentials. If the citizen refuses to wait, he may be arrested.

Officers, while operating privately owned vehicles, shall not stop or attempt to stop a motorist for any violation.

F. JUVENILE TRAFFIC CHARGES

Juveniles who are 16 years of age or older will be processed for non-jailable traffic violations in the same manner as adults. Whenever a juvenile age 16 or 17 is arrested for a jailable traffic offense, he will be charged on a Juvenile Offense Report. Juveniles under 16 will be charged on a JOR for all violations of the transportation article. If charged with criminal and non-jailable traffic offenses, the juvenile will be charged on the Juvenile Offense Report for all infractions. Juvenile offenders being charged with multiple traffic violations, which include jailable and non-jailable offenses arising from the same incident, will be charged using the Juvenile Offense Report only. An incident report will be required anytime a JOR is used to charge.

G. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOPS WHILE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION

Officers in police vehicles shall refrain from making traffic stops while traveling in another jurisdiction unless the violation creates a significant danger to persons or property.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS - NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS

Violations of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws by non-Maryland residents shall be processed in the same manner as those of Maryland residents. That is, residents of another state may be warned, cited or arrested as would a Maryland resident.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS - LEGISLATORS

While U.S. Senators and Representatives enjoy some immunities while Congress is in session, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on several occasions these legislators are not exempt from compliance with ordinary criminal laws. This includes violations of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws. Legislators, to include those at the state level, may be warned, cited or arrested for motor vehicle law violations.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS - MILITARY PERSONNEL

Traffic law violations committed by military personnel shall be processed as would violations by any other citizen.

H. TRAFFIC STOP DATA SHEET



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Subsection 25-113 of the Transportation Article (TR § 25-113) of the Annotated Code of Maryland directs all law enforcement agencies in the state to gather data regarding traffic stops. The Charles County Sheriff's Office collects the required information in compliance with law.

An electronic version of the Traffic Stop Data Sheet was also developed and incorporated into the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) computers' software package.

The required information will be collected automatically by the computer. There will be no need for additional collection of data required by this policy.

The information collected by the electronic citation system will be automatically uploaded into the Agency's records management system.

I. TRAINING

Officers shall receive training on articulation and documentation of actions, ways to enhance police-citizen contact, and reviews of relevant case law affecting police-citizen encounters.

J. DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED

An individual whose license or privilege to drive has been suspended or revoked may not drive a motor vehicle on the highways or property generally used by the public during the suspension or revocation. Generally, licenses are suspended or revoked for serious prior offenses. When deciding what enforcement action to take in these cases, officers should check the driving record of the violator. In most cases a citation should be issued for these violations and the operator should not be allowed to continue to drive the vehicle. If it is necessary to tow the vehicle, refer to the Towing and Storage of Vehicles policy for guidance.

K. VIOLATIONS OCCURRING OFF OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS

A person may not drive a motor vehicle in violation of any provision of the Maryland Motor Vehicle laws on the following properties, which are used by the public in general:

1. Private property (for example shopping center parking lots).
2. Property owned by or under the control of the State, County, Board of Education or Community College.

Officers will investigate complaints concerning off-road traffic violations and operators of off-road type vehicles. In those cases where a violator can be identified and/or apprehended, officers will take the appropriate enforcement action.

L. REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF DRIVER

Routine traffic enforcement and motor vehicle crash investigations often lead to the discovery of drivers who have suspected incompetency, mental disability, disease or other conditions that might impair their abilities to exercise reasonable and ordinary care in operating a motor vehicle.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Law permits the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to re-examine a person's driving privilege under the following criteria:

1. the licensee is involved in a crash resulting in the death of another; and/or



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2. the administration has good cause to believe that the licensee is unfit, unsafe, or otherwise not qualified to drive.

If an officer has good cause to believe that a licensee needs to be re-examined, he will complete a Request for Re-Examination of a Driver through the electronic citation system. If the electronic system is unavailable then:

1. complete a Request for Re-Examination of Driver (Maryland Form #AJ-39) being as specific as possible; and
2. after supervisory / command review and approval, forward to the Motor Vehicle Administration by mail; and
3. maintain the goldenrod copy of the form and any notes and other information concerning the incident so as to be able to answer questions posed by the licensee at a hearing.

NOTE: The MVA does not automatically notify an officer of the results of any re-examination. Officers may contact the MVA to find out the results.

4-302 PARKING VIOLATIONS

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

Parking violations will be issued electronically when such violations are covered by the parking ordinance of Charles County, Maryland (Charles County Code, Chapter 287). Charging in this manner will cause the fine revenues to be retained by the Charles County Government for local use. The County parking citation may be used in the following instances:

When a person stops, stands or parks a motor vehicle:

1. in front of a public driveway; or
2. on a sidewalk; or
3. over a sidewalk; or
4. in such a manner as to block a sidewalk; or
5. in an intersection; or
6. on a crosswalk; or
7. on a two-way roadway with the left-hand wheels at the curb or roadway edge of the opposite direction lane; or
8. where stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle is prohibited by an official sign; or

When a person stands or parks a motor vehicle:

1. at a curb indicated to be a fire lane, if properly signed; or
2. in front of a private driveway without the consent of the owner or occupant of the premises; or
3. within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection; or
4. within 30 feet of the approach to any stop sign, yield sign, flashing signal or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway; or
5. within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or within 75 feet on the highway opposite to the driveway entrance, if properly signed; or
6. on the roadway side of any other vehicle that is stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a highway; or



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7. on a curve or hill where solid lines on the surface of the roadway indicate a zone in which passing is prohibited; or
8. on a one-way roadway with its right hand wheels more than 12 inches from the right- hand curb or edge of the roadway; or
9. within 15 feet of a fire hydrant; or

When a person parks a motor vehicle:

1. within 50 feet of the nearest rail in a railroad grade crossing; or
2. on any property owned by the Charles County Commissioners, Charles County Board of Education, or the Charles County Community College where parking is prohibited by an official sign; or
3. stops, stands or parks a motor vehicle in a parking space for use of an individual with disabilities or otherwise reserved for the disabled unless the vehicle bears a special registration plate, windshield placard, or other valid permit issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, another state, or the District of Columbia.

The violation of any of these provisions is subject to a fine of \$20 for each violation, except the last, parking in a disabled space, which subjects the violator to a \$500 fine. Each day of violation is a separate offense.

OFFICER'S CONSIDERATIONS

Officers are empowered to impound any vehicle which is parked in violation of any of the provisions of the County parking ordinance, providing that the vehicle is on a public road or parking lot and has been left so for an unreasonable time, impedes traffic, or constitutes a threat to public safety. The law does not provide guidance as to what constitutes an unreasonable time. Officers may assume any vehicle parked in excess of 48 hours has been parked an unreasonable time if it was cited and remains in violation for that period of time. Officers will comply with the procedures in the Towing and Storage of Vehicles policy.

Officers will maintain the officer's copy of the citation for their records until any need for their appearance in court in the matter has passed. Officers must sign the citation affirming that the facts represented are true and correct. When officers place citations on a vehicle which is unattended, the registered owner of the vehicle is presumed to be the person receiving the citation.

Persons receiving citations may pay the fine to the Charles County Treasurer or elect to stand trial. If the violator does not notify the County Treasurer, within the 15 days of receiving the citation, of the need to have the officer present in court for a trial of the facts of the case, the officer's written citation will serve as prima facie evidence of the facts stated thereon.

PARKING CITATION INFORMATION

In cases where the vehicle is unattended, officers will fill in the sections of the parking citation for:

1. vehicle registration number;
2. state of registration;
3. the name and address of the registered owner of the tag displayed and of the vehicle (**NOTE:** if the tags



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are issued to another vehicle, the proper enforcement action will be initiated and any evidence necessary for the prosecution will be gathered);

4. the year, make, model and color of the vehicle,
5. the date of the violation;
6. the time of the violation;
7. the location (to include street name and hundred block or cross street) where the vehicle was parked in violation;
8. the specific parking violation that occurred; and
9. the fine appropriate for the violation.

In cases where the vehicle is attended, the officer will additionally fill in the following information for the operator of the vehicle:

1. the driver's license number;
2. the class of the driver's license;
3. the state in which the driver's license is issued;
4. the driver's full name;
5. the driver's current address;
6. the city, state, and zip code of the driver; and
7. the height, weight, race, sex, date of birth and telephone number of the driver.

4-305 RADAR

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR PERTAINING TO POLICE TRAFFIC RADAR AND SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

The Traffic Operations Supervisor will maintain a current knowledge of new technology and radar equipment as well as recent court decisions and/or legislation relating to police radar operations. All studies, evaluations and selections of radar equipment used by the Agency will be accomplished by the Traffic Operations Supervisor. As part of the selection process, the "Police Radar Approval List" published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will be consulted. Additionally, the Fleet Manager will:

1. Maintain a current inventory of all Agency radar equipment;
2. Authorize the use of any radar equipment personally owned by an officer;
3. Arrange for yearly calibration on all radar devices and tuning forks;
4. Maintain calibration and service records on all radar units;
5. Arrange for the service or repair of radar units as needed;
6. Maintain a list of Agency radar operators and the equipment each has been certified to use;
7. Investigate unauthorized or indiscriminate use of radar equipment when directed by the Patrol operations commander.

ISSUANCE AND CUSTODY OF RADAR UNITS

Each radar operator is solely responsible for the proper care and control of any radar unit and its accessories during which time it is assigned to him/her. During monthly vehicle inspections, supervisors will account for issued radar



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equipment and note their observation on the Monthly Inspection Form #75.

When not in use, a radar device will be properly stored in the carrying case. A mounted device may be left in its operating position. Any special requests for modifications must be submitted in writing to the Commander, Property Management. Due care must be observed when installing the mounting accessories so as not to interfere with the vehicle's operation or safety devices.

Indiscriminate and/or careless radar enforcement or abuse of equipment will not be tolerated and may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE RADAR OPERATOR

Radar operators must complete approved training (MPCTC) and be certified with the speed monitoring device(s) utilized.

All safety specifications outlined by the manufacturer of the radar equipment will be observed. At a minimum, Agency safety regulations will be followed and require:

1. the radar device to be turned off when not in use;
2. antenna to be pointed away from the operator's body;
3. handheld units are not to be placed in the operator's lap or against the body.

Prior to beginning any type of radar enforcement, the operator will conduct a proper test of the equipment being used.

Each radar operator will maintain the necessary records and tracking history following any traffic arrest through the use of radar for the successful prosecution of accused speeding violators. When having to appear for court regarding a traffic arrest involving police traffic radar, an operator will have in his possession the appropriate file and records pertaining to that radar device. A copy of radar certification files are available at the front desk of District I. Radar operators will also have their Operator's Certification card whenever appearing in court or conducting radar operations.

Radar operators will be responsible for the certification of police vehicle speedometers in accordance with the Monthly Inspections and Reviews of DMVR Recordings policy. Operators will not certify or check any non-police vehicle speedometer. Citizens requesting service of this nature will be referred elsewhere, i.e., automobile dealership, private business.

Radar operators will receive all selective enforcement assignments from their respective district commanders during normal shifts. Additional instructions may be forwarded to radar operators from the Traffic Operations Supervisor, who will have prior approval from the district commander or the Patrol operations commander.

The nature and severity of the violation and/or existing conditions will be considered when determining enforcement tolerance. Operators will balance their enforcement actions in accordance with the Traffic Citations policy.

Radar operators, when functioning alone or in conjunction with a stopping team operation, will allow for the safety of other motorists when pursuing or apprehending the speeding violator. Stationary positions will have a sufficient area for violators to be safely stopped while not interfering with the normal flow of traffic.

4-306 PROCEDURES FOR ORGAN DONORS

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

The driver's license of a person killed in an automobile accident should immediately be checked to determine if the



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victim is an organ donor.

When such an individual is identified, the organs most likely to be donated would be the corneas, for which the Medical Eye Bank is responsible and which are viable for use to 12 hours postmortem, and the kidneys, for which the transplant program's organ procurement teams are responsible and which are viable for less than one-half hour after circulation ceases. It is obvious that no significant delay can be tolerated.

There are three organ procurement teams, one associated with each of the transplant programs at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Baltimore City Hospital. Assistance may be obtained by calling the following:

1. Johns Hopkins: 410-955-6070

Any officer contacting a transplant program with the simple statement that he wishes information regarding an organ donor will receive a prompt response. The transplant team will, based on the patient's location, contact knowledgeable teams in hospitals close to the donor who will be able to recover the organs for transplant.

4-309 TRAFFIC DIRECTION

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

Officers shall provide manual traffic direction as assigned or on the scene of any incident that disrupts the normal flow of traffic. Incidents that may require officers to direct traffic can include:

1. motor vehicle or other accident scenes;
2. major fire scenes;
3. adverse road and weather conditions;
4. power outages or malfunctioning traffic lights; and
5. large scale special events.

Manual traffic direction can include the use of highway flares, traffic cones, stanchions or barriers. Whenever the need for traffic direction may exceed one hour, officers may request assistance from County Roads or the State Highway Administration in providing temporary traffic control devices or in manually operating electronic signal boxes.

Officers directing traffic utilizing hand signals will do so in accordance with procedures taught in initial training. A minimum of two officers should be assigned to direct traffic at major intersections.

Officers shall at all times while directing traffic wear the issued traffic safety vest. Additionally, during periods of inclement weather and darkness officers shall use flares, traffic wands or other visibility aids to assist in directing traffic.

NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING ROAD CLOSURES

Charles County Sheriff's Office will cooperate with Charles County Government regarding the Citizen Notification System (CNS). It will be the responsibility of the Police Communications Supervisor to submit information regarding any road closures (county or state) and/or urgent matters as deemed appropriate for citizens' knowledge, to the Command Staff, to the county, as well as to the State Operations Center (SOC). The PCS will also be responsible to enter into the CNS any information provided to this Agency from other law enforcement agencies, such as MSP, concerning road closures.

The Command Staff, CNS and SOC will be immediately updated by the Police Communications Supervisor when there is any change in an incident status.



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4-400 VEHICLE CRASHES

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. ESTABLISHING INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY
- C. RESPONDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. INVESTIGATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- E. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- F. HIT AND RUN AND OTHER FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION
- G. ALCOHOL RELATED FATAL OR LIFE THREATENING CRASHES
- H. MECHANICAL DEFECTS
- I. TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
- J. TRAIN-VEHICLE-PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

A. PURPOSE

Maryland law (§2-306 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code) requires that law enforcement agencies furnish information relative to vehicle crashes to the Department of State Police. The State Police are charged to collect, analyze, and disseminate that information. The personnel of the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall investigate crashes which come to their attention and gather that information, in accordance with the requirements of this section.

Crash reporting data entered in the Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS), a program and crash database developed and administered by the Maryland State Police (MSP), is automatically collected by MSP once the report passes through the Charles County Sheriff's Office supervisory approval process.

In addition to the responsibility to gather information concerning crashes, officers are charged to protect the public by providing for an orderly flow of traffic. One of the methods of doing that is to identify persons who cause crashes because of their violation of the Vehicle Law. These persons, when identified, may then be brought to the attention of the Courts and the Motor Vehicle Administration.

There is also a public benefit to be obtained from the statistical data gathered by police in the formal investigation of crashes. That data may then be used to:

1. determine the need for selective enforcement at various sites;
2. provide for new traffic control devices and highway engineering improvements;
3. aid in the development and improvement of driver education programs; and
4. provide guidance to legislators in determining the need for new or revised traffic control laws.

B. ESTABLISHING INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for the investigation of a vehicle crash will normally be that of the officer assigned the patrol responsibility for the geographical area (Patrol Sector) containing the crash scene. That officer and / or supervisory personnel may make a determination that the crash would be more appropriately investigated by alternate personnel.

For example, under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of State Police, a crash occurring on a State highway might be investigated by the State Police. In another case, a crash may be of such magnitude or circumstances that the need for crash reconstruction is evident.

A Reconstructionist may be summoned to handle the crash. In such cases, the summoned investigator must



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acknowledge the intent to assume the responsibility for the crash. In any case, the first officer on the scene of a crash must assume responsibility for the scene until relieved of that responsibility by the investigating officer or a superior officer.

C. RESPONDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

An officer who is dispatched, or who is otherwise the first officer at the scene of a crash, will ensure the following, as may be appropriate to the particular scene:

1. Measures are taken to prevent the crash scene from becoming worse, e.g., the cruiser is placed to alert oncoming traffic, road flares are set, traffic direction is initiated, etc.
2. Persons involved are checked for injuries, emergency aid is given for life-threatening injuries and paramedics and ambulances are summoned.
3. Fire hazards are identified, persons are protected from them and the Fire Department is summoned to deal with them.
4. Hazardous cargos and material are detected and steps taken to protect the public and deal with their containment and removal.
5. The bodies of persons killed are checked for the presence of evidence of organ donor information and if such is found, it is brought to the attention of medical personnel.
6. As needed, additional assistance is summoned.
7. that short-lived evidence (skid marks, debris, vehicle position, etc.) is preserved;
8. Principals and witnesses are identified for later interview.
9. The driver's license, vehicle registration information, and insurance information of the drivers and vehicles involved are collected.
10. The condition and extent of damage of each of the vehicles involved is examined.
11. The roadway and objects adjacent thereto which may have been damaged as a result of the crash are identified.
12. Any continuing hazards associated with the crash scene are reported to the responsible agency and the public protected from such hazards by warning signs, barricades, etc., until such hazards are dealt with.
13. During the handling, clearing, and investigating of the scene of the crash, there are provisions made for the orderly and expeditious flow of traffic around the scene, or that such detour as may be needed to avoid the scene is made.
14. An official report be made of the facts and circumstances of the crash in accordance with the policy below; and / or
15. the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Police outlined in Chapter 3, Section 150, regarding crashes, are complied with. In this regard, if this Agency would not complete an investigation and report, the State Police will probably not either, since our reporting requirements are similar. In these cases, the officer on the scene may handle the incident without requesting State Police.



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16. If a domestic animal is in a motor vehicle involved in a crash, and
- a) the occupants of that vehicle are incapacitated; or
 - b) otherwise incapable of maintaining custody of the animal; and
 - c) there is no other individual who will take responsibility for the animal; then
 - d) the officer responding to the crash will notify Animal Care and Control to respond to assume custody of the animal. If necessary, because of the time of day or day of week, the officer may contact the Communications Section Supervisor who will notify the on call Animal Care and Control Officer.

REPORT REQUIREMENTS

An official crash report shall be required in all cases where the crash involves at least one motor vehicle, occurred within the jurisdiction of the vehicle laws, i.e., on a highway, on private property that is used by the public in general, on property owned or under the control of the State, political subdivisions, County boards, schools, etc., or falls under the provisions of a law applicable to anywhere in the State (DWI), and:

1. there is a death or likelihood of death as a result of the crash;
2. there are injuries to any person or injuries are claimed by any person as a result of the crash;
3. there will be placed charges of violation of the vehicle or other laws as a result of the crash;
4. there is impropriety in registration, insurance, or licensing of any driver or vehicle;
5. the crash involves any bus, train, government vehicle or aircraft;
6. the crash involves any hazardous material (as defined in the Emergency Handling of Hazardous Materials in Surface Transportation handbook) dangers;
7. there is damage to any government or public utility owned property, e.g., guardrail, telephone or lamp pole, traffic control sign, barrier, etc.;
8. there is a collision with a building resulting in any damage to the building;
9. the damage to any one of the motor vehicles involved is of such an extent that the vehicle cannot be safely operated from the scene of the crash; or
10. the driver of any motor vehicle left the scene of the crash (hit and run); and
 - a) an officer was called to the scene of the hit-and-run crash; and
 - b) there is investigable evidence that a hit-and-run occurred.

If the conditions set forth above do not exist, the officer may elect not to investigate the crash and no report will be written. In these cases, the officer will give the principals a copy of a Motor Vehicle Collision Information Exchange Form, which is produced through the ACRS system. In these cases, the officer should be sure that the principals understand that they will not be able to obtain a police report, as none will be written.



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D. INVESTIGATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

When an investigation and report are required under this section, to the degree possible, given the circumstances of the crash, the responsible officer will complete, at least, the following tasks:

1. a crash report shall be completed in accordance with the requirements and instruction provided by the ACRS Manual;
2. the facts and circumstances concerning the crash will be learned through the interview of witnesses and principals;
3. document all identified witnesses within the ACRS in the appropriate reporting field. Witness statements relevant to the crash should be summarized within the ACRS report narrative.
4. the physical evidence will be examined, collected, and photographed. Photographs are required in any case where a crash report is completed.
5. the documents, licenses, registrations, and the like will be examined and, if necessary for evidentiary purposes, collected and preserved;
6. measurements sufficient to complete an accurate diagram of the crash, to include at least the positioning of the vehicles, points of impact, and evidence position and size will be taken;
7. if the driver / owner / custodian of any vehicle is unable or not present to assume responsibility for an involved vehicle, the vehicle will be inventoried and impounded for safe keeping and/or to prevent its posing a roadway hazard;
8. any obviously valuable property, which the occupant of any vehicle is unable to protect because of injuries, will be collected as would any found property and handled according with policy found in Chapter 4, Section 500;
9. the roadway and objects adjacent thereto which may have been damaged as a result of the crash shall be reported to the owner or State or Local responsible agency;
10. if information and evidence present allow for a determination of cause, and probable cause exists to place charges, the officer may cite violators (in such cases, if the officer did not witness the crash, witnesses will be summonsed);
11. provide persons involved with a copy of a Motor Vehicle Collision Information Exchange Form, which is produced through the ACRS system; and
12. if the crash involved a fatality; or a significant injury requiring advanced investigation, the Traffic Operations Unit will be summoned to assume responsibility of the investigation.

E. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

In all cases involving the coordination of many Agency resources or the use and direction of many personnel, a supervisor will respond and assume overall handling of the scene unless and/or until relieved of such responsibility by higher authority.

Supervisors will ensure that all crash reports are completed by the end of the investigator's tour of duty unless the extent of the crash or extenuating circumstances makes this impractical. In such cases, the supervisors may



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authorize the holding of the report for no more than seventy-two (72) hours. If a report cannot be completed within the seventy-two (72) hour hold period, the incomplete report will be submitted followed by a supplement(s) as necessary. In any case of an incomplete report, supervisors will monitor the status of the investigation and assure its proper and timely conclusion.

F. HIT & RUN AND OTHER FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Most hit and run crashes will require some follow-up investigation. Some very involved and serious crashes may require follow-up investigation. Unless there is a fatality involved, the responsibility of the follow-up investigation will be that of the original investigating officer.

In the case of a hit-and-run crash, an officer is not required to write an ACRS report if they are not called to the scene of the crash and there is no investigable evidence or witnesses to the crash. If an officer does not complete an ACRS report, the officer shall give the vehicle driver the event number (CAD "S" number) to verify that they contacted the CCSO concerning the hit-and-run. This should be noted in the event notes in the CAD.

In fatality cases, Traffic Operations will be summoned to assume responsibility of the investigation.

In all hit and run crashes where investigative leads exist, the original investigating officer will, to the extent that is reasonably possible, pursue the existing leads. Supervisors of these officers will monitor the follow-up investigation in order to balance the requirements of the investigation against the need of the officer's services to respond to calls or other responsibilities of the work group. The supervisor will see that a supplement is submitted when the investigation is complete, when investigative leads are exhausted or when the investigation is no longer active for other reasons.

G. ALCOHOL RELATED FATAL OR LIFE THREATENING CRASHES

If the operator of a motor vehicle is involved in a crash that results in the death of, or a life-threatening injury to, another person, and the operator is detained by an officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the operator was operating or attempting to operate while under the influence of, or intoxicated by alcohol or drugs, then the investigating officer shall have the operator submit to a test for alcohol as stipulated in the Maryland Transportation Article (TR § 16-205.1 (c) & (d)). The test shall be administered pursuant to the provisions of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article (CJ § 10-304).

Life-threatening injury is not defined in the law for this section; therefore, the officer should use his knowledge and training as a first responder to determine the extent of the injuries if emergency medical personnel are not present or otherwise able to make a determination of the extent of a victim's injuries. Some injuries, such as arterial bleeding, stoppage of breathing, cardiac arrest and severe head injuries which cause unconsciousness and probable brain damage can be assumed by the officer to be life threatening.

The nature of the terms of the phrase "required to submit to a test, as directed by the officer" have not been defined by statute or case law at this time. These terms, which appear in the Transportation Article (TR § 16-205.1 (c)) place some burden upon the officer to have a test administered in the referred to cases. The officer should therefore use reasonable force as necessary to present the person detained to medical personnel authorized to collect a blood specimen if the person does not voluntarily submit to a breath or blood test. In these cases, the officer should advise the medical person taking blood of the protection from civil liability provided for in the Transportation Article (TR § 16-205.1 (c), (3)).

H. MECHANICAL DEFECTS

In any crash where the investigating officer believes that the crash was caused by a defect on one or more of the



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involved vehicles, the investigator may request an inspection by vehicle inspectors of the Maryland Department of State Police. The request will be forwarded through the district / shift commander with a copy of the crash report. This action will be completed prior to the end of the next business day following the crash. These requests will normally be limited to those crashes which involve fatalities or are of a great magnitude or have some other significance. An example might be a vehicle currently being studied by the Department of Transportation because of an alleged manufacturing defect, e.g., 1980's GMC pickup fuel tank explosions.

I. TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Traffic Operations Investigators have been trained to investigate crashes as they relate to the laws of physics, dynamics inside and outside the vehicle and human factors. Traffic Operations shall be summoned to the scene for the following crashes when on-duty and available:

1. agency-vehicle involved crashes;
2. school bus crashes; and
3. crashes which occur on County roads which involve injuries or death.

Traffic Operations shall be summoned to the scene of the following crashes on a call-out basis when off duty:

1. agency-vehicle involved crashes with injuries or death to any parties;
2. fatal crashes;
3. serious injury crashes as determined by Emergency Medical Services classification of a patient as Priority 1 or by a supervisor on scene; and
4. in any circumstance when the Commander, Field Operations Section, based on the facts presented by the on-scene commander, deems such a response necessary.

In cases where Traffic Operations assumes responsibility of the investigation, the patrol supervisor and shift commander shall provide manpower assistance and other resources, as may be required by the investigator, in the investigation and handling of the scene.

J. TRAIN-VEHICLE-PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

There are some special considerations for the initial officer on the scene and for the investigating officer when a train is involved in a reportable crash. When a train strikes a pedestrian and the pedestrian is fatally injured:

1. if the train has stopped, it will be detained pending the arrival of a homicide investigator;
2. the names of the train operator, engineer, conductor, brakeman and company will be obtained; and
3. a crime / incident report will be completed.

If a train is involved in a collision with a vehicle and there are fatal or life-threatening injuries to train passengers or vehicle occupants:

1. if the train has stopped, it will be detained pending the completion of the on-scene investigation;
2. the names of the train operator, engineer, conductor, or brakeman as well as the name of the train company will be obtained;
3. the names of any injured train passengers and their address will be obtained; and
4. a crash report will be completed containing the vehicle and occupant information as well as all other required information appropriate to the crash.



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If a train is involved in a crash with a vehicle and / or pedestrian and there is property damage only with no apparent injury to persons on or off the train:

1. the names of the train operator, engineer, conductor, or brakeman and the name of the train company will be obtained;
2. no information will be solicited from the passengers of the train;
3. the train will be allowed to proceed to its destination if a representative of the train company will remain behind to furnish information necessary for the report; and
4. a crash report will be completed containing the vehicle and occupant information as well as all other required information appropriate to the crash.

4-403 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

Aircraft accidents will be reported immediately to the Maryland State Police who will coordinate their investigation with the NTSB / FAA. The CCSO will assist by providing resources if needed.

In the event CCSO officers are first on the scene, those officers will take great care in preserving the scene while assisting in the medical treatment of the wounded. Only in instances of crash survivors or an impending fire, will an officer disturb any part of the wreckage. Officers will secure the scene, keeping unauthorized and unnecessary personnel from disturbing any portion, to include the deceased.

1. Secure the area and exercise extreme caution. Aircraft may contain classified documents and/or equipment, live ammunition, high explosives and nuclear weapons, plus high octane aviation fuel. The immediate danger of further fire and/or explosion after the crash must be considered.
2. Remove injured persons to a safe distance away from the wreckage; Notify area hospitals.
3. Control traffic and expedite admittance of authorized traffic.

Upon the assumption of command by another agency, Agency personnel will accede to their requests and render necessary assistance.

Officers will record as much information as is available from the aircraft, to include the type of aircraft (helicopter, fixed wing, experimental or non-powered ultra-light), any numbers or markings, and the number of passengers. Witnesses should be identified and statements obtained concerning the accident. Officers will complete an Offense / Incident Report for Assisting Allied Agency, detailing their actions and information obtained.

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Age Group	Should Take Action (%)	Should Not Take Action (%)
18-29	90	10
30-49	90	10
50-69	90	10
70+	90	10

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4-407 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE / WHILE IMPAIRED ARREST AND EQUIPMENT PROCEDURES

(Last reviewed: 5/27/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PRE-ARREST SCREENING
- D. ARREST PROCEDURES
- E. TESTING
- F. PROCESSING OF ARRESTEES

A. PURPOSE

The objective of this policy is to provide direction for sworn officers making arrests of citizens operating vehicles while under the influence / while impaired. Officers making these arrests must be able to articulate probable cause that the citizen under arrest was under the influence or impaired and in control of the vehicle being operated.



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B. DEFINITIONS

BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) – the number of grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath [Transportation Article TR§ 11-103.2(a)(2)]

DR-15 – Maryland's Advice of Rights form, used to inform the individual of their rights surrounding a chemical test for alcohol

DR-15A – Officer's Certification and Order of Suspension, used when the chemical test is refused, or the results are above the State Administrative Per Se Law

Intoximeter – A state certified instrument used to measure the amount of alcohol in a person's breath

MSP Form #102 – State of Maryland Preliminary Breath Test Advisement of Rights.

Preliminary Breath Test Device- A device approved by the state toxicologist to provide a preliminary (non-evidentiary) measurement of the amount of alcohol present in a person's breath.

C. PRE-ARREST SCREENING

Unless unwilling or unable, all persons suspected of violation of drunk or drugged driving according to TR § 21-902 will be given a physical sobriety test. The specific tests utilized are the approved Standardized Field Sobriety Tests provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Those tests include the horizontal gaze nystagmus test, the walk and turn test, and the one leg stand test. Officers will administer the tests in accordance with their training. Additional tests may be given at the officer's discretion. Tests should be administered in a level area. Officers should make an arrest determination based on the totality of their observations during the event and indicators and clues of impairment observed during physical sobriety testing.

PRELIMINARY BREATH TEST (PBT)

The preliminary breath test (PBT) does not replace a thorough DUI / DWI investigation involving all phases of the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. A police officer may request the individual to submit to a preliminary breath test after standardized field sobriety tests and prior to making an arrest. The results of the preliminary breath test shall be used as a guide for the police officer in deciding whether an arrest should be made and may not be used as evidence by the State in any court action.

1. Prior to administering a PBT, the officer must read the PBT Advice of Rights (MSP FORM #102) to the driver.
2. Only officers who have completed a PBT device operator training program approved by the Maryland Toxicologist may conduct a preliminary breath test.
3. The agency-issued INTOXIMETERS ALCO-SENSOR FST has been approved by the Maryland Toxicologist and is registered with the Maryland State Police Chemical Test for Alcohol Unit.
 - a) This is the only device authorized for administering preliminary tests.
4. If an arrest is made, a signed copy of the MSP FORM #102 will be added to the Alcohol Influence Report (CCSO Form #84).
5. A driver placed under arrest will not be informed of the PBT results until the driver either submits to or refuses an evidentiary breath test, or the two-hour limit for an evidentiary test has passed.
6. At the conclusion of the investigation the officer administering the PBT will complete the CCSO PBT Log via the Reports tab on the Agency intranet.
 - a) This log will capture the test results, refusals, accuracy checks, and calibration adjustments by



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- the device operator using the PBT for that event.
- b) This information will be sent to the BTO supervisor who will log the information on the PBT log (MSP Form #104).

A PBT device may also be used in other appropriate circumstances to include but not limited to determine if a passenger may be permitted to drive a vehicle after the original operator has been arrested, underage alcohol consumption investigations, or open alcoholic beverage investigations.

All PBT devices must be checked for accuracy monthly. The device operator records all PBT test results, refusals, accuracy checks, and calibration adjustments using the PBT Log via the Reports tab on the Agency intranet. The BTO Supervisor uses these reports to complete the PBT log (MSP FORM #104).

D. ARREST PROCEDURES

1. DUI / DWI Arrests

When arresting an individual for a violation of the Transportation Article (TR § 21-902), officers will:

- a) Request that a chemical test be taken of the person's breath to determine the correct blood alcohol content (see Section E for prerequisites to obtaining a blood test);
- b) Advise the individual of the administrative penalties that may be imposed for refusing to take a chemical test;
- c) Furnish the individual with a copy of his rights regarding submission to a chemical test—DR-15 (Current Version) after reading it to the individual or playing the MVA recording of the form.

Note: This section does not apply to fatal crashes.

2. DUI / DWI Arrests Involving Fatalities or Life-Threatening Injuries

When arresting an individual for a violation of the Transportation Article (TR § 21-902) and their actions contributed to the death of or life-threatening injury to another during a crash, officers will:

- a) Furnish the individual with a copy of his rights regarding submission to a chemical test—DR-15 (Current Version) after reading it to the individual or playing the MVA recording of the form.
- b) The investigating officer shall make an attempt to have the operator submit to a Chemical Test for alcohol as directed by the officer as stipulated in the Transportation Article (TR § 16-205.1(c)(d)).
- c) The test shall be administered pursuant to the provisions of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article (CJ § 10-304).
- d) Request that a chemical test be taken of the person's breath to determine the correct blood alcohol content (See below for prerequisites to obtaining a blood test);
- e) Request an intoximeter operator as soon as possible.
- f) Prevent the accused from eating, drinking, smoking, or ingesting medication. The accused's mouth will be checked to ensure there is nothing in the mouth of the accused. The accused should be observed for a 20 minute period prior to the administration of the intoximeter test.
- g) If the accused does not submit to a chemical or blood test consult with a State's Attorney immediately to determine if a search warrant should be authored or an exigency exists to take a blood sample



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without a search warrant.

3. Miranda Warning and Questioning

Following completion of the DR-15 procedures, the arresting officer should then read the Miranda warning to the defendant and request a statement concerning his activities prior to the arrest, *i.e.*:

- a) Where he had been prior to the arrest;
- b) What he had to drink prior to the arrest;
- c) How much he has had to drink prior to the arrest;
- d) How long he had been drinking prior to the arrest.

E. TESTING

1. Breath Test / Intoximeter Operator Test Procedures

- a) All Intoximeter Operators will strictly follow the procedures and guidelines established by the State Toxicologists.

Note: The arresting officer shall not administer the Chemical Test for Breath

- b) Section 10-303 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings (CJ § 10-303) states “the specimen of breath or blood shall be taken within two (2) hours after the person is apprehended.” The time of apprehension is the functional equivalent of the time the violator was stopped or detained.

Circumstances may arise which complicate the consent procedures, such as when the violator repeatedly changes his mind concerning submission to the test. Officers faced with this type of situation shall accommodate only reasonable requests provided that the two (2) hour time limit does not expire. Officers will advise violators that failure to take a chemical test due to such evasive behavior will be treated as a refusal.

If such actions on the part of a violator cause the two (2) hour time limit to lapse without the administration of a chemical test, and the officer believes that these actions were taken purposefully to evade the testing procedure, the officer shall treat this as a refusal. In addition to the DR-15A, the officer shall submit a letter containing the actions of the violator which enabled the violator to evade a chemical test. This letter will be mailed to the Review and Reinstatement Section of the MVA, 6601 Ritchie Highway, N.E., Glen Burnie, Maryland 21016.

Situations may arise in which the violator states that he will submit to a chemical test, but only after conferring with or in the presence of his lawyer. Officers shall allow the violator the opportunity to contact his attorney. However, violators shall be advised that a refusal to submit to a chemical test due to the inability to contact or produce the attorney's presence within the necessary time limit will result in the same sanctions as a refusal to submit to a chemical test.

Situations may arise in which, due to no delay on behalf on the violator, a violator is not presented for the test until after the two (2) hour limit has passed. In such cases, the test will still be administered. These tests lose their prima facie value but can still be used in court. In such cases, the arresting officer shall notify the State's Attorney's Office and alert them to facts of the cases.

- c) Distribution of MSP Form 33

This form contains the results of the chemical test. Upon receipt, distribution shall be as follows:



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Original – retained in Records for court presentation by arresting officer.

First copy – forwarded to State's Attorney's Office by Records Management personnel.

Second copy – given to the defendant by the arresting officer.

Third copy – submitted to MVA only if DR-15A is utilized.

2. Blood Testing

- a) Maryland law requires that the type of test to be administered shall be the chemical test of breath except that the chemical test for blood shall be administered if:
 - The defendant is unconscious or otherwise incapable of refusing a breath chemical test for alcohol;
 - The defendant's injuries require his removal to a medical facility; or
- b) Blood tests may be administered when the defendant is involved in a crash involving a fatality or life-threatening injuries.
 - The sample of blood must be drawn with approved equipment by qualified personnel.
 - Only those blood kits authorized by the State Toxicologist and distributed by the Chemical Test for Alcohol Unit of the Maryland State Police will be used.
- c) Blood Alcohol Kit Contents
 - White mailer box;
 - Plastic box with lid;
 - MSP Form 34—Alcohol Analysis—Medical Personnel Payment Authorization;
 - Police officer's report;
 - Blood collection report and consent form;
 - Swab pad;
 - Two vacutainer tubes;
 - Clear plastic envelope;
 - One needle with holder;
 - Seals;
 - Instructions.
- d) General Blood Sample Procedures
 - Because of restrictions placed on military personnel, a blood sample taken at a military hospital cannot be submitted to a local law enforcement officer for evidentiary purposes.
 - Because of legal restrictions, blood tests administered in the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Virginia may be inadmissible as evidence.
 - The sample of blood must be drawn with approved equipment by qualified personnel.
 - One (1) sample of two (2) test tubes is required. The two (2) sample test tubes must be completely filled.
 - Complete DR-15 and Form 84 (Alcohol Influence Report).
 - Complete Consent Form. If individual refuses to sign, enter "refused to sign" on



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form.

- The swab provided in the kit must be used. This swab contains no alcohol, therefore, will not contaminate the results.

Note: The packet containing the swab and needles used by qualified personnel will be discarded in accordance with medical procedures.

- Follow directions contained in blood collection kit.
- Upon completion, package and label properly, place kit in pre-addressed mailing container and forward to Records Management for mailing.
- The arresting officer will complete the following and submit to Records Management:
 - Alcohol Influence Report;
 - Arresting officers' copy of MSP Form 34 (Current Version)—Alcohol Analysis—Medical Personnel Payment Authorization;
 - Consent Form; and
 - Officer's copy of DR-15 (Current Version).
- Upon receipt of the results, a supplemental report to the Alcohol Influence Report Form 84 will be completed noting the test results. If the test indicates a reading of 0.08 BAC or higher, the Form DR-15A will be completed. The driver will be contacted and will sign all copies of notification. Once completed, all forms will be returned to Records Management.
- If appropriate, charges will be applied for after the test results are received. If the accused is charged via citation or criminal summons and no physical arrest occurs, the investigating officer will contact the State's Attorney's Office and request a petition for court ordered fingerprinting. Upon the accused being charged, the case will be closed with a supplemental report. If the accused is charged via citation, the officer must complete an Arrest Report

3. Processing Impaired Suspects for DUI / DWI

Individuals suspected of driving while under the influence of drugs shall be processed in the same fashion as persons driving under the influence of alcohol up to the completion of the breath test or refusal.

Once arrested for suspicion of DUI / DWI, the subject is first offered a chemical test for alcohol, usually a breath test. The arresting officer must utilize the DR-15 Advice of Rights before any breath test is administered. If the subject agrees to a chemical test for alcohol, these tests can be used to determine the presence or absence of alcohol impairment.

- a) A low test result, together with the officer's observations, may support the probability of drug use and drug impairment.
- b) Drugs found on the suspect or in his / her vehicle will be corroborative evidence in determining possible drug impairment.
- c) Prescription medicine is not a defense against a charge of driving while impaired.

Following a breath test with a low or 0.00% BAC chemical breath test where there is suspicion or evidence of a drug impairment the arresting officer should contact a DRE. If a DRE agrees to investigate, they will follow the procedures in the DRE SOP and conduct their investigation. If at the conclusion of the DRE's investigation the



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subject submits to a blood test for drugs, the arresting officer will hold off on issuing any traffic citations until after the test results are submitted to the SAO for consultation.

In the unusual circumstance that the subject was not able to complete SFST's or a breath test, but the officer has suspicion the subject is impaired by drugs a DRE can be contacted for advice. This may occur if the subject was hospitalized or unable to perform the tests for some other reason. The officer will provide the DRE with detailed observations and findings and at that time the DRE will decide whether to respond.

F. PROCESSING OF ARRESTEES

1. Forms To Be Completed

The Maryland Uniform Citation is the charging document in DUI / DWI arrests. When an individual has been arrested and charged with a violation of Article TR§ 21-902. The arresting officer shall cause all essential witnesses to be subpoenaed to court by adding the witness information to their citation. The arresting officer will complete an Alcohol Influence Report Form #84.

If the operator refuses to take the test or takes a test for alcohol which results in a 0.08 BAC or more, a Form DR - 15A (officer's certification and order of suspension) will be completed in accordance with, and following the procedures set forth under the Administrative Per Se Law in Maryland:

In addition to the citation, Alcohol Influence Report and DR-15A, the follow forms need to be completed:

- a) Statement of Probable Cause if defendant is taken before a judicial officer;
- b) Arrest Report (even if the individual is issued citations and released);
- c) Form DR-15, Advice of Rights for Chemical Test;
 - White Copy (Original Report)
 - Yellow Copy (MVA)
 - Pink Copy (Accused)
- d) MSP Form #33 filled out by the Intoximeter Operator.
 - See labeled distribution on forms

In completing the Reasonable Grounds section of the DR-15A, it is imperative that the following information be included:

Driver was stopped for speeding 75/55 zone or I responded to a crash involving the driver (reason for stop). I detected the (strong, moderate, faint) odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath. Clues on SFST's were HGN- (6/6), WAT- (6/8), OLS- (3/4). PBT results (if applicable) were .12 . Driver was arrested, DR-15 advice rights was read to the driver which they (accepted/refused).

- **Reason for Contact-** [Ex. *Driver was stopped for speeding 75/55 zone, or I responded to a crash involving the driver.*]
- **Field Sobriety Test Details-** [Ex. *I detected the (strong, moderate, faint) odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath. Clues on SFST's were HGN- (6/6), WAT- (6/8), OLS- (3/4). PBT results (if applicable) were .12.]*]
- **Custody and Notice of Rights-** [Ex. *Driver was arrested, DR-15 advice rights were read to the driver which they (accepted/refused).]*
 - If there is insufficient space for the officer to record the reasonable grounds for arrest in the



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Reasonable Grounds section, he will format and submit the additional facts using a word processor. The accused will be identified by name and citation number.

2. Appearance Before a District Court Commissioner or Charging and Releasing

The Transportation Article (TR § 26-202(C)) states that a person arrested pursuant to TR § 21-902 shall be taken, without unnecessary delay, before a District Court Commissioner, unless the officer releases the arrestee based upon a written promise to appear for trial.

Therefore, persons arrested for DUI / DWI will be taken to the Detention Center and booked in to be seen by a District Court Commissioner unless the officer is satisfied that transportation is immediately available to the arrestee. Generally, this means that someone will respond to provide transportation for the arrestee.

If an officer determines they are going to issue citations for violations of TR § 21-902 and then release the arrested person without presenting them to the District Court Commissioner the following steps must be followed:

- a) An Arrest Report must be completed.
- b) The arrested person must be fingerprinted (using Live Scan - use the code CAR PALM).
- c) The arrested person must be photographed. The picture taken should be uploaded to the "content" tab in the Arrest Report.
- d) The arrested person must be released to a sober adult.

4-410 EVENT / INCIDENT ACTION PLANNING AND AFTER ACTION REVIEW / REPORT

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. EVENT ACTION PLANNING
- D. INCIDENT ACTION PLANNING
- E. AFTER ACTION REVIEW
- F. AFTER ACTION REPORT

A. PURPOSE

This policy governs procedures for planning for the Agency's presence at large scale events and the Agency's response to large scale, lengthy or high-profile incidents. The policy also provides guidance on completion of After Action Reviews and After Action Reports following such events / incidents. All planning documents and After Action Reviews / Reports shall follow the Incident Command System format outlined in the CCSO All Hazards Plan, through utilization of the ICS forms.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **After Action Report-** a written summary completed at the conclusion of an After Action Review. The report includes an overview of the Agency's response to an event / incident as well as information learned as a result of the After Action Review.
2. **After Action Review-** a professional discussion following the Agency's response to an event / incident. The discussion focuses on performance standards and enables personnel with similar or shared interests to identify challenges and problems and learn what courses of action may prevent those from occurring. The After Action Review helps agencies learn how to sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses.



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3. **Event-** a planned, non-emergency activity.
4. **Incident-** an occurrence, natural or man-made, which requires an emergency response to protect life or property.
5. **Incident Action Plan (IAP)-** a written plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy for managing an event / incident. It may include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It may also include attachments that provide direction and important information for management of the incident during one or more operational periods. Further guidance can be found in the CCSO All Hazards Plan. An Incident Action Plan may also be referred to as an Event Action Plan.

C. EVENT ACTION PLANNING

When the Agency plans to provide resources for a large scale event:

1. The commander responsible for coordinating Agency presence at the event will be responsible for the completion and distribution of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) prior to the event. The IAP will be documented on the appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) forms. The Special Events Plan (Agency Form #846a) may be included in the IAP.
2. The Commander, Homeland Security and Intelligence Section will be responsible for completing and disseminating a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for each event. The Assessment will be included in the IAP.
3. The commander in charge will facilitate a meeting with all involved personnel prior to the event. This may include representatives from other public safety agencies. The IAP will be reviewed, and responsibilities assigned, according to the plan. The IAP may be modified based on feedback during the meeting. This meeting should be scheduled far enough in advance of the event to allow for changes to be made.

D. INCIDENT ACTION PLANNING

When Agency resources are utilized for emergency response to an incident for an extended period of time / multiple operational periods, the commander responsible for coordinating the response shall follow the incident action planning procedures outlined in the CCSO All Hazards Plan.

E. AFTER ACTION REVIEW

The incident commander / commander in charge is responsible for facilitating an After Action Review for all events / incidents that may:

1. adversely impact large segments of a community;
2. have multiple operational periods;
3. involve multiple departments / agencies in the response;
4. impact critical infrastructure and the local economy; or
5. be likely to attract considerable media attention.

Examples of events / incidents that might fit the above criteria include:

1. Large Scale Events, such as:



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- a) County Fair;
 - b) Fourth of July Fireworks events; or
 - c) High School graduations.
2. Emergency response incidents requiring a major commitment of Agency resources for an extended period of time, such as:
 - a) Prolonged hostage / barricade incidents;
 - b) Natural disasters or major weather events (storms, fires, floods, tornados);
 - c) Man made disasters (chemical spills, mass shootings, terrorist attacks, large scale motor vehicle crashes); or
 - d) Public health / mass medical emergency situations.
3. Any other situation the responsible commander feels should be brought to the attention of the Sheriff.

F. AFTER ACTION REPORT

At the conclusion of each After Action Review, the incident commander / commander in charge will complete an After Action Report on an After Action Special Event Report (Agency Form #846). Additional documentation can be attached to the form, if needed, to expand on any item. The report shall be submitted as soon as practicable after the review is concluded.

The After Action Report should include:

1. Event / Incident Overview:
 - a) Date;
 - b) Time / operational periods;
 - c) Personnel assigned;
 - d) Allied agencies involved;
 - e) Any equipment used;
 - f) Cost / overtime / equipment; and
 - g) Overview of planning process / command structure.
2. Event / Incident Objectives
3. Areas of Improvement:
 - a) Identified during After Action Review
 - b) Identified mitigation strategies
4. Successes:
 - a) Identified during the After Action Review

DISSEMINATION

The completed After Action Report should be disseminated to the event / incident commanders, appropriate executive staff members and forwarded through the chain of command to the Sheriff.

4-500 PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES
- D. NOTIFICATION AND RELEASE



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A. PURPOSE

The Property Management Section will have a system of control over property taken into custody by Agency personnel. The procedures outlined in this policy define the handling of property and evidence.

B. DEFINITIONS

Chain of Custody - A record of all individuals who have maintained control and/or custody of evidence and property. At a minimum, the record shall include a mechanism for the Property Custodian to ascertain the current location of the property and who is responsible for the integrity and security of the property in question.

Evidence - Any tangible item created or recovered by Agency personnel to further the investigation of any case (i.e. shell casings, DNA, latent fingerprints, etc.), active or inactive, shall be considered evidence.

Exceptional Circumstances - Property recovered under unusual or unforeseen circumstances encountered by the officer.

Recovered Property - includes property that is abandoned, confiscated, seized, found, evidence or any property taken into custody by an officer or Forensic Science Technician. This section does not address vehicles seized as evidence, which is covered in AOM 4-217. This section does not address photographic evidence, which is addressed in AOM 3-221.

Secure Area - An area designated by the Commander of Property Management with limited authorized access that can provide integrity and security for recovered property. Agency secure areas are available at the Annex, all district stations (evidence drop lockers or evidence drop boxes), the Digital Forensics Unit and the Forensic Science Section.

C. PROCEDURES

Agency personnel shall account for all property taken into custody during the course of their duties and will make a reasonable effort to identify the owner. Property will be protected from contamination, alteration, destruction and damage.

Unless there is an exceptional circumstance or the property is released by the officer, all property obtained as a result of official duties shall be placed under the control of Property Management prior to the end of the officer's shift. Property will be considered under the control of Property Management when property is entered into the Property Management System and placed in an authorized secure area. No property will be stored in an officer's vehicle, locker, file cabinet, case file, desk, etc.

Property taken into custody shall be separated into three categories:

1. Evidence
2. Safekeeping/Releasable
3. Destroy

Officers taking property / evidence into their custody shall document the recovery in their police report and affix a property evidence label to the packaged property, prior to it being placed in any property storage area.

1. A property label must have identifying information on it and shall be affixed in such a manner to avoid damaging the property.



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2. To ensure a proper chain of custody record, prior to any property being placed into storage, the officer shall ensure the property is logged in the Property Management System (PMS).
3. All property obtained by Agency personnel must be documented in a police report except when the property is released without a police report. In those cases, the releasing employee must document the recovery and release the property using the property release form #292.

All property to be temporarily released to an allied law enforcement agency for prosecutorial purposes shall be tracked and signed for on the Temporary Property Release Form #291. The specific member of the allied agency shall be documented on the form along with the expected date of return. Case officers shall monitor the status and return all items to Property Held as soon as the property is no longer needed by the allied agency.

Property with identifying numbers will be checked through METERS / NCIC. The results of the NCIC/METERS response should be noted in the officer's report under the property section.

In cases of seized monies, unless exigent circumstances prevent it, a receipt shall be issued using the Agency-issued receipt book. When used, the original copy shall be issued to the citizen, the officer shall retain a copy, and the third copy shall be placed as an attachment to the main case file. When seized during service of a search warrant, the search warrant return will serve as a receipt.

In the case of recovered evidence, upon approval by the State's Attorney or a designee, property may be photographed, processed, and released to the owner. The photographs shall be submitted to the Digital Imaging Management System (DIMS). Copies of the photographs of property may be attached to the case file. This procedure shall exclude firearms, which must be processed through the Firearms Tracking Specialist to determine if the owner / requestor is eligible to possess a firearm.

D. NOTIFICATION AND RELEASE

KNOWN PROPERTY OWNERS

When non-evidentiary property is recovered and the property owner is known, the recovering officer shall attempt to notify the owner. If feasible, the recovering officer should release the property to the owner or the owner's designee. Other than releasing property to sworn members of the Agency, whenever property is released, the releasing employee shall document the release with a signed receipt. If the case has been issued an IR number, the receipt will be submitted to Records. If an IR number has not and will not be issued, the officer shall turn the receipt into Property Management. If the officer is not able to release the property in a timely manner, the officer shall submit the property to Property Held and instruct the property owner to contact the Property Custodian.

FOUND PROPERTY

When a citizen finds property, other than contraband or evidence, and turns it in to an Agency employee, and ownership cannot be immediately established, the employee receiving the property shall advise the finder if the owner is not found or does not come forward within six (6) months the finder may claim the property by contacting Property Management.

The officer shall ensure the name of the finder is listed accurately in the "finder" section of the Property Management System. If the finder requests a receipt, the officer shall issue a receipt.

Found currency will be handled and processed in accordance with all established property policy.

Found firearms will also be handled and processed in accordance with all established property policy. The receiving employee will notify the finder to contact the Firearms Tracking Specialist for information about its



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release. Finders will be required to appear before a Firearms Hearing Board and will be required to meet all federal and state requirements for acquisition of a firearm.

4-501 PROPERTY HELD CUSTODIAN

Each workday the Property Held Custodian will ensure the pick-up of property from all secure areas and should make an effort to pick up any property at the Forensic Science Section. Property will be checked and any discrepancy found by a property custodian will, whenever possible, be immediately corrected by the submitting officer. Property will not be accepted or placed in Property Management storage by a property custodian until necessary corrections are made.

The Property Held Custodian shall assign a shelf and bin number to each item of property and place it in a designated Property Management storage area. The assigned shelf and bin number or secure location shall be recorded in the Property Management System.

Items not considered evidence or of value to an investigation will be stored in Property Held for six (6) months and will then be disposed of according to law.

Items being held as evidence will remain in Property Held until notification to the contrary is provided through policy, or the courts or through the use of an MOU with the State's Attorney's Office. DNA evidence must be held until the sentencing of an accused is completed or the investigation has been adjudicated and the sample has proven to hold no evidentiary value. The Property Custodian shall use good judgment, common sense and practice diligence when disposing of evidentiary items.

4-502 SECURE STORAGE AREAS

The secure property storage rooms at the District Stations contain:

- A CDS drop;
- a currency / valuables vault at District I; and
- various sized lockers for storage of property.

All recovered property shall be placed in a secure locker or storage location. All district stations are set up to receive property items which are non-breakable and will fit through the mailbox type drop chute. Other property such as breakable items; items under pressure; i.e., aerosol spray cans, or items which are too large or of such weight that they may damage other items in the property chute, can be secured in the property lockers also located in the property storage room. Property shall not be left unsecured in any area, including on the property storage room floor of the property room.

Recovered drugs are to be placed in the slot of CDS drop chute. A Property Management employee is responsible for picking up drugs from these locations and transporting them to Property Held at the Annex.

Officers are to use the smallest storage area which will accommodate the property being stored.

4-502.1 EVIDENCE LOCKERS

Evidence lockers are under the complete control of Property Management. Recovered property/evidence excluding large sums of currency, will be placed in these lockers and only a designee from Property Management will have access to the property.

Each storage locker has an unlocked and numbered key lock that corresponds with the locker number. After



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placing property into the locker, the officer will lock the padlock and confirm it is secure. Officers will record which locker was used by recording the locker number on the property log. Under no circumstances shall an officer place a personally owned lock on a locker.

The property collected from these lockers will be transferred to Property Management and processed as usual.

4-502.2 FORENSIC SCIENCE SECTION PROPERTY STORAGE

Due to the unique duties of the Forensic Science Section, long-term storage containers have been established to maintain biological / hazardous evidence at the FSS facility. These containers are utilized to refrigerate and maintain evidence for long periods until adjudication of a case. These containers are the responsibility of the Special Services Commander/Property Custodian; however, they are under direct control of the Deputy Director of FSS. All property procedures outlined in this section apply and all rules of evidence will be followed. The storage containers will remain locked at all times, with the exception of evidence retrieval.

4-502.3 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If an officer encounters an exceptional circumstance, the officer will immediately contact their supervisor. With authorization of a division commander, the officer shall place the property into an alternative secure area and log the property into the Property Management System by the end of his shift. The location of the property should be entered as "other" in the Property Management System and the details of the secure location and the exceptional circumstance should be documented in the Note function in the system.

The officer will be responsible to enter or notify the Property Custodian of the final disposition of the property within 72 hours. If circumstances dictate a delay in the final disposition of the property, the officer must receive approval from a division commander.

The details of the exceptional circumstance, including the safeguards undertaken to ensure the integrity and security of the seized property and authorization of a division commander, shall be documented in the officer's report.

The authorization of property stored under exceptional circumstances should be extremely rare.

4-503 SEIZED PROPERTY

4-503.1 SEIZURE OF REGISTRATION PLATES AND DRIVERS' LICENSES (MVA)

All registration plates and driver's licenses not of evidentiary value shall be deposited into the MVA drop box located at each district station. Officers depositing items into the drop box shall complete the log that details the circumstances of the recovery.

4-503.2 SEIZURE OF CURRENCY

Whenever currency is taken into the custody of the Agency, it will be handled in accordance with the following procedures:

- If the owner is known, the officer making the seizure shall promptly issue a receipt to the person from whom the currency was recovered;
- all currency will be counted and the amount certified by two Agency personnel, one of whom is a supervisory or management level employee;



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- the preprinted Currency Envelope Form #365 shall be used in connection with all monies taken into custody by this Agency;
- the currency envelope containing the currency and a copy of the receipt will be sealed and placed in the currency vault at the District I Station; and
- the officer will complete the property section in his police report.

If the recovered currency is evidence, the officer's report shall indicate the currency is evidence, and it should be retained by Property Management.

4-503.3 CURRENCY SEIZED DURING DRUG AND/OR VICE INVESTIGATIONS

In addition to the above policies, whenever currency is seized pursuant to drug or vice investigations, the reporting officer shall comply with all of the following procedures:

- All currency shall be photographed as a whole. The photographs shall be marked and sent to Property Management; and
- The Transmittal Form #130 shall be completed and placed in the currency envelope along with the receipt and currency prior to sealing.
- If the incident involves the seizure of funds from a gambling investigation, the investigating officer shall ensure form #859 is completed and the owner signs the form. If the owner is unable to sign or refuses to sign form #859, the officer shall mail the form certified mail to the last known address of the owner. The officer shall document the notification in their incident report.

4-503.4 RECOVERED CURRENCY WITH UNKNOWN OWNER

When an officer recovers currency and the owner cannot be identified, the officer shall submit the currency to Property Management. The currency need not be placed in a currency envelope and form #130 need not be completed. The recovered currency shall be maintained as any other recovered property.

4-503.5 COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF CURRENCY

The Commander, Property Management Section will arrange for the collection of all currency from the currency vault. When collected, two employees shall count and verify the currency in the envelope agrees with the recorded information. In addition, the Commander shall be responsible for having the currency:

- transported and delivered to the County Treasurer;
- returned to the owner; or
- otherwise disposed of or retained as may be appropriate.

4-503.6 STORAGE OF HIGH RISK ITEMS

High risk items are identified as:

- cash over \$15,000
- firearms



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- controlled dangerous substances
- explosives
- any item the property custodian deems to have significant value or worth.

High risk items shall be stored separately from regular property. The Commander of Property Management shall ensure extra security measures are taken when storing these items.

4-503.7 SEIZED WEAPONS (OTHER THAN FIREARMS)

When a weapon (other than firearms) is seized by a member of this Agency and the individual who had possession of the weapon is not criminally charged, the disposition of the weapon will be completed in the same manner as all other routine property.

4-503.8 SEIZURE OF FIREARMS

When a firearm is seized, the following procedures will be observed:

All recovered firearms **must be made safe, packaged in a box**, and placed in a property locker at any of the district stations. If a box is not available, it is permissible to package the firearm in a paper bag. Plastic packaging materials shall not be used. All firearms shall be deposited with Property Held. If an officer believes a recovered firearm requires immediate processing, the officer must contact the FSS and arrange for FSS personnel to facilitate the processing. Once the processing is complete, FSS personnel will be responsible to deposit the firearm at Property Held. This procedure will ensure all firearms meeting the criteria outlined below will be fingerprinted, swabbed for DNA, and test fired for entry into the NIBIN system.

4-503.9 SEIZED FIREARMS NOT INVOLVING CRIMINAL CHARGES

Officers seizing firearms not involving criminal charges (ex parte, other court order, etc.) will follow all established property procedures. In addition, at the time of seizure the officer will notify the owner to contact the Firearms Tracking Specialist within six months to apply for the release of the weapon(s).

4-503.10 FIREARMS RELEASE PROCEDURES AND ELIGIBILITY

The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall conduct a background check and criminal history review to determine ownership and eligibility to retrieve and possess a firearm. If an owner refuses to cooperate with the hearing process, the Firearms Tracking Specialist should contact the Commander of Property Management or The Office of General Counsel for advice.

If the seized firearm has not been reported stolen prior to its seizure, the owner attempting recovery must apply to the Firearms Tracking Specialist within six months of notification by the seizing officer. A Hearing Board may have the firearm returned to the owner following an appropriate inquiry.

4-503.11 FORFEITURE OF HANDGUNS

Definitions, for Agency purposes, are:

Firearm:

- A weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; or



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- The frame or receiver of such a weapon.

Handgun:

- A firearm with a barrel less than 16 inches in length;
- A pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed on the person;
- A signal, starter, and blank pistol;
- A short-barreled shotgun; or
- A short-barreled rifle,
- A magazine when it is recovered with a specific handgun.

Short-Barreled Rifle:

- A rifle that has one or more barrels less than 16 inches long; or
- A weapon that has an overall length of less than 26 inches long and was made from a rifle, whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise.

Short-Barreled Shotgun:

- A shotgun that has one or more barrels less than 18 inches long; or
- A weapon that has an overall length of less than 26 inches long and was made from a shotgun, whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise.

The provisions of this subsection apply to seized handguns that were:

- Worn, carried, or transported in violation of §4-203 ("Wearing, carrying, or transporting handgun") or §4-204 ("Use of firearm in commission of crime") of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code; or
- Sold, rented, transferred, or possessed in violation of title 5, Subtitle 100 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code ("Regulated Firearms").

Once all of the procedures relating to seized firearms as described above have been completed, the Firearms Tracing Specialist will make a determination as to whether a seized handgun should be forfeited. The Firearms Tracking Specialist will send notice of the forfeiture to the owner of the handgun, if known. If the owner of the handgun is not known or is not located, the handgun is forfeited and disposed of in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Criminal Procedure §13-206 and this subsection.

Upon notification of the forfeiture determination, the owner of the handgun has 30 days to petition the District Court of Maryland sitting in Charles County for release of the handgun. The Firearms Tracking Specialist shall notify the State's Attorney's office of any court proceedings relating to the handgun immediately.

If the owner of the handgun does not make a timely request in the District Court, or if the court rules that the handgun is to be forfeited, the handgun may be disposed of in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Criminal Proceedings §13-206 and this subsection.

Once the handgun has been forfeited, the Firearms Tracking Specialist shall recommend that:

- The handgun be retained for official use of the Charles County Sheriff's Office;
- The handgun be destroyed; or
- The handgun be sold, exchanged, or transferred to another law enforcement unit for official use by that unit.



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Upon disposition of the forfeited handgun, the Firearms Tracking Specialist shall send to the Secretary of State Police a memorandum stating:

- A description of the property forfeited;
- The type of disposition made; and
- The identity of the person to whom the property was transferred for disposal, retention, or official use.

4-504 HANDLING OF FIREARMS SUBMITTED TO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OR FORENSIC SCIENCE SECTION

The following procedures shall be followed when a firearm is submitted to Property Management or the Forensic Science Section (FSS). All firearms submitted will be processed in accordance with this policy.

Each firearm shall be handled in such manner as to prevent damage and to prevent injury to the handler or others. No foreign object(s) shall be placed in the barrel, cylinder, breach, ejection port, magazine well or magazine of any firearm. No firearm will have the cylinder, slide or bolt taped open and no firearm shall be dismantled in any fashion.

All firearms shall be cleared of ammunition and the ammunition will be packaged separately before being submitted for storage. If an employee encountering a firearm is unfamiliar with how to unload it, assistance will be requested to aid with the unloading. In the event of an unusual firearm type, which cannot be verified as unloaded, the weapon will be handled as if it were loaded.

During normal business hours, a loaded weapon will not be packaged and will be transported directly to the FSS. After hours, firearms will be secured in an evidence storage locker at a district station or a locker at FSS with all appropriate reports and evidence labels. A warning notice will be placed on the front door of the locker indicating a loaded firearm is inside. The submitting officer will then notify Property Management regarding the loaded firearm's condition and storage location.

Property Management will be responsible for picking up the firearm and transporting it to Property Held or FSS. All appropriate reports and evidence chain of possession labels will be completed for each firearm submitted. Labels shall not be attached directly to any firearm. No markings shall be made on any firearm. The property will be documented in the report along with a complete description of each recovered firearm, to include make, model, caliber, serial number and date and time of recovery. The condition of each firearm shall be noted in the report. This note shall particularly describe any visible damage to the firearm.

If the seizure of a firearm is court ordered, a copy of the court order shall be submitted with the report.

If a large number of firearms are seized and storage in a district station storage locker is not feasible, arrangements to store them at the Property Management Annex or FSS can be made by notification to the FSS Deputy Director or one of the following persons:

- Firearms Tracking Specialist;
- Property Custodian;
- Commander, Property Management Section; or
- Commander, Special Services Division.

4-504.1 FIREARMS ANALYSIS

Cases involving some type of ballistic examination of a firearm, i.e. firearm comparison to shell casings, etc., or projectiles, will require the completion of a Multi-Purpose Request/Request for Laboratory Examination Form



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#115.

The below articulated process is a standard procedure applied to firearms meeting the requirements. A request form is not necessary in these cases.

The Forensic Science Section will process firearms for latent fingerprints, touch-DNA, firearms operability, and will test fire approved weapons for NIBIN entry when firearms are in the possession of, or recovered from, a suspect in a criminal incident; involved in a criminal incident including suicide; stolen/recovered; or requested by the investigator.

NIBIN: A database which stores and cross references specific markings made on shell casings when a weapon is fired. FSS will determine if the firearm meets eligibility requirements and enter the firearm or casings into NIBIN.

Test Shot Program: The Charles County Forensic Science Section has established a Test Shot Program. In accordance with this program, the FSS will not test fire any firearm requiring an examination beyond functionality and the entry of test fires into NIBIN.

All handguns, rifles and shotguns collected as a result of any crime, forfeiture or abandonment will be test fired by the Forensic Science Section. Two casings and two projectiles will be sent to Property Held for storage. Any firearm recovered that also meets NIBIN entry eligibility requirement will also have a casing entered into the NIBIN database.

A test fire certificate will be completed by the FSS. The original will be retained by the FSS and a copy will be sent to the main case file.

4-504.2 NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN) PROGRAM

The Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) has partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to participate in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) system. This is an agreement between the CCSO and the ATF to take digital images of the fired cartridge cases from a crime scene or test fired cartridge cases from seized firearms. The cartridges are then uploaded utilizing the IBIS BRASSTRAX Acquisition Station. This partnership is designed to further local law enforcement efforts in crimes involving firearms, and provide ballistic data for comparison among agencies around the country.

The NIBIN program will operate out of the CCSO Forensic Science Section, and will be supervised by the Deputy Director of the Section. Cartridge cases from a crime scene will be collected and submitted as property in accordance with current CCSO General Orders and evidence packaging guidelines.

4-505 INSPECTION AND RELEASE OF PROPERTY

Absent exigent circumstances, whenever property is needed for court purposes, review, investigation, etc., officers should provide advance notification to the Property Custodian.

4-505.1 REVIEW AND INSPECTION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

A criminal defendant is entitled to inspect, copy, and photograph all tangible evidence (including photographs and recordings) that the State's Attorney's Office intends to use at trial. The obligations of the Charles County State's Attorney's Office extends to all evidence in the possession or control of the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

For cases either under active investigation or prosecution, any requests made by a defendant or defense attorney



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to review and inspect evidence or other property in the possession or control of the Charles County Sheriff's Office must be made through the State's Attorney's Office. The prosecutor assigned to the investigation or prosecution will contact the lead investigator to arrange the review and inspection. A prosecutor must be present during the review and inspection unless the assigned prosecutor explicitly waives a prosecutor's presence. An investigator other than the lead investigator may conduct the review and inspection with the consent of the assigned prosecutor. At the conclusion of the review and inspection, the investigator will submit a supplemental report describing property shown to the defense and property the defense declined to inspect.

Any disputes, disagreements, or other issues that arise during a review and inspection should be handled by the prosecutor who is present. If a prosecutor is not present, the assigned prosecutor must be notified of the issue as soon as possible. Any unresolved dispute between investigators and prosecutors must be reported to the investigator's supervisor and the Office of General Counsel.

Requests to review and inspect tangible evidence other than by a defendant or defense counsel regarding a pending investigation or prosecution will be resolved as required under the Maryland Public Information Act by Records Management in consultation with the Office of General Counsel.

4-505.2 REVIEW AND INSPECTION OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT OR CONTRABAND EVIDENCE

This subsection controls the review and inspection of sexually explicit material, including evidence of revenge porn, sextortion, and child pornography.

Sexually explicit material will not be copied and disseminated except as part of an investigation, trial or other court hearing.

Review and Inspection as part of criminal prosecution.

Any requests to review or inspect sexually explicit material in the possession or control of the Charles County Sheriff's Office must be made through the State's Attorney's Office.

Review of sexually explicit material will occur at the Criminal Investigation Division. The review will occur in the presence of an investigator and a prosecutor. A criminal defendant may review the material in the presence of defense counsel. No person will be permitted to make a copy of any sexually explicit material either digitally, photographically, or otherwise. If defense counsel requests the opportunity to review the material privately with the defendant or a member of the defense team (other attorney, paralegal, or investigator), such review will be permitted only upon surrender of cellphones, digital tablets, cameras, removable storage devices, and any other device that could be used to copy the material. Video monitoring may be undertaken to ensure the integrity of the evidence, but no audio monitoring may occur.

Inspection of sexually explicit material by a defense expert will occur at the Criminal Investigation Division. The Digital Forensics Unit will, upon request, provide the defense expert with a computer containing a mirror drive of the material and the software used by the Digital Forensics Unit to analyze the material. If the defense expert is unable to complete his or her analysis during a single session, the computer will be sealed and kept secure in between sessions. No member of the Digital Forensics Unit or any other CCSO employee will view or access the computer until the expert's review is complete or unless requested by the defense expert. When the defense examination is complete, the computer will be wiped of all data and software. No member of the defense team will be permitted to copy any sexually explicit material.

Disputes regarding the review or inspection of sexually implicit material should be resolved by the prosecutor assigned to the investigation or prosecution.



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Court orders. If a court issues an order for review or inspection contrary to the procedures outlined in the AOM, the investigator must obtain a copy of the order from the assigned prosecutor. The order must be forwarded to the Office of General Counsel.

4-505.3 TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FOR COURT OR INVESTIGATIVE PURPOSES

Whenever any property is obtained from Property Held for court purposes, it shall be picked up and returned daily until no longer needed for court purposes. If the court retains the property, the court shall be responsible to maintain proper chain of custody documentation for the property. At the conclusion of the court proceedings, the property shall be returned to Property Held.

Due to the nature of an investigation, property may be transferred to an officer for an extended period of time. This transfer for investigative purposes and return must be approved by the officer's section commander and will be documented in the Property Management System.

4-505.4 RELEASE OF PROPERTY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES

Certain items of seized or forfeited controlled substances or weapons may, with the written approval of the Sheriff, be retained for investigative or training purposes.

All controlled substances or weapons approved for training or investigative purposes are to be marked for investigative or training use and securely stored by Property Held until released. These items are only to be released to a supervisor or commander.

All items of controlled substances utilized for training by the Sheriff's Office K-9 Function, are signed out / issued to the K-9 Function Supervisor from Property Held. These substances are to be taken from items identified for destruction. While in his possession, the K-9 Supervisor will ensure the substances are stored in a secure area.

The K-9 Function Supervisor shall document the use and any depletion of these substances in the Function's training records. Depletion of the substances may occur with their use and re-use during training exercises. Once substances become impotent or depleted, they shall be returned to Property Held and new samples may be requested.

Any firearm approved to be used for training purposes shall be selected from those firearms identified for destruction.

Each designated firearm shall be, where required, registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) as being placed into lawful service of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Those firearms that do not require registration with BATFE, will only be authorized for Agency use by the written authority of the Sheriff. Through this process, all firearms used for training purposes are in the legal lawful service of the Sheriff's Office, thus eliminating the need to use firearms from open or active cases. Once firearms are registered with the BATFE, or authorized for use by the Sheriff, the Training Division will be notified. The firearm Make, caliber and serial number will be provided to the Chief Firearms Instructor who will place the firearm into the Agency firearms inventory and will make the proper notation to indicate where the firearm will be assigned. The Chief Firearms Instructor will be notified when firearms are returned to Property Held for destruction and will remove the weapon from the Agency Inventory.

Details regarding explosive materials used for training purposes are covered in SOP manuals maintained by those units which utilize them.

4-506 PROPERTY DISPOSITION



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Agency employees will not convert to their own use or have any claim to any evidence or recovered property. Persons authorized to receive property eligible for release are the identified owner or an authorized representative of the identified owner.

Property which is not held for court or other law enforcement purposes will be retained by Property Management for six months (except seized firearms). If not claimed within that time, the property will be determined to be abandoned and will be disposed of as prescribed by law.

Property may be released only between the hours of 0700 and 1500, Monday through Friday. However, in an emergency or extremely unusual instance when the property must be released at some other time, the Property Custodian or other persons designated may be contacted to make arrangements.

Arranging for the disposition of property and evidence is the responsibility of the Property Custodian in conjunction with the seizing officer. Property and evidence shall be released or disposed of as soon as legally possible or feasible. Unless acting under a written MOU, no property shall be released or destroyed without the Property Custodian notifying the seizing officer and approval from State's Attorney's Office.

Ordinarily the viewing of evidence or suspected stolen property shall be accomplished only during normal business hours, unless arrangements have been made in advance with the investigating officer and the Property Custodian.

In all cases, the final disposition of all property should be accomplished within six (6) months after all legal requirements have been met. Property will not be released if it is:

- contraband;
- a confiscated motor vehicle;
- money confiscated as a result of CDS / vice violations; or
- being held as evidence.

4-506.1 DECEASED PERSONS - RELEASE OF PROPERTY TO NEXT OF KIN

The disposition of a deceased person's property is subject to the Estates and Trust Laws of Maryland. However, unless being held as evidence, or for some other investigative purpose, the personal effects of a deceased person may be released to a competent member of the immediate family (spouse, children, parents, etc.) who was living with the deceased at the time of death. If there is any question whatsoever as to ownership or questions regarding relationships, the personal effects must be forwarded to Property Management for later disposition. In these cases, the requestor shall be directed to the Office of the Register of Wills.

4-506.2 DECEASED PERSONS - NO RELATIVES TO ACCEPT PERSONAL EFFECTS

When no immediate family member can be located, the personal effects found on the deceased shall be taken into custody and submitted to Property Management. If the property is not claimed within a period of six months, it will be disposed of according to law.

4-506.3 PROTECTION OF DECEDENTS' PROPERTY

On occasion, members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are called upon to respond to the scene of deceased persons. If relatives are on the scene or available to respond within a reasonable amount of time, there is no need to sequester the property. In those cases where no next of kin is readily available or when no next of kin can be located, this provides protection of the decedent's property or premises.



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The Commander, Judicial Services Section and/or a designee is responsible to arrange for a member of Judicial Services to respond to the scene and secure the premises to the best of the employee's ability. Sworn members of Judicial Services Section will be responsible for call-outs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in order to fulfill this obligation. The employee shall post the premises by affixing a copy of the "Order For Protection of Decedents' Property" in a conspicuous location. Judicial Services will maintain a supply of "Order for Protection of Decedents' Property" notices at Judicial Services.

When a request for an "Order for the Protection of Decedents' Property" is received by Communications from an officer, the Commander, Judicial Services and/or a designee shall be contacted. Arrangements will be made for an officer from Judicial Services Section to respond. A Judicial Services officer will first call for available information, then respond to execute the sequester. The residence will need to be safeguarded until arrival of the Judicial Services officer so the proper sequester may take place.

The following information must be available from the original officer on the scene:

- the complete name, address and type of property to be sequestered (home, apartment, vehicle, etc.);
- the specific reason for the sequester (next-of-kin unknown, unavailable, etc.);
- the name and identification number of the requesting officer and the time the request for sequester was made; and
- a list of materials the on-scene officer feels are necessary to safeguard the property (locks and hasp, plywood sheathing or doors, and/or windows, etc.).

The on-scene officer shall notify Animal Control to remove any animals from the premises.

There is no need to call out a Judicial Services officer if the property to be sequestered can be maintained until the normal working hours of the Civil Section.

Orders for Protection of Decedents' Property issued by the Register of Wills during normal business hours will be handled by the Civil Section within Judicial Services. Once issued, the order will be given to Court Security for immediate transport or pick-up by the Civil Section.

4-506.4 JUDICIAL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITY

The Judicial Services officer responsible for executing a sequester order shall proceed to the address within two hours of the original notification. The officer shall take the following steps:

- obtain an "Order for the Protection of Decedents' Property" notice from Judicial Services and fill out all necessary information;
- place the original copy of the order in a water-resistant cover and firmly and conspicuously affix it to the property;
- obtain from Judicial Services the construction materials and/or tools necessary to safeguard the decedent's property;
- upon arrival at the scene, request that the officer(s) on the scene remain until the property is properly secured;
- record the name(s) and identification number(s) of the officers on the scene on the copies of the order;



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- if needed, ensure Animal Control has removed any animals from the property;
- ascertain from the officer(s) on the scene if attempts were made to locate and contact the decedent's next-of-kin;
- secure the residence with whatever materials are needed;
- whenever possible, secure doors and windows with existing locks (no outside key access);
- if possible, obtain keys to the front door of the premises, along with the keys to any locks that have been installed; and write the serial numbers of the keys on all copies of the order, noting which key fit which lock (this includes car keys). If necessary, change locks to non-master key and keep all sets of keys;
- in situations where apartment rental offices may be contacted to prevent drilling into apartment doors to place a hasp and padlock, the Judicial Services officer should request the locks be changed to a non-master lock and require that all keys be turned over to the officer;
- document on the return any unusual circumstances (i.e., severely damaged by weather, vandalism, unknown causes, etc.) and other appropriate information;
- record appropriate information to include: the number of locks used, serial numbers of locks and keys, amount of cash seized (if any), name of apartment project and telephone number(s), etc;
- if there is reason to believe a theft, burglary or destruction of property may occur, initiate a patrol check for the premises;
- carefully inspect the premises for security prior to securing; and
- once the sequester order is complete, turn in all keys and remaining copies of the order and ensure information is logged on the return to the Judicial Services Commander or the Civil Supervisor.

No later than the morning of the next business day, Judicial Services will notify the Register of Wills of the sequester, provide them the name and address of the decedent and deliver a copy of the order.

NOTE: The only property authorized to be removed from the sequestered premises will be large sums of cash. If located, it shall be handled as required in this Manual by the initial officer(s) on the scene, or as required pending an investigation.

4-506.5 REPORT DISTRIBUTION

After normal business hours, officers will forward the completed sequester package to the Judicial Services Commander. Copies of the completed order will be distributed as follows:

- original copy posted on the property / premises;
- copy to Register of Wills; and
- copy to be maintained in the Judicial Services file.

4-507 CONVERSION OF CONFISCATED FIREARMS TO POLICE USE

The Sheriff may convert firearms forfeited under the provisions of Criminal Procedure § 13-206 to official police use.



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4-508 PROPERTY INVENTORY AND AUDIT PROCEDURES

The Property Management Section and Office of Professional Responsibility are responsible for conducting various inspections, inventories and audits of property management throughout the Agency. Refer to the Administrative Reporting Program policy for specific procedures and reporting requirements.

4-509 PROPERTY CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYEES

All employees who terminate employment with the Agency shall comply with all of the employment clearance procedures as outlined elsewhere in this Manual. The employee shall obtain an Employment Clearance Form #240, which must be completed and signed by each required division or section commander. If, during the clearance procedures the Commander of Property Management determines the employee has failed to account for certain property because it has not been submitted or returned to the Property Held Section, the commander shall determine the circumstances surrounding the discrepancy and determine how to proceed.

4-510 COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Evidence is any item, which possesses the capacity to prove the existence or non-existence of fact. The most important aspect of evidence collection and preservation is to protect the incident / crime scene. This is dependent on the first officer to arrive on the scene. The successful prosecution of a case can depend on how evidence is processed and collected.

The first officer on a scene, unless relieved by a detective or higher-ranking officer, is responsible for seeing to it a scene is protected and properly processed.

Dependent on the nature of the incident, the first officer on the scene may make use of additional officers, evidence tape, ropes, and barricades to preserve the integrity of the scene. However, only those personnel necessary to assist in protecting, processing and investigating the scene should be allowed access.

4-511 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

To satisfy legal concerns regarding physical evidence an officer must be able to:

- identify each piece of evidence in court, long after it was collected;
- describe the exact location where an item was found;
- show the chain of custody of each item from its collection until court presentation; and
- explain any changes in the evidence between the time it was collected and the time it is introduced in court.

4-512 FORENSIC SCIENCE SECTION

The Forensic Science Section is primarily a support unit for the Criminal Investigations Division. Forensic science technicians are available 24 hours a day for processing the scenes of major criminal events and providing support to other components of the Agency as directed by the Commander, Criminal Investigations Division.

Forensic science technicians shall adhere to all procedures for handling property / evidence as outlined elsewhere in this policy.

When a forensic science technician is not utilized to process a scene, officers will collect evidence in accordance with Agency policies.



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4-513 PATROL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The highest ranking officer at a scene shall make a decision about the necessity for assistance from CID and/or the Forensic Science Section. Patrol officers are responsible for processing all incident / crime scenes not processed by a forensic science technician. This would include most traffic cases, vandalism, thefts, minor assaults and burglaries. If there is a question about whether a particular scene should be processed, the Forensic Science Section or CID should be contacted.

All officers are issued the necessary equipment to process most incident / crime scenes, to include a camera, a measuring tape, various size evidence bags, fingerprint kit, disposable gloves, and crime scene tape / rope.

The officer investigating an incident shall submit an Offense / Incident Report, other required forms, and all recovered evidence before the end of his shift as directed elsewhere in Agency policy.

4-514 BASIC CRIME SCENE GUIDELINES

Unless exigent circumstances exist, Agency personnel will follow the below general guidelines for processing a scene:

- Carefully approach the scene so as not to disturb potential evidence;
- Thoroughly survey the scene to determine its boundaries and secure the area;
- Photograph wide shots of the entire scene from several different angles;
- Locate, photograph and mark the location of possible physical evidence. If necessary take more detailed photographs of the scene and specific items;
- Prepare a rough sketch or diagram of the scene. Note the location of each piece of evidence and possible points of entry and exit of the scene on the sketch / diagram;
- Process the scene for latent fingerprints. Photograph the location of the prints and lift and preserve them on fingerprint cards;
- Make notes while processing the scene which will later be used to prepare an investigative report. The report will document the elements of the crime scene to include:
 - the investigative report number;
 - the date and time the officer arrived on the scene;
 - the location of the crime;
 - the names of victims, witnesses and suspects (if known);
 - existing conditions (lighting, weather, etc.);
 - a listing and location of recovered evidence;
 - if photographs were taken;
 - if measurements were taken;
 - other police personnel at the scene.
- Once the scene has been thoroughly documented, evidence will be collected.

4-515 EVIDENCE COLLECTION



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Evidence collection will be performed in a logical manner and in accordance with Agency policies and methods taught at the Academy or techniques learned during specialized training. The process shall start with the collection of fragile, easily lost evidence or objects which need to be moved immediately for safety concerns, such as loaded weapons in an area not easily controlled by available police resources. An attempt will be made to collect as much physical evidence as possible, to include collecting materials from known sources (hair, fibers, fabrics, paint, glass, soil, etc.). The person responsible for processing the scene should continue to take photographs as each item is collected and of any new evidence discovered during the collection process.

Most items of evidence will be collected in Agency- provided evidence bags; however, other items such as paper containers, envelopes, packets, plastic or metal cans and glass vials may also be used. Containers must be clean and free from contamination.

Items shall be protected from cross contamination, (i.e., a suspect tool being placed in the same container as a portion of painted wood frame from the scene).

Each item will be immediately marked or labeled and put into a sealed evidence container. If marked, items should be marked in such a way so as not to damage or contaminate the evidence.

Moist or wet evidence (blood, other body fluids, plants, etc.) shall be collected in paper containers and, if appropriate, have a bio-hazard label applied. If there is the possibility of saturation through the paper container, the evidence may be placed in an unsealed plastic container. To prevent deterioration and contamination, items should be transported immediately to the Forensic Science Section for air drying or refrigeration.

Finger and palm prints are one of the most reliable ways to place an individual at an incident / crime scene. All non-movable items at a scene should be processed using the Agency-supplied fingerprint kit. Small transportable items may be collected and taken to the Forensic Science Section for processing. If possible, always obtain elimination prints from victims and possible suspects for comparison.

Each time a piece of evidence is turned over to other personnel, the chain of possession / custody shall be documented in the Property Management System.

If at any time exculpatory evidence is discovered, follow the reporting guidelines detailed in the report writing policy in this manual.

4-520 REQUESTS FOR FORENSIC EXAMINATION

When an officer investigating an incident recovers evidence which requires processing or examination, that officer shall prepare a Multi-Purpose Request / Request for FSS Examination Form #115 for items to be examined. Evidence will be marked and packaged in a sealed container and delivered to the property custodian's control by the recovering officer prior to the end of the officer's shift. The request form will be forwarded to the Forensic Science FSS. If a forensic science technician is available, the investigating officer shall prepare a request form and turn the evidence over to FSS.

A forensic science technician, upon receipt of a Request for Crime Laboratory Examination, will retrieve the evidence. Upon completion of the examination or processing of the evidence, the technician shall return the evidence to the property custodian, who will record its return.

When the Forensic Science Section receives a Request for Crime Laboratory Examination of evidence which cannot be conducted by the Charles County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Section, the Section Supervisor will assign the request to a technician. The forensic science technician will initiate a case file and determine which outside laboratory will be used for the examination unless previously specified in the original request. The forensic



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science technician assigned the case will be responsible for submitting the evidence to the designated laboratory. Evidence shall be packaged and submitted based on the established protocol of the laboratory examining the evidence. All necessary requests and documentation will be completed by the assigned technician.

Results of examinations may be initially accepted in verbal form; however, the assigned technician shall request a follow-up written report.

All latent fingerprint lifts developed at a crime scene shall be placed on a Latent Fingerprint Card Form #98A and placed in a latent envelope. Latent lifts shall be picked up and kept on file in the Forensic Science Section.

After an examination is conducted, the technician will complete a report documenting their results in Police Mobile. All original supporting case documentation, such as notes, will remain in the Forensic Science Section case folder. A copy of the documentation will be forwarded to the Main Case File.

Each person receiving custody of any evidence shall ensure the chain of custody is documented. The current documentation of the chain of custody is in digital format. However, there may be circumstances requiring the chain of custody to be handwritten.

A request for Crime Laboratory Examination Supplement Page (Form #97A) shall be used if needed.

4-521 PREPARING AND PACKAGING PROPERTY / EVIDENCE FOR SUBMISSION

All items will be packaged in the appropriate type of container and tagged with a property label. The property label shall contain identifying information that describes the property.

In cases of evidentiary firearms, the position of rounds will be documented when applicable. Firearms will be unloaded and ammunition packaged separately.

Sharp blades or cutting edges shall be packaged in a box designed to store such items.

Packages which are improperly prepared or tagged will not be accepted by forensic science technicians.

The chain of custody for all physical evidence must be maintained.

4-521.1 FSS EVIDENCE SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

All evidence items submitted to the Forensic Science Section (FSS) must be properly packaged according to the Administrative and Operational Manual (AOM) 4-515 Evidence Collection, and 4-521 Preparing and Packaging Property / Evidence for Submission. A Multi-Purpose Request / Request for FSS Examination Form #115, must accompany all evidence submitted to FSS for examination. Officers submitting items with improper paperwork or packaging during business hours will be instructed to correct the errors prior to transfer of custody. The officer and his immediate supervisor will be notified of any errors in packaging or paperwork for any items left after business hours. The officer is to ensure all errors are corrected.

Lockers and locks are provided in the evidence bay at FSS for the storage of evidence submitted to FSS for examination. The evidence will be placed in the locker, and the lock secured. Evidentiary items stored at FSS, shall be documented in the Property Management System. Evidence items that are too large for the lockers may be temporarily stored in the secure bay area at FSS.

Moist or wet evidence items are to be packaged in accordance with AOM 4-515. When submitted to the FSS after hours, these items are to be hung in the drying chamber. Prior to leaving, ensure that any paperwork is secured to the outside of the chamber and the chamber is secured and plugged in.



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The above policy is summarized in the checklist below, which will be posted at FSS:

Short Term Storage Procedures

Dry Evidence

- Ensure all items are packaged in accordance with the AOM.
- Ensure all paperwork is complete.
- Place property in locker or secure storage bay.
- Attach paperwork to locker door.
- Secure lock.
- Set alarm.
- Leave.

Wet or Bloody Evidence

- Hang items in the drying chamber.
- Secure the drying chamber.
- Secure completed paperwork to the door of the drying chamber.
- Plug the drying chamber in.
- Set alarm.
- Leave.

4-522 DRUG AND NARCOTICS EVIDENCE

When necessary, drugs and narcotics seized as evidence are to be sent to the Maryland State Police (MSP) Laboratory for analysis. Any officer submitting drug evidence to be processed for DNA and/or latent fingerprints by the Charles County Forensic Science Section shall remove the drugs / narcotics from its original packaging, repackage it, and send only the original packaging to FSS. Officers shall photograph the evidence first in its original packaging and then re-photograph it in its new packaging before submitting the evidence to the CCSO drug vault. This process will speed up the DNA and latent fingerprint results.

If the drug evidence is not going to be examined for DNA or latent fingerprints, and is only going to MSP for examination, it does not need to be repackaged.

4-523 PREPARATION OF NARCOTICS TO BE SENT TO MARYLAND STATE POLICE LABORATORY

Narcotics submitted for analysis to the Maryland State Police Lab (checked and submitted by the sworn property custodian) must meet the guidelines established by the Maryland State Police.

The sworn Property Custodian shall consult with the Maryland State Police Lab and remain current on submission requirements. If the originally submitted evidence packaging/quantity does not meet the Maryland State Police Lab submission guidelines, the submitting officer shall be responsible for the appropriate packaging and for the submission to the Maryland State Police.

Exhibits must be packaged individually and appropriately identified. Items such as pills, tablets and capsules should be accurately counted, but need not be weighed. Items involving traces or residue of suspected CDS



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need only be accounted for in number, not weight. Syringes to be submitted must be approved by the sworn property custodian.

Any items involving wet vegetable matter, such as large amounts of cannabis, must first be dried prior to submission to the MSP Lab. Fresh cannabis decays easily if it is not dried and can develop a toxic fungus. Submissions involving vegetable matter that is not dried may also result in losses of weight as the material dries. Vegetable matter shall be packaged in paper bags or other appropriate containers.

Evidence involving large quantities of material must be randomly sampled. For pills, tablets and capsules of a quantity greater than fifty (50), a 10% random sample should be submitted. Quantities of fifty (50) or less may be submitted in their entirety.

Exhibits involving whole plants of a length greater than one foot should be submitted by taking parts of the plant and submitting them. Parts to be included are the leaves, flowering tops, stems and seeds. Mature stalks and roots need not be included. Seizures dealing with a large number of plants should follow the 10% random sampling guideline.

Bulk exhibits of manicured vegetable matter and powders of quantities greater than one kilogram should be randomly sampled by taking ten samples from various locations within the exhibit. The weight of those ten (10) exhibits should not exceed ten (10) grams in net weight. Samples will be submitted in glass vials of approximately twenty (20) milliliters volume with screw-on caps.

Seizures involving the submission of liquids (volatile, toxic, or otherwise) must be securely sealed to prevent spillage and/or leakage of fumes. Any CDS in liquid form or PCP contaminated items will be double-bagged using lock-seal envelopes (heat seal / Kapak bags). Many chemicals, such as ether, benzene, etc., are highly flammable and toxic. If these chemicals are not essential to proving intent or do not establish a probative value, do not submit them to the MSP Lab. Ascertain their value from the State's Attorney and if not necessary for the successful prosecution of the case, then they should be disposed of in an appropriate and safe manner. When in doubt as to the proper packaging of chemicals, contact the sworn property custodian, Narcotics / Vice Section member or MSP Drug Unit for assistance.

A lock-seal envelope will be completed, all evidence to be analyzed placed therein, and the required forms attached to the outside of the envelope.

When only a sample of an exhibit is to be sent to the MSP Laboratory, the remaining portion will be placed in a separate sealed envelope, with a copy of the property record attached, and submitted to Property Held.

Narcotic-related property must be listed on a separate property record. If other property is involved in the same case, two property records must be completed.

Evidence shall be submitted to the MSP Lab as soon as possible after a seizure. Delays in submission may lead to the evidence not being ready when a case comes to court. Requests for "Rush" cases will not be given priority where lengthy delays in submission are involved.

4-523.1 INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MSP FORM #67A - CDS SUBMISSION

The MSP Request for Laboratory CDS Examination Chain of Custody Log / Laboratory Report Form #67A is used to record the items submitted, the chain of custody, and the laboratory results. This form, except for the chain of custody area, must be typed because of its multiple copies, and the fact that it will be presented in court. The copies of this form shall not be separated prior to submission.

Recovered CDS, along with the form, is delivered to the MSP Laboratory by the sworn property custodian for



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analysis. Our Agency copy will be returned with the CDS after testing. The Chain of Custody area of the form requires that the name of the person or place from whom the evidence was received and to whom the evidence was released be neatly printed and the date and time recorded. The section "Evidence Received By" requires a written signature.

The following information will assist in completing the form. Refer to Form #67A in the Agency Forms Directory and/or the CDS Packaging Guide at each district station.

- Installation / Agency: This is the arresting agency.
- Suspect: Full name of the suspect.
- Date of Offense: Enter the date in order of month, day, year.
- Crime Laboratory File No.: Leave the Crime Laboratory File No. block blank. This number will be assigned by the laboratory when the CDS is submitted for analysis.
- Case No.: Leave Blank.
- Property Held No.: This is your Agency's Case No. / Property Held No. Fill it in.
- County: County of occurrence.
- Asterisk (*): It is important to indicate probable cause items(s) in the column provided with an asterisk (*).
- How Collected: Indicate with an X the appropriate type of collection.
- Items: Correct wording is to be used as outlined in the CDS Packaging Guide. Fill in the items carefully with the most important item first (e.g., probable cause item(s)). List count (e.g., number of pills, but no weights on this form). Every item submitted may not be examined, depending on case load.
- Laboratory Report: Do not write in the heavily framed dark area. This area is for the report upon completion of analysis.
- Chain of Custody Area: Sign form as indicated at bottom in the chain of custody area. Make the signature legible.
- Blank Area: Leave blank - this block is reserved for the MSP Evidence Vault Stamp.

4-524 SUBMITTING NARCOTICS FOR WHICH ANALYSIS IS NOT NECESSARY

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

Whenever a member submits narcotic-related property for other than prosecutorial action it shall be handled as follows:

1. CDS will be collected, photographed, and field tested.
2. An Incident Report number will be obtained, a Recovered CDS report written, and CDS submitted for destruction.

4-527 DESTRUCTION OF NARCOTICS



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The destruction guidelines for narcotics are the same guidelines established by policy and the Special Services Division SOP. Only under rare circumstances will narcotics be returned to their owner. When narcotics are returned, the sworn Property Custodian shall follow the established guidelines as with any other property. When narcotics are set for destruction, the sworn Property Custodian must follow the policy established in the Special Services Division SOP.

The sworn property custodian shall be responsible for destroying narcotics. Therefore, all narcotic property will be re-inventoried to ensure the documented drugs / paraphernalia are present. This function will be attended by any two of the following witnesses:

- The sworn Property Custodian;
- Member of Office of Professional Responsibility;
- Commissioned officers of the Agency (Lieutenant or above);
- Member of the Narcotics / Vice Section.

After the drugs have been re-inventoried and sealed in boxes for destruction, the seal will be initialed by the witnesses.

The sworn Property Custodian and one of the official witnesses listed above shall transport the drugs to the appropriate destruction facility.

Destruction of the drugs shall be accomplished within six months after all legal requirements have been satisfied.

4-527.1 INCINERATION OF DRUGS

The sealed boxes containing the drugs will be placed in the appropriate incinerator for destruction. The sworn property custodian and the witness shall remain until all narcotics have been completely destroyed.

4-527.2 RECORDING NARCOTICS DESTRUCTION

The sworn property custodian shall ensure the final disposition of narcotics is marked "destroyed."

The CDS Destruction Form #420 shall be completed in its entirety for all items destroyed. It shall be signed and dated by the sworn Property Custodian and witness.

4-528 MEDICATION COLLECTION PROGRAM

CCSO has initiated a Citizen Medication Collection program to provide citizens with a safe and anonymous way of disposing of expired or unwanted drugs and medications. A drop box will be placed at each district station, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition to providing citizens with a safe and secure way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, it provides an environmentally friendly alternative to other methods of disposal. This program will aid in preventing accidental poisonings, reduce crime related to prescription drug abuse, burglary, and drug misuse by children. Environmentally, it will help prevent tainted water supplies and will keep these drugs out of landfills.

Items accepted will be prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and pet medicines. No needles or other sharp objects will be accepted. Plastic bags will be provided for citizens to place the drugs and medications in before dropping them into the drop box. There will be no forms to fill out and no questions will be asked.



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This program will be administered by Property Management, which shall regularly collect and weigh the drop box contents, maintaining records of the quantity of drugs collected. Property Management will deliver the drugs and medications to an authorized destruction facility for destruction.

The keys to all medical drop boxes shall not be stored at the location of the medical drop boxes.

4-530 DNA EVIDENCE

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup. It is a component of virtually every cell in the human body. Further, a person's DNA is the same in every cell. For example, the DNA in a man's blood is the same as the DNA in his skin cells, semen, and saliva.

DNA is a powerful tool because each person's DNA, except for identical twins, is different from every other individual's. Because of that difference, DNA collected from a crime scene can, similar to the use of fingerprints, either link a suspect to the evidence or eliminate a suspect. DNA can also be used to identify a victim through their link with relatives, even when no body can be found. And, when evidence from one crime scene is compared with evidence from another, those crime scenes can be linked to the same perpetrator locally, statewide, and nationally.

Because of its potential evidentiary value, it is essential for Agency personnel to have a good understanding about where DNA can be found, and how to avoid contamination and preserve this sometimes fragile evidence.

All officers receive training on basic crime scene processing. Patrol's Crime Scene Processors (CSP's) receive supplementary training and members of the Forensic Science Section (FSS) are trained and have additional expertise pertaining to DNA evidence. Agency personnel will receive refresher training as needed in order to maintain proficiency and keep abreast of changes and advances in technology and procedures. Procedures learned during training and as outlined in this section and in the crime scene processing section of the AOM will be followed for the collection, storage, and transportation of DNA evidence.

Officers should be cautioned that because biological materials may contain hazardous pathogens such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the hepatitis B virus that can cause potentially lethal diseases, samples of DNA evidence are to be treated as infectious materials.

DNA evidence can be collected from virtually anywhere. Because extremely small samples of DNA can be used as evidence, greater attention to contamination issues is necessary when identifying, collecting, and preserving DNA evidence. DNA evidence can be contaminated when DNA from another source gets mixed with DNA relevant to a case.

In order to avoid contamination of any evidence that may contain DNA, officers collecting the samples shall always take the following precautions:

- wear gloves and change them often;
- use disposable instruments or clean them thoroughly before and after handling each sample;
- avoid touching the area where you believe DNA may exist;
- avoid talking, sneezing, and coughing near the evidence;
- avoid touching their own face, nose, and mouth when collecting and packaging the evidence;
- air-dry evidence thoroughly before packaging;
- evidence will be placed into paper bags, envelopes or cartons; plastic bags and staples are not to be used; and
- individual samples will be maintained and packaged separately.



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Given the sensitive nature of DNA evidence, officers should always contact FSS personnel when collection questions arise. Absent exigent circumstances, FSS shall have primary responsibility for the collection and processing of DNA evidence on all major crime scenes normally handled by CID.

The collection and preservation of the evidence will be as follows:

Touch or Trace DNA

"Touch" or "trace" DNA is simply a term used to describe the collection and analysis of microscopic amounts of cellular material. Mostly, this DNA is assumed to be from skin cells. Unlike most other types of genetic material, including blood, saliva, and semen, this genetic material cannot be seen with the naked eye. And there is no presumptive test to indicate whether the cells are present or not. The cells are cast off or are transferred from an individual and onto an item.

Collection involves using either wet or dry swabs, a scraping technique, or a tape lift technique, depending on the nature of the evidence involved. Once the cells are removed, they undergo the exact same laboratory procedure as standard DNA testing.

Touch DNA has expanded the types of items that can be considered physical evidence. Everything from gun and knife handles, to steering wheels, basically any physical object a suspect touched can be used to try to develop a DNA profile.

Firearms

- In the event a firearm will require DNA analysis, the laboratory which will be conducting the analysis will be consulted prior to any processing for instructions on the handling and submission of the evidence.

Bodily Fluids - Wet Stain

- The sample will be collected by using a sterile cotton swab and allowing it to be air dried.
- Upon being air dried, the cotton swab will be placed into a DNA evidence collection carton.
- The DNA evidence collection carton will be sealed, initialed, and stored in Property Held or an FSS freezer / refrigerator if it is not to be immediately prepared for transport to a DNA laboratory.

Bodily Fluids - Dry Stain

- The sample will be collected by dampening one (1) sterile cotton swab with sterile water prior to swabbing a dry stain.
- One (1) swab (dependent on the sample size) will be taken of each stain.
- The dampened stain swab will be allowed to dry.
- The swab taken from the same stain will be placed into a DNA evidence collection carton.
- The DNA evidence collection cartons will be sealed, initialed, and stored in Property Held or an FSS freezer / refrigerator if they are not to be immediately prepared for transport to a DNA laboratory.

Stains on Carpet, Walls, Clothing, and other Fabrics



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- The sample will be taken by collecting the entire item or, at the discretion of the collector, by cutting out the stained area from the item.
- The item(s) are to be allowed to air dry prior to being placed into a separate evidence envelope or brown paper bag for each item.
- The packaged items will be sealed, initialed, and stored in Property Held or an FSS freezer / refrigerator if they are not to be immediately prepared for transport to a DNA laboratory.

DNA evidence will be submitted only to an accredited laboratory for processing. The Maryland State Police Crime Lab will be the primary laboratory for our Agency. FSS must contact the MSP Crime Lab DNA Unit to discuss the type, quantity, and quality of evidence to be submitted. All preparation, packaging and transmittal of DNA evidence to the MSP Crime Lab will be in accordance with their guidelines.

In violent crime investigations, where the offender is unknown, submitted DNA evidence will be entered into the FBI Laboratory's CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database. CODIS enables federal, state, and local crime labs to exchange and compare DNA profiles electronically, thereby linking crimes to each other and to convicted offenders.

4-540 DIGITAL EVIDENCE

Digital evidence is available in many forms. Physical digital evidence includes computers, mobile devices and flash memory. Intangible digital evidence includes digital video surveillance, digital photos and other data. The Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) is equipped to identify, process and recover digital evidence. The digital evidence landscape is dynamic and can change often. Recovery and submission procedures are designed to minimize the risk of data loss. Digital Forensics Examiners may be contacted via email at dfu@ccso.us. Agency personnel may also request DFU response by contacting CID.

4-540.1 DIGITAL EVIDENCE RECOVERY

Computers, mobile devices and other digital evidence should be maintained in the same state as it was recovered. Two factors when seizing mobile devices are critical: *power state* and *network isolation*.

Power State

- **Maintain the *power state* of the recovered device.** If the device is off, leave it off. If the device is on, leave it on.
- **Maintain power to the device.** Devices powered on should be delivered to the DFU without delay to increase the chances to recover data from the devices.

Network Isolation

The device should be isolated from network connections to prevent changes. Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and Cellular are examples of network connections. Devices can be isolated from network connections by taking the following steps:

- Attempt to place the device in **Airplane Mode**. Placing a mobile device into Airplane Mode effectively prevents a device from communicating on Cellular networks, and can also turn off other network connections.



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- If a Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or other network connection remains active after placing the device in *Airplane Mode*, attempt to turn these connections off as well.
- Only if *Airplane Mode* is unavailable – remove the SIM, if equipped. The SIM, or Subscriber Identity Module, is a small physical card used to identify and authenticate the device to a cellular network. Tape the SIM, numbers facing up, to the back of the device, using clear tape.
- Devices that have not been isolated using these methods can be stored in a Faraday storage container to reduce or eliminate the ability of the device to connect to a network. Faraday storage containers include portable Faraday bags and Faraday boxes. Portable Faraday bags are available from the DFU. A Faraday box is available in CID.

Agency personnel should document their steps to isolate the device, including placing the device into *Airplane Mode* or removing the SIM, in their initial or supplement report.

Power Adapters

- The power adapter should be included with any submitted laptop computer, Digital Video Recorder (DVR) or other portable electronic device. These adapters are often unique to a particular model and not interchangeable. Including these adapters can reduce the processing time required.
- Power adapters are not needed for standard cellular phones, including Apple devices using the Lightning connector and Android devices using a Micro-USB or USB-C connector.

General Handling Guidelines

Digital evidence should be treated with care and has specific particular handling requirements.

- Digital evidence should be kept dry. Sealing a device from a moist environment in a container, including plastic, is not advised. Excessive heat, cold or recurring temperature changes should be avoided.
- Vibrations or physical shock should be avoided. Digital evidence should remain clear from strong magnetic fields, including magnets and speakers.

4-540.2 DIGITAL EVIDENCE SUBMISSION

Physical Digital Evidence

Physical digital evidence, including cellular phones and computers believed to contain evidence, may be submitted to the Digital Forensics Unit for processing. If other processing is required, digital evidence shall be submitted to the Forensic Science Section for latent or other processing *first*.

Submit physical digital evidence to the Digital Forensics Unit with the *Digital Forensics Request for Analysis, Form #197*, and search authority. Search authority includes a search warrant or consent search form. Other types of search authority must be articulated in writing. Form #197 includes a section to document the current power state and *Airplane Mode* status upon submission of mobile devices. These factors significantly affect device processing steps.

Devices may be submitted to the Digital Forensics Unit in person or by using the DFU secure storage lockers. Multiple devices from the same owner may be packaged in the same digital evidence box. When submitting devices via the DFU lockers, the following guidelines shall apply:



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- The DFU short term storage lockers are listed as *Digital Forensics Short Term* in the Property Management System.
- DFU secure storage lockers are equipped with power connections for cellular phones and a lock to preserve chain of custody. The Faraday box in CID is also equipped with power connectors and a lock.
- An Evidence Label must be included with the device(s), but the device(s) need not be sealed in packaging. Devices remaining powered on generate heat that can damage a device sealed in a package.
- Include device(s), Evidence Label(s), *Digital Forensics Request for Analysis, Form #197* and a printed search authority in the locker.
- Lock the locker, remove the key, and drop the locker key in the DFU Locker Key Drop Box, also in CID.
- Email DFU to notify examiners about your submission.
- Should the *Digital Forensics Request for Analysis, Form #197* or search authority not be included with the device(s) in the locker, email these items to DFU immediately. The submitted devices may be refused and remain in storage without these required items.
- Devices submitted to DFU will generally be released to Property Held when processing is complete, unless other arrangements are made.
- Devices containing illegal images and / or videos (i.e. child pornography), that are approved for release back to the owner, shall be wiped / erased (laptops) or factory reset (mobile devices) prior to release. *Permission to Erase, Form #333* must be completed with the owner's signature prior to wiping / resetting the device for release.

On Scene Processing of Digital Evidence

Certain devices should be processed on scene. These devices can include:

- network routers,
- business computers,
- networked security cameras, and
- Digital Video Recorders (DVR's).

A network router connects multiple devices and directs network traffic. Data may be lost if power is removed from network routers or security cameras. Seizure of a business computer or network device can involve multiple issues including data loss and unintended disruption of a legitimate business. Agency personnel should contact DFU for guidance before seizing a router, security camera or business computer.

A Digital Video Recorder (DVR) should be processed on scene for surveillance video retrieval. The DVR may be seized for several reasons. The DVR can be seized to preserve the video evidence or to conduct recovery in a forensic environment. Agency personnel should consider that DVR seizure leaves the location without the benefit of security video for future incidents.

The DFU can process intangible digital evidence, including processing warrant returns or other technical assistance. Contact the DFU for assistance.

4-540.3 DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE VIDEO RECOVERY

Agency personnel should attempt to recover security video from a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) on scene and should note several DVR characteristics, including the DVR make, model, and the following times:

- the actual time,
- the DVR system time, and
- the difference between the two times.

The time notations are used to establish the accurate date and time displayed in the recovered video. The actual



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time should be referenced using a trusted source, including an online cellular phone, and not necessarily a desktop computer system time.

Once recovered, the surveillance video should be saved to DIMS. If DIMS is not an option, save the video to storage media, including flash drive or disc, for submission to Property Held. DFU may retain the video file(s) that DFU recovered for storage if DIMS is not a storage option. If recovery attempts are not successful, Agency personnel may request recovery from the DFU using the *Video Retrieval Request, Form #288*. This request form includes a section to specify the recovery timeframe, either based on *actual time* or displayed *DVR system times*. The DVR system time should be selected and listed on Form #288 only if the video has been reviewed and targeted events are associated with times displayed by the DVR system. This form should be completed and emailed to the DFU.

4-540.4 DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE VIDEO CLARIFICATION

The Digital Forensics Unit can provide video clarification services. Some video can be processed to provide additional details. Submit this video to the DFU using the *Video Clarification Request, Form #149*

4-550 CELL PHONE RECORD ANALYSIS AND MAPPING OF GEOLOCATION RECORDS

The purpose of the Technical Investigations Function is to provide assistance to investigators and officers in the analysis of cellular phone location data and other advanced and emerging technologies. Function members have the ability to map location data for cellular phones and other wireless devices, which can assist officers with their investigations. Determining the location of a particular wireless device can be an important tool for investigations, prosecution, and fugitive apprehensions.

The mapping of the cellular phone / wireless device location records for the purpose of a criminal investigation, that may result in criminal prosecution, shall only be conducted by members of the TIF, with formal training in the field of cellular record mapping and geolocation analysis. Any member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office without formal training in cellular record mapping and analysis is prohibited from mapping cellular phone / or digital device location data for the purposes of courtroom presentation. This does not prohibit a member of the Charles County Sheriff's Office from mapping records for emergency exigent circumstances.

4-550.1 PROCEDURES FOR OFFICERS REQUESTING CELL SITE ANALYSIS AND MAPPING

If an officer needs assistance or guidance with analyzing cell phone records or other digital technologies that were obtained through legal means (search warrant or subpoena), the officer shall send an email to TIF@ccso.us with details of their request. If an officer needs geolocation records mapped for court presentation, the officer should submit a Cell Site Analysis Request Form #344 and send it to TIF@ccso.us. Mapping requests should only be made if the information is needed for court presentation.

4-550.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS MEMBERS

When a request for investigative assistance is received, the function supervisor or their designee will review the request and decide if the request will be assigned to a member. Cases will be distributed and assigned to function members at the discretion of the function supervisor or their designee. An individual member's primary duty assignment, pending caseload, experience, and the class of investigation, will all be considered when assigning cases to the function members.

When records are analyzed or geolocation records are mapped, the TIF member shall complete a report and / or supplement to the officer's investigation. Final approval of a TIF report is subject to the review of the function



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supervisor or his / her designee. A peer review MUST be completed prior to submitting a report for final approval.

When completing a report, which includes the analysis of the cellular phone / digital device location records, function members shall submit said report for peer review. The process of peer review shall be documented in the function member's final report, to include the reviewing member's name and the date of the review.

4-560 THERMO SCIENTIFIC TRUNARC ANALYZER DEFINITIONS

Laser Hazard Zone – the area where the laser beam is strong enough to damage your eyes (14 inches from the laser)

Self-Check-a diagnostic test that verifies that the analyzer is operating according to its factory settings

Self-Check Standard-the movable plastic bar that is used during the analyzer self-check

4-560.1 THERMO SCIENTIFIC TRUNARC ANALYZER

The Thermo Scientific TruNarc Analyzer is a 785-nm Raman spectrometer used for rapid identification of suspected narcotics. This system has the ability to identify, analyze and provide definitive results for:

- Narcotics;
- Stimulants;
- Depressants;
- Hallucinogens;
- Cough suppressants;
- Cutting agents; and
- Precursors.

The TruNarc Analyzer also has the ability to scan:

- Tablets;
- Capsules;
- Plastic bags;
- Jars;
- Bottles;
- Syringes;
- Crack pipes;
- Powders and large crystals;
- Pills; and
- Bricks of suspected CDS.

TruNarc Operators will not conduct scans or tests on tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in any form, to include vegetable matter or material. This material could become flammable due to the use of the Laser.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office has obtained three TruNarc Analyzers which are located within the Narcotics Enforcement Section and in secured lockers in all District Station processing areas. The TruNarc Analyzer located within the Narcotics Enforcement Section will be maintained by the designated officer in that unit.

The TruNarc Analyzers located at the District Stations are to be used in the processing area only, while at the stations. Due to the portability of these units, circumstances may arise where an analyzer needs to be transported to a scene. This will only be done with a supervisor's approval.



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4-560.2 OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

All operators of the TruNarc Analyzers must be certified. Before and after each scan, operators must conduct a **self-check** of the analyzer ensuring that the **self-check standard** is in the closed position. If the self-check fails, the test will be repeated until the **self-check** results in a pass. If the analyzer does not pass the self-check after several attempts, the unit cannot be used and the TruNarc Coordinator will be notified immediately.

Operators must complete the TruNarc Property Log (Form #162), which is located at the TruNarc locker site, for each scan or test that is completed.

TruNarc scanners have been accepted by the Charles County State's Attorney's Office as an accepted field test for charging purposes; however, all controlled dangerous substances will still need to be properly packaged and submitted to the Maryland State Police Laboratory for testing.

An example of an accepted probable cause statement would be:

- *I utilized the Thermo Scientific TruNarc Analyzer to conduct a field test on a sample from the suspected ___ (Drug) ___. The result of this test was positive to the presence of ___ (Drug Result) ___.*

Officers needing TruNarc reports generated for court purposes will send an email request with the Incident Report number to the TruNarc Coordinator at least 5 business days before that court date.

4-560.3 TRUNARC COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The TruNarc coordinator for Patrol Operations will be designated by Patrol Division Commanders. The TruNarc coordinator for NES will be designated by the Commander, NES. Coordinators will be responsible for:

- Downloading the analyzers into the Thermo Scientific software program on a monthly basis;
- Updating the analyzers when prompted by the manufacturer;
- Checking battery life and charging the analyzers on a monthly basis;
- Generating reports when requested by the investigating officer or the State's Attorney's Office;
- Backing up all downloaded information to a folder in the agency server on a monthly basis;
- Inspecting, cleaning and maintaining the analyzers on a monthly basis; and
- Maintaining adequate supplies in the various processing areas.

4-560.4 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Due to the strength of the TruNarc Analyzer's laser and the potential for eye damage, and the ignition of heat sensitive and explosive materials, TruNarc operators:

- Will not perform a scan directly on a dark surface;
- Will not perform a scan on heat sensitive and explosive materials;
- Will not perform a scan on precursor chemicals related to clandestine laboratories;
- Will not wear black or dark colored gloves during scans and self-checks;
- Will not point the laser at anyone or themselves while conducting a scan; and
- Will not place the material to be scanned on filter paper. Filter paper is made of dense cellulose fibers, such as coffee filters or paper towels, which can trap laser heat and catch fire.

When conducting a scan, TruNarc operator will keep the laser pointed in a safe direction and stay out of the Lazer Hazard Zone.

Additionally, when scanning in vial mode, TruNarc operators will always uncap the vial to prevent a projectile



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hazard resulting from buildup of pressure.

4-560.5 SOLUTION KIT (TYPE H)

Occasionally the TruNarc Analyzer is unable to analyze the substance that is being tested or the Scan Result may give a reading of Inconclusive. In these instances, the TruNarc operator may need to use the Type "H" solution kit, which can be found in the processing area. While conducting these tests the operator must wear eye protection, light colored latex or nitrile gloves and mouth protection (disposable mask), all of which can also be found in the processing area. Step by step instructions can be found in the TruNarc User Guide which is located in the case along with the analyzer.

NOTE: Black Tar heroin needs to be prepared differently than other substances. Follow the instructions that are listed in the TruNarc User Guide. Additionally, when mixing the substance to be tested with the ethanol solution, the mixture needs to be combined for a minimum of two minutes. Also allow the test stick to dry for a minimum of two minutes before conducting the scan.

4-560.6 SCAN RESULT DEFINITIONS

Alarm –the analyzer identified one or more substances of interest

Clear-the analyzer did not identify any substances of interest, but it did identify a cutting agent that is in its library

Inconclusive-the analyzer did not identify any substances of interest or cutting agents

Precursor/Chemical-the analyzer identified a precursor or a chemical used in the manufacture of substances of interest

Polystyrene Warning-this result appears when the self-check standard is in the closed position

Polycarbonate Warning-this result appears when you perform a scan with the Type H Kit test stick in the wrong position

4-570 FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

Last Reviewed: October 22, 2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. SCOPE
- C. DEFINITIONS
- D. AUTHORIZED USERS / TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
- E. APPROVED USES
- F. PROHIBITED USES
- G. SEARCHES
- H. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE
- I. RESULTS
- J. AUDITS AND MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS
- K. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance on the use of facial recognition technology and establishes procedures for its proper use and accountability.



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B. SCOPE

The policy applies to all personnel who use facial recognition technology. This technology can be a valuable investigative tool to detect and prevent criminal activity, reduce an imminent threat to health or safety, and help in the identification of persons unable to identify themselves or deceased persons. The Charles County Sheriff's Office uses facial recognition technologies to support investigative efforts.

C. DEFINITIONS

Facial Recognition- An automated search of a human face using biometric algorithms to identify similar facial images within a database.

Facial Recognition Technology- Defined under Maryland law as a computer program, service, or any other technology that analyzes facial features and is used by or at the direction of a law enforcement agency for the identification, verification, or persistent tracking of individuals in still or video images for use in criminal investigations. Facial recognition technology does not include technology used only for the analysis of facial features to grant or deny access to an electronic device or that uses an automated or semi-automated process only for the purpose of redacting a recording or an image for release or disclosure outside of a law enforcement agency to protect the privacy of a subject depicted in the recording or image if the process does not generate or result in the retention of any biometric data or surveillance information.

D. AUTHORIZED USERS / TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Homeland Security & Intelligence Section is responsible for overseeing and administering the use of facial recognition technology in compliance with Maryland Criminal Procedure Section 2-501 and Agency policies. Authorized users must complete a yearly training program through the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services once it has been established.

E. APPROVED USES

Facial recognition technology may only be used to assist in the investigation of the following crimes or the following circumstances:

1. Crime of violence as defined in Section 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article.
2. Human trafficking offense under Title 3, subtitle 11 of the Criminal Law Article.
3. First or second-degree child abuse under Section 3-601 of the Criminal Law Article.
4. Child pornography offense under Section 11-207 of the Criminal Law Article.
5. Hate crime under 10-304 of the Criminal Law Article.
6. Weapon crime under Section 4-102, 4-103, 4-203(a)(1)(iii) or (iv), 4-204, or 4-303(a)(2) of the Criminal Law Article.
7. Weapon crime under Section 5-138, 5-140, 5-141, 5-207(c)(16), 5-406(a)(3), or 5-703(a) of the Public Safety Article.



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8. Aggravated cruelty to animals under Section 10-606 or 10-607 of the Criminal Law Article.
 9. Importation of fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue under Section 5-614(A)(1)(xii) of the Criminal Law Article.
 10. Stalking under Section 3-802 of the Criminal Law Article.
 11. Criminal act involving circumstances presenting a substantial and ongoing threat to public safety or national security.
 12. Crime under the laws of another state substantially equivalent to a crime listed above involving a fugitive from justice charged with a crime in that state.
 13. Identifying a missing or deceased person or a person who is incapacitated and unable to otherwise provide the person's own identity.
 14. Redacting a recording or an image for release or disclosure to protect the privacy of an individual depicted in a recording or an image.
 15. Forensic analysis of electronic media seized by law enforcement in relation to a specific investigation if the person identified in the electronic media is not the subject of criminal charges resulting from the forensic analysis.
 16. Enhancing security systems for preventing unauthorized access to information, goods, materials, areas, or other properties under the custody or care of a law enforcement agency.
 17. Conducting otherwise legitimate activity unrelated to a criminal investigation.

F. PROHIBITED USES

1. Facial recognition technology may not be utilized based solely on personal interest not related to legitimate duties or objectives of the law enforcement agency, an individual's political or social beliefs, an individual's participation in lawful activities, or an individual's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, or status as being homeless.
2. Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions, Section 4-320(g)(2), a person receiving personal information using facial recognition technology may not disclose the personal information to a federal agent or federal agency for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement unless the person is presented with a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State.
3. Personnel are prohibited from using facial recognition technology to analyze a sketch or manually produced image.
4. Personnel may not disclose to a witness in a criminal investigation, prior to the witness participating in a live identification or photo array, that a particular suspect or image of a suspect was identified using facial recognition technology.
5. Facial recognition technology may not be used for the purpose of live or real time identification of an image or recording.

G. SEARCHES



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Authorized users shall only utilize databases or systems for facial recognition searches that comply with Maryland law. All facial recognition leads shall be independently verified by an individual authorized to use facial recognition technology. Self-initiated facial recognition searches on crime alert bulletins from other agencies may be conducted by personnel trained and approved in the use of facial recognition for the approved uses listed above. Facial recognition technology may not be knowingly used to assist in a manner that contradicts Maryland law or agency policy.

H. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

Through the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Homeland Security & Intelligence Section has access to the Cogent Mugshot System (CMS), which is the only approved facial recognition program used by the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

1. Only personnel assigned to, or authorized by, the Homeland Security & Intelligence Section may utilize or query the CMS.
2. Investigators requesting facial recognition service shall send an email request to intelrequest@ccso.us.
3. If exigent circumstances exist requiring immediate service, the requestor shall contact the Commander, HSI for approval.
4. Additional information, description, and instructions about this service are located within the Criminal Investigations Division Standard Operating Procedure manual.

I. RESULTS

All results obtained by facial recognition technology will be provided to the requester in writing and contain the following information:

1. Facial recognition technology was utilized to develop the provided investigative lead.
2. Information contained within the investigative lead is not a positive identification of any individual.
3. Results generated by facial recognition technology may only be considered or introduced as evidence in connection with a criminal proceeding for the purpose of establishing probable cause or positive identification in connection with the issuance of a warrant or at a preliminary hearing. However, facial recognition results may not be the sole basis to establish probable cause and requires support by additional, independently obtained evidence. Additionally, facial recognition technology results may not be introduced as evidence in a criminal trial or in an adjudicatory hearing held under Section 3-8A-18 of the Courts Article.
4. A summary indicating: the name of each facial recognition system used; a description and the name of the databases searched; and any results generated that led to further investigative action from each database or system used.

J. AUDITS AND MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Annually, prior to October 1 of each year, the use of facial recognition technology will be audited by the Homeland Security & Intelligence Section. The audit will be conducted to determine compliance with Maryland law and policy. On or before February 1 each year, Homeland Security & Intelligence Commander shall publish a report that discloses information on the use of facial recognition technology for the prior calendar year. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy prior to May 1 of each year. This policy serves as the use and data management policy as required by Maryland law.



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K. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office shall post on its website a copy of this policy; the name of its facial recognition system; the names of all nongovernmental facial recognition systems utilized, and the names and description of all nongovernmental databases searched.

Officers will document use of facial recognition technology in an incident report. HSI personnel will complete a supplement report to the incident, detailing the results of the search.

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4-599 ARRESTS

Last Reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. ARREST WARRANTS
- D. WARRANTLESS ARRESTS
- E. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
- F. ARREST EXEMPTIONS AND RELEASE
- G. CRIMINAL DEBRIEFING REPORT

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs procedures and provides guidance for the CCSO to exercise the power of arrest in compliance with all applicable laws.

The law of arrest in Maryland is found in common law and statutory form.

Maryland allows for warrantless arrests for felonies but restricts warrantless arrests for misdemeanor crimes.

All arrests call for probable cause to exist.

All sworn police officers who have been certified by the Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commission are authorized by law to make arrests.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Arrest-** the taking into custody of a person. An arrest is constituted through touch of the body or through notification of the intent to arrest and submission thereto.
2. **Arrest Warrant-** a written order by a judicial officer commanding the police to arrest the person named in the warrant.
3. **Probable Cause to Arrest-** exists when the facts and surrounding circumstances justify a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that the person to be arrested has committed it. All arrests call for probable cause to exist.
4. **Warrantless Arrest-** a police officer may arrest without a warrant any person who commits, or attempts to commit, any felony or misdemeanor in the presence of, or within the view of, such officer.

C. ARREST WARRANTS

An arrest warrant must be signed by the judicial officer issuing it, set forth the time and place of making it, and the charge or offense. Arrest warrants may be executed by sworn law enforcement officers only.

When a warrant is placed in the hands of an officer he is not bound to inquire into the particulars of the complaint,



or whether any was made at all. If the warrant is in due form and issued by a person having a right to issue it, the duty of the officer is to execute it without further inquiry, and the warrant will protect him.

The Supreme Court has recognized the Police Team concept. If any law enforcement officer holds a warrant, it is deemed held by all. Whenever an arrest is made based on this concept, the officer making the arrest must verify the information as soon as practical.

D. WARRANTLESS ARRESTS

A police officer who has probable cause to believe that a felony or misdemeanor is being committed in the officer's presence or within the officer's view, may arrest without a warrant any person whom the officer may reasonably believe to have committed such offense.

A police officer may arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that a felony has been committed or attempted and that such person has committed or attempted to commit a felony whether or not in the officer's presence or view.

A police officer is authorized to arrest a person without a warrant for certain criminal offenses related to domestic violence. For further guidance, please refer to the Domestic Violence policy of this manual.

The misdemeanor offenses which officers are authorized by law to conduct a warrantless arrest for are specified in Criminal Procedure:

1. manslaughter by vehicle or vessel
2. malicious burning under
3. malicious mischief (malicious destruction of property)
4. a theft crime where the value of the property or services stolen is less than \$1,000
5. the crime of giving or causing to be given a false alarm of fire
6. indecent exposure
7. a crime that relates to controlled dangerous substances
8. the wearing, carrying, or transporting of a handgun
9. carrying or wearing a concealed weapon
10. prostitution and related crimes
11. violation of a condition of pretrial or posttrial release

If one of the above offenses has been committed and the following elements exist, a warrantless probable cause arrest is authorized:

1. the person has committed the offense; and
2. unless the person is immediately arrested:
 - a) the person may not be apprehended;
 - b) the person may cause injury to the person or damage to the property of one or more other persons; or
 - c) the person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence.

E. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Policies relating to Diplomatic Immunity, the Terrorism Screening Center, and Mass Arrests can be found elsewhere in this manual.

ARRESTS BY COMMISSIONED SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER (SPO)



In order to promote cooperation and efficient operations between the Charles County Sheriff's Office and Commissioned Special Police Officers, the following procedures must be adhered to.

The Commissioned SPO will:

1. complete a Statement of Charges document;
2. complete an Arrest Report Form #80;
3. turn over the prisoner, Statement of Charges and Arrest Report to the responding CCSO officer; and
4. forward a copy of his Offense / Incident Report to the State's Attorney's Office.

The responding CCSO officer will:

1. verify the commission of the SPO;
2. review the Statement of Charges document to ensure that probable cause exists and pertinent information is recorded;
3. review the completed Arrest Report;
4. take custody of and transport the prisoner with documents to the Detention Center; and
5. follow established procedures in processing and appearance before the District Court Commissioner.

The CCSO Records Section will process all related documents and maintain these records in accordance with established procedures.

APPREHENSION OF ADULT BY OTHER THAN COMMISSIONED SPO

Misdemeanor:

1. If identity is established to the CCSO officer's satisfaction and the suspect is a resident of Maryland and not wanted, the officer will:
 - a) release the suspect;
 - b) prepare an Offense / Incident Report; and
 - c) make application for a charging document to be served at a later date.
2. If the suspect has no identification or the responding officer has reasonable suspicion to believe it may be false, or the suspect is not a Maryland resident, the officer will arrest the suspect in accordance with Criminal Procedure (Arrest by Police Officer Without a Warrant).

Felony:

1. If probable cause exists that a felony was committed and the suspect did commit it, the responding officer will arrest in accordance with Criminal Procedure.

ARREST OF FUGITIVE FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION

Officers having prior knowledge of an individual in this jurisdiction being a fugitive shall make every attempt to obtain a true test copy of the warrant prior to an arrest being made.

The Commander of the Special Services Division or his designee shall oversee all proceedings involving fugitives.

Whenever a sworn member of this Agency has contact with a person (adult or juvenile) for whom an extraditable warrant or writ from an agency outside the State of Maryland exists, the person, after verification, will be taken into custody as a fugitive from justice. If the suspect is arrested for committing an offense in this jurisdiction, the officer will complete the standard arrest procedures and attach a copy of the computer verification printout. The suspect will not be charged as a fugitive until the local charges are disposed of.



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If a sworn officer from another jurisdiction outside the State of Maryland presents a warrant, other charging document, or teletype for a person alleged to be in Charles County and they want to attempt service of a fugitive warrant, officers of this Agency will assist. If there is any question regarding the warrant, it should be verified through METERS / NCIC. If an arrest is effected, the person will be turned over to this Agency where he will be charged as a fugitive and taken before a judicial officer.

Juvenile fugitives from another jurisdiction outside the State of Maryland will follow a similar procedure; however, they are not presented to a judicial officer. Instead, the juvenile will be taken into custody, and the Department of Juvenile Services will be contacted.

It is against both Agency policy and the law to turn over a prisoner to a demanding jurisdiction outside the State of Maryland without first completing the appropriate legal process.

All related paperwork (including teletypes) pertaining to the fugitive processes must be completed and turned in to Records Management before the end of the officer's tour of duty. Copies of all related paperwork (including teletypes) must be forwarded to the supervisor of the Warrant / Fugitive Unit immediately upon completion, prior to the officer's securing from his tour of duty.

FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (NO LOCAL CHARGES)

The following procedures shall be adhered to when handling a person wanted on criminal charges in the District of Columbia:

1. The Officer shall confirm the warrant through Judicial Services or Communications.
2. If the warrant is confirmed, the Officer must determine which court in the District of Columbia issued the warrant – either a federal court or the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
3. When the warrant is issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Maryland law treats the District of Columbia as another State and requires the suspect to be charged as a fugitive from justice.
4. When the warrant is issued by a federal court in the District of Columbia, the suspect does not need to be charged as a fugitive from justice. The suspect should be transported to the Charles County Detention Center to await pickup by federal agents.
5. The arresting officer shall prepare an Arrest Report and have the suspect fingerprinted and photographed per the Charles County Sheriff's Office policy.
6. The Intake/Records Officer at the Charles County Detention Center shall contact the U.S. Marshal's Service, District of Columbia Office, at (202) 616-8640, 8641, 8642, or 8643, Monday through Friday, from 0730 to 1500 hours, to make arrangements for the fugitive's pick-up as soon as possible. Normally, the fugitive should be picked up within twenty-four (24) hours.
7. Occasionally, the U.S. Marshals will not be able to pick up the fugitive within twenty-four hours. When this occurs, a Request for Temporary Commitment should be completed and presented to the District Court Commissioner. The form can be obtained from the District Court Commissioner and must be signed by a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. The Federal Officer does not have to sign the form in person. A faxed or emailed copy is acceptable.

ARREST OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

Any person who is not a native born or naturalized United States citizen is considered a foreign national. Whenever a foreign national is arrested or detained in the United States, there may be legal requirements to ensure that the foreign national's government is notified to provide a consular from the individual's embassy. In some instances, a



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foreign national may be a citizen from a country who has entered into agreements with the U.S. government to provide mandatory notification when one of their citizens has been arrested or detained. In other cases, it is not a mandatory requirement; however, it is the responsibility of the officer to notify the individual of his right to a consular from his embassy. In all instances of arrest or detention, officers will advise a foreign national his right of consular notification. This notice of notification should be provided in writing, signed and dated by the foreign national and copies attached to all paperwork generated by this incident.

1. Copies of written notifications in various foreign languages are provided at CCDC in the Intake / Records section.
2. If a particular language is not available or if the individual cannot read, the officer will contact the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the U.S. State Department (202) 647-1512 for assistance.
3. A current list of all mandatory notification countries and how to contact their embassies will be maintained at CCDC as well as a list of all foreign embassies in the U.S.

If it is determined a notification is going to be made either because it is mandatory or at the request of the foreign national, officers will:

1. fax a written notification of the arrest or detention of the foreign national to the respective embassy;
2. obtain a fax verification from the fax machine where the notice was sent;
3. attach a copy of the consular notification, notification of arrest and fax verification to the Offense / Incident Report or arrest documentation completed by the arresting officer and a copy given to CCDC Intake / Records.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to those with diplomatic immunity. See Policy Concerning Diplomatic Immunity for dealing with diplomats.

Officers assigned Intake / Records responsibilities at CCDC will monitor all arrests to ensure all appropriate notifications are attached to reports submitted on the arrest or detention of foreign nationals to CCDC. The arresting officer will be required to submit these documents prior to CCDC accepting the prisoner.

PERSONS APPREHENDED / ARRESTED WITH ANIMALS

When a person is apprehended, arrested or otherwise detained and the person is in possession or control of an animal, and there is no other individual who will take responsibility for the animal, the officer will call Animal Care and Control for removal of the animal. The officer will document the notification to Animal Care and Control on the Arrest Record and in the Incident Report, if one was generated for the arrest.

F. ARREST EXEMPTIONS AND RELEASE**EXEMPTION TO ARREST**

Friendly foreign Sovereigns and their attendants, their Ambassadors and other diplomatic agents, public ministers and their attendants, and households are generally exempt from arrest (see Policy Concerning Diplomatic Immunity of the AOM).

No person belonging to the organized militia shall be arrested on any process except such as may be issued by military authority, while going to, remaining at, or returning from any place at which he may be required to attend for military duty.



United States Senators and Representatives shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same. This protection to members of Congress is given by the Constitution of the United States.

MANDATORY RELEASE OF PERSONS FROM ARREST

If, after an arrest based upon probable cause, it becomes apparent that there is no longer probable cause to continue to hold the individual (e.g., there was probable cause to arrest for CDS, but upon search no CDS was recovered; or an individual was arrested on a warrant, but after further investigation the warrant could not be validated), the individual shall be released under the following conditions:

1. The officer is satisfied that there are insufficient grounds to continue to hold the individual and to file a criminal complaint against the person arrested.
2. The officer shall assure the individual is released at a safe location and is not otherwise placed at risk as a result of the release. If necessary, the arresting officer shall assure that the individual is provided transportation to a safe location.
3. If the individual sustained or complains of injury due to law enforcement action, the officer shall render appropriate aid as soon as possible.
4. In cases where the individual has already been charged at CCDC, the release must be processed through the District Court Commissioner. The State's Attorney's Office must be notified as soon as possible of the status of the investigation and the notification must be documented.
5. Any record of arrest of a person released shall include a notation that the individual was released without the filing of formal charges and provide the reason(s) for the release.
6. The officer shall document the release of the individual. If the event prompted an incident report, the release shall be detailed in the incident report. If no incident report was written one of the following two options shall apply:
 - a) If the individual sustained or complains of injury the release shall be detailed in an incident report;
 - b) If there is no injury or complaint of injury the release shall be detailed in a field interview report (FIR).

DISCRETIONARY RELEASE OF PERSONS FROM ARREST

A supervisor may authorize the release of an arrestee, who doesn't require medical aid or hospitalization, prior to formal process. The supervisor may direct the issuance of a citation in lieu of a statement of charges, the submission of an application for charges, or further investigation/ review. The supervisor shall give consideration to the nature of the offense, the likelihood the arrestee will appear in court, and whether release will pose a threat to public safety.

In order to ensure full and appropriate medical care is provided if an arrestee is injured or complains of injury during an arrest, the arrestee shall remain in CCSO custody. Unless directed otherwise by a division commander, upon completion of medical treatment, the arrestee will be transported to the detention center for processing.

Where the release of an arrestee is contemplated prior to the booking process due to a medical condition or hospitalization unrelated to the arrest, the arresting officer shall confer with his supervisor and have the concurrence of a command level officer. In this situation, the commanding officer shall, before authorizing the release, consider the following:



1. Whether it is feasible to file charging documents against the arrestee at a later date;
2. The nature of the offense;
3. Confirmation of the arrestee's name and identification;
4. The arrestee's listed home address;
5. The expected duration of the medical care;
6. Prior criminal history to include FTA;
7. Whether releasing the arrestee creates a known danger to the public or property.

The Command Officer shall notify his chain of command of the decision at the earliest convenience.

G. CRIMINAL DEBRIEFING REPORT

The Criminal Debriefing Report was created to provide police officers with a method for collecting intelligence information, crime tips, and other valuable information. This information will be distributed to and accessed by investigators throughout the Agency to aid in the closure of cases, the arrest of wanted individuals, the identification of suspects, and other law enforcement purposes.

It is mandatory for all sworn officers, regardless of assignment, to complete the Criminal Debriefing Report following any and ALL arrests. The Debriefing Report should also be utilized when intelligence is gathered during any citizen, suspect, or witness encounter. It is located on the Agency Intranet under the "Reports" heading.

The information gathered will be distributed to the appropriate section commander. The commander will then distribute the information to the proper unit(s) for follow-up action. The data will also go to a central intelligence file in Keystone, where the data will be sorted and stored for future search and analysis by all officers of the Agency.

Notifications are not mandatory; however, if the information gathered is time sensitive or of a critical nature, a notification should be immediately made to the proper Agency section. If there is doubt as to whether a notification should be made, the investigator's supervisor or commander should be consulted.

Only those sections of the report that pertain to the information gathered need to be completed, in as much detail as possible. The type of information will vary widely from case to case. Whatever information is gathered should be documented on the report. The more precise the data that is received, the more valuable and searchable it will be in the future.

4-600 VIOLATIONS OF PRETRIAL AND POSTTRIAL CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. DETERMINING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
- D. VIOLATIONS – CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
- E. VIOLATIONS OF HOME DETENTION MONITORING AS CONDITION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures for notification, investigation, and enforcement of violations of pretrial and post-trial conditions of release.



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Maryland Law, 5-213.1 of the Criminal Procedures Article, makes it a criminal violation for a person to violate certain conditions of pretrial or post-trial release. These violations are misdemeanors and the violator is subject to arrest by a law enforcement officer.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Crime of Violence-** in this policy retains its meaning under § 5-101 of the Public Safety Article. These crimes include:
 - a) abduction;
 - b) arson in the first degree;
 - c) assault in the first or second degree;
 - d) burglary in the first, second or third degree;
 - e) carjacking and armed carjacking;
 - f) escape in the first degree;
 - g) kidnapping;
 - h) voluntary manslaughter;
 - i) maiming as previously proscribed under former Article 27, § 386 of the Code;
 - j) mayhem as previously proscribed under former Article 27, § 384 of the Code;
 - k) murder in the first or second degree;
 - l) rape in the first or second degree;
 - m) robbery and robbery with a dangerous weapon;
 - n) sexual offense in the first, second or third degree;
 - o) home invasion under § 6-202 (b) of the Criminal Law Article;
 - p) an attempt to commit any of the crimes listed in this subsection; or
 - q) assault with intent to commit any of the crimes listed in this subsection or a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year.
2. **Entitled to Relief-** retains the same meaning as listed in the CCSO's Domestic Violence policy
3. **Maryland Judiciary Case Search-** a database maintained by the Maryland Judiciary.
4. **Pretrial Release-** the period of time the person is released from custody and is awaiting trial.
5. **Post-trial Release-** the period of time the person is released from custody while awaiting sentencing for a conviction and/or the period of time the person is placed on probation after a conviction.
6. **Sexual Crimes Against a Minor-** in this policy means any crime under Title 3, subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article. These crimes include:
 - a) rape and attempted rape in the first and second degree;
 - b) sex offense in the third and fourth degree;
 - c) sexual conduct between a correctional, DJS employee or court ordered service provider and an incarcerated individual or confined child;
 - d) continuing course of conduct with a child;
 - e) incest;
 - f) sexual solicitation of a minor;
 - g) use of personal identifying information or the identity of another.

C. DETERMINING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

If an officer believes a person may have committed a violation of release:



1. The officer must first determine the crime the person has been charged with and determine what conditions of release have been placed on the subject, if any.
2. This will be accomplished by having the Communications Section run the person's name through Maryland's Judiciary Case Search. This will return the person's criminal charge and their current conditions of release.
3. Once the person's information is returned by the Case Search, the Police Communications Officer will provide the information to the requesting officer.

D. VIOLATIONS – CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

Based on the conditions of release and the specific circumstances and actions of the person on release the officer will determine if they have probable cause to make the arrest.

An officer may make an arrest of an individual if they have probable cause to believe they are or have violated a pretrial or post-trial condition which prohibited the person from:

1. contacting;
2. harassing, or
3. abusing an alleged victim; or
4. going in or near the alleged victim's residence or place of employment.

Violations of these conditions are only for people who are charged with committing three categories of criminal violations:

- a) sexual crimes against a minor;
- b) crimes of violence; or
- c) a crime against a victim who is entitled to relief under Family Law § 4-501 for domestic violence.

An officer with probable cause to believe the person has committed a violation of this statute may make a warrantless arrest in accordance with § 2-203 of the Criminal Procedures Article.

A person arrested for violation of a condition of pretrial or post-trial release for a crime other than a sexual crime against a minor shall be issued a citation for the offense.

E. VIOLATIONS OF HOME DETENTION MONITORING AS CONDITION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE

To maintain safe and efficient notification, investigation, and enforcement of violations, as indicated by a private home detention monitoring agency, regarding individuals on court ordered home detention monitoring in Charles County, the following procedures will be followed.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING ORDERS

A typical Electronic Monitoring Order will include the following:

1. Case Number
2. Defendant

The order will include the conditions the defendant will have to follow, which can include wording similar to the following:



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It is hereby ordered the Defendant shall be subject to electronic monitoring as a condition of their release pending trial / probation / parole, as follows:

1. *Type of Monitoring: [Specify type of electronic monitoring, such as GPS ankle bracelet, home confinement with radio frequency monitoring, or other applicable technology]*
2. *Monitoring Agency: [Name of the agency responsible for electronic monitoring]*
3. *Residential Restrictions:*
 - a) *Defendant must remain at their designated residence located at [Address] at all times, except for pre-approved activities as outlined below.*
 - b) *Curfew hours: [Specify allowed timeframes outside the residence, if applicable]*
4. *Permitted Activities:*
 - a) *Employment at [Place of Employment] from [Time] to [Time]*
 - b) *Educational activities at [School Name] from [Time] to [Time]*
 - c) *Medical appointments with prior approval from supervising officer*
 - d) *Court appearances*
 - e) *Essential errands as approved by supervising officer*
5. *Reporting Requirements:*
 - a) *Defendant must report any changes in residence or employment immediately to the supervising officer.*
 - b) *Defendant must contact the monitoring agency immediately if the electronic monitoring device malfunctions or is tampered with.*
6. *Violation Consequences:*
 - a) *Any violation of the electronic monitoring conditions may result in immediate revocation of release, potential additional charges, and further court action.*

The order is then signed and dated by a judge.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**Private Home Detention Agency Responsibilities:**

1. All private home detention companies are required to notify law enforcement of any violation of a defendant's home detention restrictions. Within 24 hours of determining a defendant who is subject to home detention monitoring as a condition of the defendant's pretrial release has violated a condition of the monitoring, the monitoring agency shall notify the court and the court designated law enforcement agency.
2. If the violation involves tampering with or failing to properly maintain home detention monitoring equipment as required by court order, the notifications must be made within one hour.
3. If the violation involved the defendant entering an area the defendant was expressly prohibited from entering as a condition of pretrial release, the notification must be made immediately.

Police Station Technician Responsibilities:

1. Home detention companies should call CCSO's main line and provide the offender's name, date of birth, court case number, the last known location, and the nature of the violation.



2. The call taker will share the Agency email, vioem@ccso.us, with the vendor who will use it to send court-ordered conditions. The call taker will collect the offender's information (name, DOB, case number and last known location) for responding officers.
3. Upon completion of obtaining the information from the vendor, the call taker will enter the complaint into the CAD as **VIO ESCAPE-EM**. Any pertinent notes will be added to the CAD entry.
4. The printout will be faxed or emailed to the district station where the violation is to be investigated.

Patrol Responsibilities:

1. Patrol Operations can determine the appropriate response based on the information provided by the vendor. An investigation will be conducted to see if a violation and possible crime has been committed.
2. Considerations for arrest:
 - a) If the crime the defendant is on electronic monitoring for is a crime of violence and the investigation reveals they have violated the terms of the imposed electronic monitoring, this is a violation of their pretrial release and they can be arrested on scene without a warrant.
 - b) The crimes associated with "crime of violence" are listed elsewhere in this policy for reference.
3. Officers responding to a reported violation of electronic monitoring must also be aware of the potential criminal offenses associated with a violation of electronic monitoring. Some of these associated crimes are:
 - a) Second Degree Escape, Crim. Law CR9-405 (Misdemeanor):
 - The defendant left "a place identified in a home detention order or agreement" without judicial authorization; or
 - Violated any restriction of movement imposed under the terms of the home detention order.
 - b) Violation of Pretrial Release, Crim. Procedure 5-213.1:

The defendant violated a condition of release prohibiting him from:

 - Contacting, harassing, or abusing a victim.
 - Going in or near a victim's home or place of employment, and the defendant is charged with any of the following:
 - A sexual offense against a minor.
 - A crime of violence.
 - Stalking; or
 - The victim is someone who could apply for a protective order against the defendant.
 - c) Violation of a protective order, Family Law 4-809
4. Any officer who responds to a reported violation of electronic monitoring and confirms a violation shall complete an incident report and make an arrest when applicable.
5. In the event the crime the defendant is on electronic monitoring for is not a crime of violence and no other crime happening within the officer's presence can be confirmed, an incident report must still be completed and an application for statement of charges completed (if applicable).

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4-608 USE OF RESTRAINING DEVICES - GENERALLY

When a prisoner is taken into custody, handcuffs will be used unless the situation requires the use of flex cuffs. The prisoner will be searched and secured with his hands behind his back if possible. Handcuffs will be double locked. If a prisoner's hands must be secured in front, they will be secured by a waist chain or they may be secured using the subject's belt, with the buckle behind the prisoner's back.

When transporting prisoners who have a physical disability, illness or are obviously no physical threat (for example, young children, elderly persons, pregnant persons, paraplegics, etc.), officers may use their discretion in using handcuffs.

Leg irons, flex-cuffs, or other authorized devices may be used to secure disorderly or violent prisoners. Absent exigent circumstances, only the agency issued tool should be used when removing flex cuffs.

4-608.1 USE OF EXPECTORANT SHIELDS

The expectorant shield is a nylon mesh device designed to fit over the head and face of a prisoner to prevent him from projecting expectorant or blood onto Agency employees. One (1) shield will be issued to each sworn employee to be used for health and safety purposes when encountering violent, in-custody persons who are spitting at law enforcement personnel or who are bleeding from the head / face area.

The device is a safe and humane form of restraint which allows unrestricted breathing and shall be used only for its intended purpose.

When the shield is utilized, its use and the circumstances necessitating its use shall be documented in the associated report. The application of the shield to any person will require continuous monitoring of that person. This will be accomplished by the actual physical presence of a sworn employee for the entire time the person is wearing the device. At no time will the person be left unattended while the shield is being worn.

As soon as it is deemed safe to do so, or at the direction of a supervisor, the shield will be removed and as soon as is practical, disposed of in a bio-hazard container located in the intake area of the Detention Center or in any of the district stations. This is a single use, disposable item and is not to be laundered or reused under any circumstances.

Following the use of the expectorant shield, the officer shall obtain a replacement through the Quartermaster. The use of an expectorant shield will be documented in an Incident Report or in the Call Sheet in cases where an Incident Report is not completed.

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- A horizontal bar chart with the title "U.S. should take action to address climate change". The y-axis lists age groups: 18-29, 30-49, 50-69, 70+, and "Don't know". The x-axis represents percentages from 0 to 100. Each age group has two bars: a dark blue bar for "Yes" and a light blue bar for "No".
- | Age Group | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|------------|---------|--------|
| 18-29 | 88 | 12 |
| 30-49 | 82 | 18 |
| 50-69 | 88 | 12 |
| 70+ | 72 | 28 |
| Don't know | 82 | 18 |

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Age Group	Gender	Percentage Vaccinated
18-24	Male	~90%
	Female	~88%
25-34	Male	~85%
	Female	~82%
35-44	Male	~88%
	Female	~85%
45-54	Male	~85%
	Female	~82%
55-64	Male	~88%
	Female	~85%
65+	Male	~85%
	Female	~82%



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4-611 SEARCH OF ARRESTEES – SWORN

This section applies to searches incident to arrest conducted by sworn officers. Procedures relating to searches of arrestees by correctional officers are controlled by 5-206 of the Detention Center Standard Operation Policy and Procedure Manual.

4.611.1 DEFINITIONS

Gender Classification: “Male” or “female.” An arrestee’s gender will be classified as it appears on the individual’s government-issued identification card *unless* the arrestee provides a different gender identity. In the event a government-issued identification card is unavailable, or the arrestee’s gender identity is unspecified or unclear, an officer may respectfully ask for clarification.

Gender Identity: The gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of a person regardless of the person’s assigned sex at birth. Gender identity may be demonstrated by consistent and uniform assertion of the person’s gender identity or any other evidence that the gender identity is sincerely held as part of the person’s core identity.

Manual body cavity search means some degree of touching or probing of body cavities by someone other than the arrestee.

Private area means the aureole of the female breast, the pubic and genital region of all genders, and the crevice of the buttocks of all genders.

Sexually invasive search means the exposure of an individual’s private areas to any other person.

Visual body cavity search means the visual inspection of a private area.

4.611.2 SEARCHES – GENERAL PROCEDURE

Arrestees will be searched upon arrest. If exigent circumstances require the quick removal of an arrestee from a scene, a quick pat-down for weapons may occur followed by a more thorough search after moving a safe distance from the scene. Each officer who accepts custody of the arrestee will also search the arrestee.

Searches of an arrestee shall include the arrestee’s person and areas that are within the arrestee’s immediate control, including any containers such as purses or backpacks that the arrestee is carrying.



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4-611.3 SEARCHES BY GENDER

Generally, arrestees will be searched by an officer of the same gender classification.

Searches may occur by an officer of a different gender if exigent circumstances require the search, such as:

- The arrestee is likely to be armed;
- A delay in a search may result in the destruction or loss of evidence; or
- No officer of the same gender as the arrestee is readily available.

Attempts to locate an officer of the same gender classification will be noted in the event call sheet.

If an officer of the same gender classification is not readily available, the arresting officer should not engage in a sexually invasive search unless exigent circumstances compel such a search. When an officer searches a prisoner of another gender classification, the officer will have a witness present if possible and conduct the search out of public view or in a private setting.

When searching an arrestee of another gender classification, the searching officer will use the back of the hand while searching around intimate areas – breasts for female identifying arrestees and genitals for both gender classifications.

4-611.4 SEXUALLY INVASIVE SEARCHES

When a sexually invasive search may occur:

A search incident to arrest does not automatically allow a sexually invasive search. A sexually invasive search is permitted only when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that drugs, a weapon, or contraband may be found hidden in or near the private area of the arrestee. The nature of the offense may play a substantial role in determining whether reasonable suspicion exists but should not be the sole basis for conducting a sexually invasive search.

Where and how a sexually invasive search may occur:

All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the privacy of an arrestee before a sexually invasive search may occur. Reasonable steps include:

- ensuring that the arrestee's private parts are exposed to as few people as possible;
- conducting the search away from view of members of the public;
- using the least intrusive means available to conduct the search (for example, having an arrestee pull her underwear away from her body allowing the officer to look in protects privacy more than having the arrestee remove her underwear).

Except in extreme circumstances, sexually invasive searches must be conducted by, and only witnessed by, officers of the same gender classification as the arrestee.

Manual body cavity searches should not occur without either a search warrant with qualified medical assistance or as part of appropriate medical treatment unless there are exigent health or safety circumstances that require an immediate search.



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Officers with reasonable suspicion to believe the arrestee has weapons, drugs, or contraband concealed in or near a private area should request that a sexually invasive search be conducted by correctional officers at the Detention Center.

Any officer conducting a sexually invasive search outside of a secure location such as a district station or the Detention Center must be able to articulate why the search could not be delayed until the arrestee was taken to a secure location. Unless exigent health or safety circumstances require otherwise, a visual body cavity search that involves removing clothing should occur in a secure location.

Officers should consider a subject's mental capacity and a juvenile's age when assessing the justification, place, and manner of the search.

4-611.5 SEARCH OF THE MOUTH

When an officer reasonably believes an arrestee has secreted contraband within the mouth, the officer may order an arrestee to remove such contraband and may under certain circumstances use force to search the mouth. Before using manual force, all of the following conditions must be present:

- there must be a lawful arrest of the person based upon probable cause;
- there must be a clear indication (more than mere suspicion) the arrestee has secreted a seizeable item (e.g. illegal drugs, weapon, handcuff key, etc.) within the mouth;
- there must be a search warrant authorizing an intrusion into the arrestee's mouth, or exigent circumstances, such as:
 - imminent destruction of evidence; and/or
 - a medical emergency.

Once the prerequisites have been satisfied, an officer may use objectively reasonable force to extract contraband secreted in the arrestee's mouth. In determining whether the use of force is objectively reasonable, the officer should consider the totality of the circumstances and take into account:

- the safety and health of the arrestee;
- the arrestee's dignity interest in personal privacy and bodily integrity; and
- the community's interest in fairly and accurately determining the person's guilt or innocence.

Officers who have received training are permitted to use pressure point and other techniques as taught in the Academy to extract contraband. The following techniques are prohibited:

- applying force to the arrestee's throat sufficient enough to prevent him/her from breathing or obstructing the person's blood supply;
- forcibly inserting fingers into the arrestee's mouth;
- threatening lethal force in any manner; or
- striking the arrestee on or about the head.



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When an officer reasonably believes an arrestee has ingested contraband that could have a negative effect upon his / her health, the officer shall:

- immediately seek medical attention for the arrestee;
- inform medical personnel of the facts, as known by the officer, regarding the arrestee's ingestion of the contraband;
- offer no advice, instruction, direction, or make any request or suggestion to the medical personnel concerning any particular medical course of action or treatment;
- remain readily available at the site where the arrestee is receiving medical attention; and
- collect any evidence that becomes available.

The use of force is not justified if an officer reasonably believes the seizeable item(s) in the arrestee's mouth would be accessible to recovery and identification in a supervised, post-arrest setting and the contraband in the arrestee's mouth is not causing a medical emergency. An officer may reasonably believe a medical emergency exists when an arrestee appears to become ill, exhibits other evidence of medical difficulty or loses consciousness.

4-611.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The officer making the arrest and/or conducting a strip or manual body cavity search must prepare an Incident Report identifying:

- the person searched;
- the date, time and location of the search;
- the specific reasons for the search;
- the manner in which the search was done;
- the scope of the search;
- any other persons present or involved in conducting the search; and
- whether contraband and/or weapons were recovered.

If force is used to effect a search, a Use of Force / Discharge of Firearm Report Form #226 will also be completed.

The above policy is exclusive of searches not involving sworn personnel, conducted by Corrections personnel within the CCDC. Searches conducted by Corrections personnel will be guided by policies contained in the CCDC's SOP manual.

4-612 REMOVAL OF PROPERTY ITEMS FROM PRISONERS

All prisoners will be searched upon arrival at a district station or the Detention Center, and all property will be removed from them, except the following:

- Clothing being worn;
- Shoes (laces removed);
- Personal papers;
- Eyeglasses / contact lenses.

4-612.1 RELEASE OF PROPERTY TO PERSON OTHER THAN PRISONER



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Release of the prisoner's property to a private person is prohibited unless the prisoner gives his expressed consent to do so.

4-613 BOOKING PROCEDURES - OBTAINING ID NUMBERS

ID numbers for adult arrests and juveniles arrested and processed are obtained through the Detention Center Central Process Section. Care should be taken to ensure that an arrested individual who was assigned an ID number during a prior arrest is not assigned a new ID number.

4-613.1 REFUSAL (OR INABILITY) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR BOOKING PROCEDURES

When a prisoner refuses to provide information for the arrest record, the officer will indicate same by noting "refused" or "unable to answer" in the appropriate block.

4-613.2 JOHN / JANE DOE ARRESTS

When a prisoner's identity cannot be established, they shall be fingerprinted and submitted to CJIS for identification verification. No charges should be listed for an ID verification submission. If they remain unidentified, they will be carried on all paperwork as John / Jane Doe. When identified, the processing officer will complete the arrest records with the correct information and forward to the Records Section.

4-613.3 ARRESTEE'S AGE NOT DETERMINED

When the arresting officer cannot establish the arrestee's age, he will be charged as an adult, unless the officer can reasonably assume by observation that the arrestee is a juvenile.

When a juvenile charged as an adult is later discovered to be a juvenile, the arresting officer will submit an Offense / Incident Report to Records and complete the appropriate forms to be forwarded to Department of Juvenile Services.

If the juvenile's age and offense level, per the Guide to Charging the Juvenile Offender Matrix within the AOM, justify being charged as an adult, they can remain in the detention center and will be processed as an adult. If their age and offense level preclude them from being charged as an adult, the arresting officer will be contacted to take the juvenile to the appropriate district station to be processed in accordance with AOM section, Processing Juveniles Charged as Juveniles.

4-613.4 STATEMENT OF CHARGES - ARREST BOOKING SYSTEM

Adult prisoners brought to the detention center on original criminal charges will be processed through the Arrest Booking System. This is an automated computer system which generates a Statement of Charges and tracking number utilized by the courts to associate a particular individual to a case. Tracking numbers will be copied to the front and back of the green and white MSP Fingerprint Card. An additional two (2) tracking numbers can be placed on the MSP Fingerprint Card above the signature line if needed. When fingerprints are obtained through the Livescan system, the tracking numbers will automatically be disseminated with the fingerprints transmission.

In the event of a system failure of the Arrest Booking System, the detention center will maintain a supply of court issued Statement of Charges forms. These forms are accounted for with a court assigned tracking number. They are obtained from the District Court Warehouse by faxing a request to 410-260-1669. In the event one is to be voided, it must be turned into the District Court Commissioner.



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Only the top section (peel-off label) must be typed. The remaining portion may be typed or neatly hand written. The peel-off labels with the court tracking number will be affixed to the green and white MSP Fingerprint Card in the areas designated for tracking.

NOTE: Court Case numbers associated with District or Circuit Court Warrants are different than Tracking Numbers.

4-613.5 PROCESSING ADULTS

Fingerprinting- Fingerprints will be obtained through the Livescan system. The Livescan system will automatically disseminate the appropriate fingerprint records to the appropriate receiving parties. In the event the Livescan system is unable to transmit the fingerprints, but still able to collect fingerprints, continue to take fingerprints via the Livescan system and submit all unsubmitted fingerprint records once transmission is restored.

In the event that the Livescan system becomes unserviceable and cannot take fingerprints, manual (ink rolled) fingerprints should be taken as described below.

Criminal / Civil Charges - When processing an adult in connection with any initial, or subsequent F.T.A., V.O.P., or Contempt, etc., **Criminal or Civil Related Arrest** (via Arrest Warrant, Statement of Charges, Bench Warrant, Body Attachment, Writ of Attachment, Parole Retake, or other Warrant), in addition to an Arrest Report, the officer shall obtain:

- 2 red and white FBI Fingerprint Cards;
- 1 green and white MSP Fingerprint Card;
- 1 black and white CCSO Palm Print Card;
- CCSO Placard Mug Shots per established procedures;
- Color Photograph(s) as appropriate (all initially charged felonies, CDS cases, or whenever the photo may aid in an investigation).

AND

If serving four (4) or more charging documents on the same defendant, add:

- 1 green and white MSP Palm Print Card.

Traffic Charges - When processing an adult in connection with any initial, or subsequent F.T.A., V.O.P., or Contempt, etc., **Traffic Related Arrest**, in addition to an Arrest Report, the officer shall obtain:

- 1 red and white FBI Fingerprint Card;
- 1 black and white CCSO Palm Print Card;
- CCSO Placard Mug Shots per established procedures.

The records section of the Detention Center will disseminate the arrest cards to the appropriate parties if manual fingerprints become necessary.

4-614 CRIMINAL SUMMONS SERVICE

(Last reviewed: 5/27/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. CRIMINAL SUMMONS PROCEDURE
- C. SERVING CRIMINAL SUMMONSES

A. PURPOSE



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This policy outlines procedures for serving criminal summonses. When serving a defendant with a District Court Criminal Summons on Charging Document, or a Circuit Court Summons with Criminal Information / Indictment, the officer shall complete an Arrest Report.

B. CRIMINAL SUMMONS PROCEDURE

Criminal summonses issued by the Commissioner for Charles County Sheriff's Office cases or cases investigated by the Town of La Plata Police Department will be handled as follows:

1. Monday through Friday, new criminal summonses will be picked up from the Commissioner by the Warrant / Fugitive Unit and processed by Judicial Services.
2. The criminal summonses will be distributed to the proper unit (DVU or Warrant / Fugitive) for entry into the local database. The criminal summonses will then be placed into the appropriate bag in each unit for service. The bag assignment will be determined based on the last known address or address on the criminal summons for the defendant.
3. All attempts should be noted on the Form #151 Warrant Information Sheet and Checklist inside of the folder. Phone calls and the outcome of the call count as attempts and need to be recorded on the sheet.
4. If the summons is served outside the normal business hours of Judicial Services, the police station technician will clear the summons as served in the Agency computer system and return the folder to the Judicial Refile Tray.

C. SERVING CRIMINAL SUMMONSES

Serving a criminal summons will require the defendant to sign four (4) places. The defendant will get the last copy of the summons, the officer must sign and fill out the top two (2) copies, and an arrest report must be completed.

When serving a criminal summons, complete the following steps:

1. The summons will be in a folder that contains the following:
 - a) an arrest report;
 - b) three (3) copies of the criminal summons;
 - c) local history sheets;
 - d) an MVA print out; and
 - e) NCIC Wanted print out.
2. The first step is to complete the Arrest Report in the agency's reporting system with current information (same as an on-scene arrest).
3. Complete a wanted check of the defendant.
4. Remove the last copy of the summons (stamped "defendant copy") - this copy does not need to be signed by the defendant or the officer.
5. Explain to the defendant the summons is a paper charging them with a crime. In lieu of being physically arrested, the defendant shall sign the charging paper, indicating they promise to show up in court. Show them the spot near the bottom that says they are not admitting guilt by signing the paper, simply promising to come to court.



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6. Inform the defendant of their preliminary inquiry date, which is listed on summons.
7. Then show and explain the pages after the front page. There will be a page that tells the charge and penalty, a page with the public defender's information, a page advising their rights to an attorney, and finally a copy of the Application for Charges.
8. Next, the defendant shall sign the summons. There are four (4) places they shall sign.
 - a) On the first copy of the summons marked "court copy" they shall sign the bottom where it says "signature of Defendant."
 - b) Also on the first copy, they shall sign the bottom of the "advice of rights" page and the bottom page with the public defender information, which will be the third and fourth pages.
 - c) The fourth spot is on the front page of the second copy marked "law enforcement copy," they shall sign the front page of this copy in the "signature of Defendant" spot.
9. After the defendant leaves, the officer shall fill out the service part on the front pages of both copies.
10. The only variation from these instructions will be if the defendant refuses to sign the summons. If this occurs, check the third block down, "defendant refused to accept / sign," and request a warrant.
 - a) This block would also be used if the officer spoke with the defendant and they advised they are not going to meet the officer or come to pick it up. If this happens, the officer shall check the block and sign the bottom of all three copies.
 - b) The officer who received the refusal to sign or cooperate from the defendant shall immediately return the criminal summons to the District Court Commissioner's Office.
 - c) The officer shall also update the status of the warrant in the report management system as returned.
 - d) Notes shall be entered into CAD in the warrant file indicating the refusal by the defendant.
11. Once criminal charges have been filed, the defendant has a right to counsel under the sixth amendment to the United States Constitution. If the officer serving a summons wishes to interview the defendant about the charges, the officer must first advise the defendant of his rights by reading from the Advice of Rights card supplied by the State's Attorney's Office. The defendant does not have the right to prompt presentment to a District Court Commissioner. The officer may then interview the defendant regarding the Charges only if the defendant affirmatively waives his right to counsel.

4-615 COURT ORDERED FINGERPRINTING

The courts may direct a convicted defendant, who had not been previously fingerprinted for a charge, to appear to be fingerprinted. Therefore, the following procedures will be necessary:

- The individual shall be identified by providing proper identification. If necessary, CCSO Arrest Records may be used for this purpose.
- The individual shall be fully processed in accordance with the established adult criminal arrest procedures.
- The court order shall be signed (or have a return of service / compliance made on it).
- If the person appears without the Court Order (but does have a Temporary Authorization Form, or other paperwork from Parole and Probation that orders the fingerprinting), proceed as if the Order was received.
- All documents shall be submitted to the Central Processing Section.



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4-616 INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS

Interviews are conversations between a police officer and any person(s) possessing relevant information concerning a crime. Witness or victim interviews do not require an advice of rights. Once an interview passes from information gathering to an accusatory state, it may be considered an interrogation.

While interviews and interrogations of adults and juveniles are generally handled the same, certain factors should be taken into consideration when dealing with juveniles. These factors are described within section 4-625 of this manual.

4-616.1 INTERROGATION OF SUSPECT AND/OR PRISONER

It is necessary to give the Miranda Warning only when there is custody and interrogation. No statements shall be obtained as a result of any promises, threats or inducements.

A person who is in custody must be advised of his constitutional rights prior to any interrogation. Until such rights are given, no evidence obtained as a result of a custodial interrogation can be used against the person. If requested, a suspect must be allowed access to legal counsel.

When a person in custody waives his / her rights, it is also necessary that such waiver constitute a knowing, intelligent and voluntary waiver.

In many cases, it is not necessary for an officer to advise a suspect of his Miranda rights immediately on the scene of the suspect's apprehension. Therefore, when a suspect is taken into custody and is to be turned over to a detective for follow-up investigation, the apprehending officer will not advise the suspect of his Miranda rights, unless the circumstances of the case necessitate immediate interrogation of the suspect.

The officer who turns a suspect over to a detective will, in all cases, advise whether or not the suspect has been given his Miranda advisement of rights. If the Miranda warning has not already been made, it will become the detective's responsibility to ensure the suspect is advised of his Miranda rights.

4-616.2 FIELD INTERVIEWS

The field interview is an important point of contact for officers in preventing and investigating criminal activity. Officers will conduct field interviews in conformance with procedures set forth in this policy.

Officers may stop individuals for the purpose of conducting field interviews only where reasonable / articulable suspicion is present. Reasonable / articulable suspicion does not need to meet the same test for probable cause sufficient to make an arrest. Officers must be able to articulate the reasons for the stop and be able to point to specific facts that, when taken together reasonably, led the officer to believe or suspect that a crime has been committed or is about to be committed. Such facts may include, but are not limited to the following examples. However, many of these examples alone may not reach the level of reasonable / articulable suspicion:

- the actions, appearance or demeanor of an individual suggests involvement in a criminal enterprise or in criminal activity;
- the hour of the day or night is inappropriate for the subject's presence in the area;
- the subject is carrying a suspicious object or has bulges in his clothing that suggests he is carrying a weapon;
- the subject is located in proximity to a recent crime;



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- the officer knows of the subject's prior criminal record or involvement in criminal activity;
- the officer notes other circumstances or behavior which arouse his suspicion.

Officers must consider the facts that may rise to the level of reasonable / articulable suspicion. It is the combination of facts and circumstances along with the reasonable inferences drawn from those circumstances that give rise to articulable suspicion.

Officers should understand that an individual's mere presence in a public place in itself is not sufficient reasonable / articulable suspicion to conduct any investigative stop.

Nothing in this policy should be construed as preventing an officer from engaging in a consensual citizen contact.

When approaching a suspicious person, officers will identify themselves and, if not in uniform, will display identification.

Officers will attempt to be courteous at all times during the contact but maintain caution and alertness for any movements to retrieve weapons, conceal or discard contraband, or other suspicious actions.

Before approaching more than one suspicious person, individual officers should determine whether the circumstances warrant a request for backup assistance and whether the contact can be delayed until such assistance arrives.

Officers will confine questions to those concerning the suspect's identity, place of residence, reason for presence at the location and other inquiries necessary to resolve the officer's suspicions.

Field interviews are non-custodial. Officers are not required to give Miranda warnings in order to conduct field interviews.

Individuals are not required, nor can they be compelled, to answer any questions posed during field interviews. Failure to respond to an officer's inquiries is not, in and of itself, sufficient grounds to make an arrest although it may provide sufficient justification for additional observation and investigation.

Officers have the right to frisk the outer garments of suspects for weapons if the suspect is legitimately stopped and there is reasonable / articulable suspicion the subject may be armed and presents a danger to the officer.

In the event a field interview results in the establishment of probable cause for an arrest, all of the facts related to the initiation of the field interview and any search will be clearly articulated within the resulting Offense / Incident Report filed by the arresting officer.

When no arrest is made, the field interview will be documented on the Warning / FIR / Security Notice Form #389. This form is an investigative tool for developing suspects for various crimes. All blocks and the summary area of the form must be as complete as possible. A case number will be obtained and recorded on the form.

Officers will retain copy #4 and forward the other copies to Records Management. The suspect is not provided a copy of a FIR.

4-617 PRESENTMENT BEFORE A JUDICIAL OFFICER

Maryland law requires that an arrestee be presented before a judicial officer without unnecessary delay and in no event later than 24 hours after arrest. The presentment must be before a judicial officer of the District Court unless a warrant specifies presentment to a judicial officer of the Circuit Court. The arrestee must be promptly



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provided with a copy of the charging documents and, if applicable, the arrest warrant.

“Unnecessary delay” does not include delays relating to the booking process. “Unnecessary delay” includes delay solely for the purpose of obtaining an incriminating statement.

An arrestee may waive the right to prompt presentment. In order to ensure the waiver is voluntary, the arrestee must be advised of his rights by reading both sides of the *Miranda* card provided by the State’s Attorney’s Office.

4-618 PRISONER ESCAPES

Following the escape of any prisoner from police custody, the custody officer shall immediately broadcast a comprehensive lookout and take the following actions:

- give an exact location of the escape and last known direction of travel;
- give a full physical, clothing description and name of the prisoner;
- provide officer safety information (is the prisoner armed?);
- give the nature of the instant criminal charge;
- request a supervisor to respond; and
- if warranted, request a K-9 Function and air support to assist in the search.

The custody officer will assist in the search effort. Regardless of whether the escapee is located, the custody officer shall complete an Offense / Incident Report containing the details of the escape, and a Commanders’ Information Report. If the escapee is not immediately located, the custody officer shall also be responsible for applying for the charges for escape against the prisoner.

Upon notification of an escape, Communications supervisors will notify OPR, who will decide if response to the scene is warranted. If response is determined to be warranted, Communications supervisors will notify on-scene supervision / command that OPR will be responding. OPR will review each report of escape to determine the need for remedial training, change of policy, or disciplinary action necessary.

A supervisor shall determine the scope of any search based on the danger to the community, nature of the charge(s) and likelihood that the prisoner may be located later. When circumstances require an immediate and extensive search, the supervisor will:

- request additional manpower to establish perimeters of the search area;
- until relieved by a superior, command the scene and act as the contact person for K-9 Function, air support, and officers from outside agencies assisting with the search;
- direct a notification to be made to the appropriate district / shift commander and the division commander of the custody officer;
- delegate the responsibilities of the custody officer to another officer, if the original custody officer is unable to fulfill them (incapacitated);

The supervisor will brief the appropriate district / shift commander with all available information in an effort to determine the need for additional action to be taken. These actions may include:

- deploying additional manpower to the search area;
- conducting neighborhood canvasses;
- directing teletype / lookout be sent to appropriate jurisdictions;
- coordinating search efforts with neighboring jurisdictions, if warranted;



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- contacting the MRO to coordinate assistance from and notification to the media.

The supervisor of the custody officer shall initiate an administrative investigation into the escape in order to determine if any Agency policies were violated and if any changes in policies or procedures are needed to prevent a reoccurrence.

If an escape occurs outside of Charles County, the custody officer will immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the escape occurred. Charles County Communications shall also be notified, and if the incident occurred within a reasonable distance of the County, a supervisor will be dispatched to respond.

All possible cooperation will be provided to the local jurisdiction. All notifications, reports and investigations required for an in-County escape will be completed.

4-619 NOTICE OF SECURITY RISK

An officer who observes unusual behavior or overhears threatening comments of a prisoner in his custody which leads the officer to believe the prisoner may be a risk to himself or others will complete a "Notice Of Security Risk."

4-619.1 DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this notice will be given to any police officer, correctional officer, court security officer, intelligence investigator, or intake official as a means of documenting they were made aware of the prisoner's unusual behavior. The notice does not place any specific requirements on the accepting official.

4-619.2 NOTICE FORM

Officers will use CCSO Warning / FIR / Security Notice Form #389 to record the following information:

1. "Security Notice" will be checked on the form;
2. Identifying information: name, date of birth of prisoner;
3. a short summary of the unusual behavior or threats / comments and name of person receiving custody;
4. the primary charge or reason why prisoner is in custody;
5. signature of the official receiving a copy of the notice along with the date and time provided;
6. signature and ID number of the officer completing the notice;
7. event / case number (prior to submission to Records); and

The official accepting custody of the prisoner will be given copy two (2) of the completed notice. The completing officer will retain copy four (4) and the remaining copies will be forwarded to Records Management. A copy of the completed Form #389 will be forwarded to the Southern Maryland Information Center for review.

4-619.3 SUMMARY

While the content of the summary portion of the notice does not need to be greatly detailed, it will include a description of the observed unusual behavior or threatening comments.

Example: An officer makes a traffic stop and discovers the driver of the vehicle has an active warrant with another agency. Arrangements are made to turn the prisoner over at the County line. While conducting a search, several handcuff keys are found hidden in the prisoner's clothing. The prisoner makes comments concerning his hate for police and his desire to do harm to any officer if given the chance. In this example, the prisoner could be considered an escape risk and a threat to officer safety. A "Notice of Security Risk" would be completed prior to turning the prisoner over to the officer from the other agency. The summary portion could simply state, "Made verbal threats toward police officers, and handcuff keys were found hidden in his clothing."

While the example describes a prisoner exchange with another agency, the notice will be completed and provided



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to members of this Agency when appropriate. This includes intake personnel at the Detention Center and court security personnel. It may also include Juvenile Justice officials or members of the State's Attorney's office.

4-619.4 EVENT NUMBER AND RECORDS

The event / case number will be written on the completed notice prior to forwarding the copies to Records. The completion of this notice does not require a secondary event listing. The event number generated for the transport or incident is sufficient. Once received by Records Management, the completed notice will be processed in the same manner as FIRs. Officers may use the FIR block on Monthly Performance Reports to record the number of "Notice of Security Risk" reports completed.

4-620 JUVENILE PROCEDURES

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. PROCEDURES
- D. REPORTABLE OFFENSES
- E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- F. RELEASE OF JUVENILES

A. PURPOSE

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is committed to the development and perpetuation of programs designed to prevent and control offenses committed by juveniles. All members of the Agency must take responsibility for, and share in, this goal.

Officers handling incidents involving juvenile offenders should give consideration to using the least coercive method available, among all reasonable alternatives, for dealing with each case, to include:

1. warning and outright release with no further action;
2. release to a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult, with no further action;
3. warnings and parental notification;
4. use of written citations;
5. completion of a Child in Need of Supervision Report (Form #157); and/or
6. completion of a Juvenile Offense Report (JOR) Form #28 and referral to the Department of Juvenile Services.

When making decisions regarding the handling of juvenile matters, officers should take into consideration the nature of the offense, the age and circumstances of the offender, and the offender's prior record.

Agency referral of juvenile offenders for formal legal proceedings should be restricted to those cases involving serious criminal conduct or repeated criminal violations. In general, delinquent acts requiring referral to the juvenile justice system would include:

1. all delinquent acts constituting felonies;
2. all acts involving weapons;
3. all serious gang-related acts;
4. all acts involving aggravated assault and battery;
5. all acts committed by juveniles on probation or those with a case pending before the courts; and
6. all repeated delinquent acts (within the preceding 12 months).



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B. DEFINITIONS

ACCUSED JUVENILE (ACCU) - A juvenile accused of an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

ADJUDICATED JUVENILE (ADJU) - A juvenile who has been before either the Juvenile or Adult Court and a determination has been made.

DELINQUENT OFFENDER (DEL) - A juvenile who has been charged with an offense which would be a crime of committed by an adult, but who is subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

DETAINED - Formally held pending release to DJS, DSS, parent, relative, guardian, or other. Can be in an informal, non-secure room.

JUVENILE - Any person under the age of 18 (whether under Juvenile or Adult Criminal Court jurisdiction).

NON-OFFENDER - A juvenile who is not charged with any offense, usually a juvenile in need of supervision or assistance.

SECURELY DETAINED - Detention of an individual in locked cell / room or handcuffed to a stationary object.

STATUS OFFENDER (CINS) - A juvenile who has been accused or adjudicated for an offense for which adults cannot be charged. Status offenses include:

1. Runaway
2. Truancy
3. Incurable
4. Underage drinking
5. Curfew violations (if applicable, only to juveniles)

STUDENT - an individual enrolled in a public school system or non-public school in the state who is 5 years of age or older and under 22 years of age.

C. PROCEDURES

TAKING JUVENILES INTO CUSTODY

A juvenile may be taken into custody by any of the following methods:

1. Pursuant to an order of the court;
2. By a law enforcement officer pursuant to the law of arrest (for example, Criminal Procedure, § 2-203);
3. By a law enforcement officer or other person authorized by the court if there are reasonable grounds to believe the juvenile is in immediate danger from the juvenile's surroundings and that this removal is necessary for the juvenile's protection;
4. By a law enforcement officer or other person authorized by the court if there are reasonable grounds to believe the juvenile has run away from the juvenile's parents, guardian or legal custodian.

CUSTODY PROCEDURES

When a law enforcement officer takes a juvenile into custody, the officer shall immediately notify, or cause to be notified, the juvenile's parents, guardian or custodian. Notification shall be made in a manner reasonably calculated



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to give actual notice. The notification will include:

1. The juvenile's location;
2. The reason for the juvenile being taken into custody;
3. Instructions on how the parent, guardian, or custodian can make immediate in-person contact with the juvenile; and
4. Notification that the juvenile may be questioned.

All attempts to notify the parent must be documented on Form #40.

JUVENILE ARREST AND DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES (DJS) CONTACT PROCEDURES

1. When a juvenile can legally be charged with a crime and a physical arrest is made for one of the qualifying offenses (refer to the Guidelines for Contacting the Department of Juvenile Services for Detention policy), or when a guardian cannot or will not take custody of the juvenile, the officer shall do the following:
 - a) Transport the juvenile to a district station to be processed (fingerprinted and photographed).
 - b) Contact the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).
 - Provide DJS with a copy of the Juvenile Offense Report (JOR) Form #28 and Juvenile Offense Report Statement of Probable Cause Form #28B, and provide additional information to the intake officer as necessary. DJS will determine if the juvenile will be detained or released to a parent or guardian. **Form #28B is only provided to DJS and shall not be distributed during the JOR service.**
 - c) Document the disposition determined by DJS on the Juvenile Offense Report (JOR).
 - d) Forward the JOR Form #28 and Form #28B to the Records Management Section for processing.
 - e) E-mail the Teen Court Coordinator at teencourt@ccso.us that a detention request was made and the outcome of the request. The e-mail shall also include the juvenile's name and IR number.
2. In all cases when the investigation has concluded, officers shall make an attempt to serve the JOR prior to the end of their shift.
 - a) If service is unsuccessful, write "Unable to serve" on the signature line.
 - b) Forward the JOR to the Records Management Section for processing.
3. If a parent or guardian assumes custody of the juvenile but refuses to sign the JOR, the officer will do the following:
 - a) Write "Refused" on the signature line.
 - b) Forward the JOR to the Records Management Section for processing.

When a juvenile is taken into custody for any reason, officers will attempt to determine through observation and interview if the juvenile is alleged to have been a victim of abuse or neglect or may be in danger of harming him or herself. If it is determined the juvenile poses a possible danger to others or to him or herself, a Warning / FIR / Security Risk Form #389 will be completed, unless the person accepting custody is a parent or guardian, in which case they will be verbally notified and the notification will be documented in the incident report or JOR.

As soon as an officer deems it may be necessary to detain a juvenile offender pending a hearing, or to place a status or non-offender in a Department of Juvenile Services sponsored facility or foster home, the local Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Intake Officer must be contacted for authorization.

During processing, or while awaiting release or approval to transport to a juvenile facility, juveniles may, depending on the circumstances, be held unsecured under direct supervision, placed in a temporary detention area or secured to a cuffing rail or similar approved stationary object. Unless sight and sound separation can be strictly maintained while a juvenile is being held or processed in a facility, no adult offender may be brought into that same facility.



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Delinquent juvenile offenders shall not be held in a secure area for more than a total of six hours and for no more than 2 hours without continuous control or supervision by Agency personnel. The six-hour period begins when the juvenile is actually placed into a secure area or handcuffed to a stationary device. If unable to transport or release a juvenile offender within the six hours, the juvenile may be handcuffed, placed in a non-secure area and directly supervised by an officer until transported or released. Any violations of the six-hour rule must be thoroughly documented as to the reason and include the names of parents, guardians, relatives, the DJS Intake Officer and DJS supervisors contacted.

Juvenile status offenders or non-offenders (runaways, truants, abused / neglected children) shall not be held for any length of time in secure detention. These juveniles may only be held in unlocked multipurpose areas, such as a lobby, office or interrogation room that is not designated, set aside or used as a secure detention area. Handcuffing techniques that do not involve cuffing rails or other stationary objects are considered non-secure.

In every case where a delinquent offender is placed in temporary detention or handcuffed to a stationary object, the officer handling the case, in addition to following the procedures for using temporary detention areas, shall complete a Temporary Detention / Secure Custody Log Form #40 and submit it with the Juvenile Offense Report and/or other required reports.

Juveniles, unless waived to adult jurisdiction or arrested as part of the same incident, cannot be detained or transported with adults.

Cases involving juvenile fugitives from outside the State of Maryland shall follow the Special Circumstances section of the Arrests policy.

Unless in need of emergency medical treatment, when detention is authorized by a Department of Juvenile Services Intake Officer or the court, the juvenile shall be transported without delay.

D. REPORTABLE OFFENSES

In accordance with the Education Article (ED § 7-303 (b)) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, if a student is enrolled in any public or private school and is arrested for a reportable offense, the Superintendent of Schools, school principal, and school security officer must be notified of the arrest and charges. When possible, arrests will be made away from school property. Arrests on school premises shall be effected in a manner to avoid embarrassment and jeopardy to students. If an arrest at school is necessary, a supervisor will notify the SRO Supervisor, and coordinate with the assigned SRO.

Reportable offenses are:

1. A crime of violence under Crim. Law §14-101,
2. An adult jurisdiction criminal offense (regardless of age of the juvenile),
3. Carrying concealed dangerous weapon or carrying a dangerous weapon openly with the intent to injure,
4. Deadly weapon on school grounds,
5. Felony drug offense,
6. Possession or purchase of a non-controlled substance,
7. Manufacture or possession of a destructive device,
8. False statement regarding destructive device or toxic material,
9. First or second degree arson,
10. Intimidating someone into joining, or not leaving, a criminal organization,
11. Malicious burning of personal property,
12. Second degree assault,
13. Malicious destruction of property,
14. Obstruction of justice or witness tampering,
15. Motor vehicle theft,



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16. First degree burglary,
17. Home invasion,
18. Aggravated cruelty to animals.

E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ARRESTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

When an officer arrests any student enrolled in a public or private elementary, middle or high school in Maryland, the officer shall make notification to the School Resources Section by the end of his shift and record the notification in the Incident Report and on the JOR or Arrest Report. The notification will be made by completing the JOR School Notification Report on the CCSO Intranet page. The notification will automatically be routed to the School Resources Unit Supervisors, the Commander, School Resources Section and Charles County Public Schools.

SUPERVISORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The arresting officer's supervisor shall ensure when a student has been arrested, the JOR School Notification Report has been completed and the notification has been noted in the Incident Report and on the JOR or Arrest Report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL RESOURCES UNITS

Upon the completion of an arrest report for a juvenile's arrest, an automatic notification will be made to the Commander, School Resources Section. The Commander, School Resources Section will review each arrest for reportable offenses and ensure the affected educational institution and officials have been notified.

F. RELEASE OF JUVENILES

When an arresting officer is making a request to place a juvenile in detention for a criminal arrest, the officer shall follow the intake request procedures posted on the Agency Intranet under Division Links>Patrol>Juvenile Detention Procedures. These procedures will link the arresting officer with the intake system of the Department of Juvenile Services.

After giving the required notice or making every reasonable effort to give notice, the officer shall with all reasonable speed:

1. Release the juvenile to the parent(s), guardian, or custodian upon their written promise to bring the juvenile before the court when requested to do so. A signature is required for recognizance at the bottom portion of the Juvenile Offense Report (JOR) Form #28 as well as at the bottom of the JOR Continuation Form #28A (if used). After signing, the parent, guardian, or custodian will be provided with the pink copy of the JOR; or
2. Deliver the juvenile to the court or place of detention or shelter care if so directed by the court on a Writ of Attachment, or if so directed by an Intake Officer.

In the event a parent, guardian, or custodian cannot be contacted, or refuses to sign for and/or accept custody of the juvenile, the officer shall contact a Department of Juvenile Services Intake Officer for direction.

Prior to release, the officer shall contact an Intake Officer of The Department of Juvenile Services-(regarding possible detention authorization) if the officer becomes aware the juvenile is already on probation, or it appears likely that the juvenile will leave the jurisdiction of the court, or if the juvenile stands charged with:



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1. A crime of violence; or
2. A violation of the handgun laws; or
3. A serious weapons violation; or
4. Any crime that, upon reviewing the totality of the circumstances, indicates to the officer that, if the juvenile were to be released, he may pose a danger to himself or to another.

A juvenile alleged to have committed a delinquent act may not be placed in detention by the Department of Juvenile Services if the most serious offense would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult unless:

1. The act involved a handgun and would be a violation under the Criminal Law or Public Safety Article; or
2. The juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent at least twice in the preceding 12 months.

4-621 JUVENILE PROCEDURES – NO PHYSICAL ARREST

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

- A. PURPOSE
- B. JUVENILE OFFENSE REPORT
- C. CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (CINS)
- D. IDENTITY OF JUVENILE

A. PURPOSE

This policy governs procedures for handling juveniles who are:

1. Suspected of committing a crime but a physical arrest cannot be made due to the juvenile's age, because the juvenile has fled the jurisdiction, or it is unnecessary or legally impossible to make a physical arrest; or
2. Not suspected of committing a crime but may be in need of services due to certain circumstances as defined by Maryland law.

B. JUVENILE OFFENSE REPORT

When a juvenile can legally be charged with a crime, but no physical arrest can be made, officers shall:

1. Conduct a complete and thorough investigation to aid the State's Attorney in any possible future prosecution of the case.
2. Document the investigation in an Incident Report and complete a Juvenile Offense Report Form #28.
3. Make every reasonable effort to notify the parent(s), guardians, or custodian of the allegations and have them sign the recognizance (bottom) portion of the Juvenile Offense Report, prior to it being submitted to the Records Management Section. In most cases, if properly explained that the signature is merely a recognizance promise to produce the juvenile if requested to do so, the signature will be obtained, in lieu of the officer having to request a Writ of Attachment, which may result in the subsequent physical custodial arrest of the juvenile.
4. Upon obtaining the requested signature, submit the Juvenile Offense Report and the Incident Report or a Supplemental Report as appropriate.
5. In cases where a reasonable effort has been made, but a signature was not obtained, the officer will submit the Juvenile Offense Report notating "See Report" in the signature block. The steps taken to obtain the signature shall be documented in the Offense Report.



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6. Mark the case CLOSED WITH ARREST, listing the juvenile as ACCUSED in the report.
7. Complete an Arrest Report in Police Mobile.

Records Management will forward Incident Reports and Juvenile Offense Reports to the Department of Juvenile Services and the State's Attorney's Office after review by the Teen Court Coordinator for diversion eligibility. The officer submitting the report(s) need not call the Department of Juvenile Services regarding disposition on any action taken by them (since the case is closed by arrest).

C. CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (CINS)

Under Maryland law, a Child in Need of Supervision is defined as a young person who requires guidance, treatment or rehabilitation based on certain behavior or circumstances.

Officers should complete a Child in Need of Supervision (CINS) Form #157 when encountering the following situations:

1. any juvenile under the age of 18 who cannot be charged for an offense due to Maryland law;
2. a juvenile who commits an offense that only applies to children;
3. a juvenile who is habitually truant and ungovernable; or
4. a juvenile who is a danger to themselves or others.
5. a juvenile who is habitually disobedient, ungovernable, and beyond the control of the person having custody of him.
6. a juvenile under 13 involved in a motor vehicle theft.

NOTE: A Child in Need of Supervision Form will typically not be necessary when the juvenile is charged via a Juvenile Offense Report as this will serve as notification. However, if behavior not directly associated with Juvenile Offense Report warrants a CINS, one may be completed.

The following procedures will be followed when completing a CINS Form:

1. An IR number will be issued for all CINS forms.
2. Mark the Incident CLOSED EXCEPTIONAL and list the juvenile as a SUSPECT.
3. The officer will ensure the CINS form is filled out completely. If the officer is unable to provide all information, it must be noted on the form as "unavailable" and not left blank. This will ensure those who process the form understand that the officer was not provided that information.
4. All CINS forms must be reviewed and approved by the supervisor on duty.
5. Once a CINS form has been completed and approved, the officer will submit the CINS form and incident report to Records, in accordance with regular Agency procedures.
6. Records will forward incident reports and associated CINS forms to the Department of Juvenile Services and will forward a copy to the Youth Engagement Unit (youthengagement@ccso.us) and the Teen Court Coordinator (teencourt@ccso.us).
7. The Youth Engagement Unit will keep a log of all CINS forms completed.



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D. IDENTITY OF JUVENILE

In any case being investigated where the juvenile cannot properly establish identification, etc., to the officer's satisfaction, and the parent(s), guardian or custodian cannot be contacted to establish identity, the officer may deem the juvenile to be a possible runaway and may take him into physical custody under that presumption (see policy regarding juvenile procedures). Inaccurate information as to identity, address, etc., makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Department of Juvenile Services to proceed with an action against a juvenile.

4-622 GUIDE TO CONTACTING DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES FOR DETENTION (MATRIX)**Last reviewed: April 1, 2026**

If charged with one or more of the following crimes, contact the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to determine if they are willing to detain the juvenile.

AGE	CHARGE / VIOLATION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	OFFENSE REPORT
10-17	◆ Arson, First or Second Degree ◆ Assault, First Degree ◆ Burglary, First Degree ◆ Carjacking (Armed and Unarmed) ◆ Child Abuse, First Degree ◆ Crime of Violence (Crim Law 14-101) ◆ Felony Drug Possession ◆ Home Invasion ◆ Human Trafficking – Felony ◆ Illegal firearm possession under the Public Safety Article ◆ Kidnapping ◆ Manslaughter – Voluntary ◆ Manufacture or possession of a destructive device ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft ◆ Murder ◆ Rape ◆ Repeat Offender (arrested 3 or more times in a 12-month period) ◆ Robbery with or without a dangerous weapon ◆ Sex Offense, Third Degree ◆ Use of a firearm in commission of felony or crime of violence ◆ Wear, Carry, Transport a Firearm	J.O.R. only	Yes

4-622.1 GUIDE TO CHARGING THE JUVENILE OFFENDER (MATRIX)

AGE	CHARGE / VIOLATION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	OFFENSE REPORT



10 to 12 only	MOST COMMON CHARGES * Arson, First Degree * Home Invasion * Carjacking (Armed and Unarmed) * Child Abuse – First Degree * Human Trafficking – Felony * Kidnapping * Manslaughter – Voluntary * Murder * Rape * Robbery with or without a dangerous weapon * Use of a firearm in commission of felony or crime of violence, except PWID of any controlled dangerous substance (use of firearm during distribution of CDS is a chargeable offense for this age category) * An attempt to commit any of the crimes above * Assault-First Degree * Wear, Carry, Transport a Handgun (Crim. Law §4-203) * Illegal firearm possession under the Public Safety Article * Aggravated cruelty to animals (Crim. Law §10-606) * Third degree sex offense (Crim. Law §3-307) NOTE: A JOR must be issued for any of these offenses, and any other offenses arising out of the same incident. * [See Criminal Law Article 14-101 for the full list of crimes of violence]	J.O.R.	Yes
13 and older	All criminal offenses except for cases involving an adult charge listed below. NOTE: If juvenile is charged on a J.O.R., ALL charges go on the J.O.R. If charged as adult, ALL charges go on the statement of charges.	J.O.R.	Yes
14 and older	* 1st Degree: - Murder - Rape * Conspiracy or Attempt to Commit any of the above	(As Adult) Statement of Charges or Arrest Warrant	Yes
AGE	CHARGE / VIOLATION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	OFFENSE REPORT
16 and older	* Abduction * Kidnapping	(As Adult) Statement of Charges	Yes



	* 2nd Degree - Murder - Rape * Manslaughter (Voluntary) * Armed Robbery or Attempted Armed Robbery * 3rd Degree Sexual Offense (Criminal Law, § 3-307(a)(1) – aggravated sexual contact) * Criminal violations of the Public Safety Article §5-133, §5-134, §5-138, §5-203 * Any firearm violation (while drug trafficking or by convicted felon) specified in Criminal Law, § 5-621 or Criminal Law, § 5-622 (**does NOT include possession with intent to distribute cannabis**) * Carjacking / Armed Carjacking (Criminal Law, § 3-405) * 1st Degree Assault (Criminal Law, § 3-202) * Attempted 2nd Degree Murder * Attempted 2nd Degree Rape * Wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun (Criminal Law §4-203) * Use of a firearm in commission of a crime of violence or any felony (Criminal Law §4-204) * Use of a machine gun in a crime of violence or for aggressive purposes (Criminal Law §4-404, §4-405) * A juvenile who previously has been convicted as an adult of a felony and is subsequently alleged to have committed an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult	or Arrest Warrant	

* AND ALL OTHER CHARGES ARISING OUT OF ANY OF THE ABOVE INCIDENTS.

AGE	CHARGE / VIOLATION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	OFFENSE REPORT
16 or 17	* Any jailable violation of the Transportation Article (located in TR § 27-101)	J.O.R.	Yes

*** ALL OTHER CHARGES ARISING OUT OF ANY OF THE ABOVE INCIDENTS.**

16 or 17	All Non-jailable violation of the Transportation Article	Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation (Form #DR-49)	No
Under 16	All violations of the Transportation Article or State Boat Act	J.O.R. (If appropriate to charge)	Yes
Under 18	All Civil Cannabis Violations	Uniform Juvenile Civil Citation (Form #DC-31)*	Only when applicable**

* Only use Uniform Juvenile Civil Citation (Form #DC-31) 2021 revision, specify civil or personal use amount.

** Offense Report required only if property is seized

Under 18	All Civil Alcohol Violations Specified in Criminal Law, Title 10, Subtitle 1; or in the Education Article, § 26-103	Uniform Juvenile Civil Citation (Form #DC-31)	No

NOTE: FINGERPRINTS AND APPROPRIATE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE REQUIRED ONLY IF THE JUVENILE HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY ARRESTED AND TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

4-623 PROCESSING JUVENILES

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

All juveniles physically arrested for the purpose of filing a criminal prosecution, delinquency petition, or pursuant to a Writ of Attachment, shall be processed as outlined in this section.

Unless charged as an adult, juveniles shall not be processed at the Charles County Detention Center.

CHARGED AS ADULTS

Arrest Warrant, Statement of Charges, Bench Warrant, etc.

A juvenile charged as an adult will be processed using the same procedures as an adult at the Charles County Detention Center.

CHARGED AS JUVENILES



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JOR or Writ of Attachment

An officer utilizing a juvenile charging document will ensure the juvenile is fingerprinted via the identix fingerprint machine located at the District 1 or District 3 stations. A digital photograph will be obtained and uploaded to the JOR Photo Form located on the CCSO intranet. A Temporary Detention / Secure Custody Log Form #40 will be completed. A copy of the Temporary Detention / Secure Custody Log Form #40 will be attached to the incident report.

4-624 TEMPORARY DETENTION OF JUVENILES**Last reviewed: April 1, 2026**

- A. PURPOSE
- B. REPORTING
- C. INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION OF JUVENILE
- D. CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION OF JUVENILES
- E. POLICE ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the following policies is to establish procedures relative to the temporary detention of juveniles at Charles County Sheriff's Office facilities while being processed. At a minimum, this policy shall provide for the following:

1. determining whether the juvenile is alleged to have engaged in criminal (delinquent offender) or non-criminal (status or non-offender) behavior;
2. determining whether the juvenile is alleged to have been harmed or to be in danger of harm;
3. notifying parents or guardians that the juvenile has been taken into custody;
4. ensuring that the constitutional rights of juveniles are protected;
5. ensuring sight and sound separation is provided between juveniles and adults and between males and females placed in temporary holding areas;
6. ensuring that status and non-offender juveniles are not detained in secure detention areas and are detained and transported separately from delinquent offenders; and
7. ensuring juveniles are released or taken to an intake facility without undue delay.

B. REPORTING

It shall be the responsibility of Records Management to complete and submit the Maryland Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Semi-Annual Report to the appropriate agency.

C. INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION OF JUVENILES

Juveniles have the same rights regarding statements and confessions as adults. Generally, juvenile interviews / interrogations will be conducted in the same manner as adult interviews / interrogations. Juveniles have no explicit rights to have parents / guardians present during questioning. Prior to the conclusion of the interview / interrogation process, officers will explain the Agency's and Department of Juvenile Services procedures concerning the handling of juvenile charges to the juvenile being interrogated. Generally, officers should attempt to answer questions about procedures and the juvenile justice process. Procedures that may need to be explained include, but are not limited to:



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1. determining factors for detention versus release to a parent or guardian;
2. referral of juvenile offenders for formal legal proceedings for those cases involving serious or repeated criminal violations;
3. crimes of violence that are reportable to the Superintendent of Schools;
4. referral to Teen Court;
5. the handling of juvenile records;
6. possible disposition of charges by DJS and/or the courts;
7. reprimand, counseling or informal supervision;
8. community service;
9. victim restitution;
10. formal probation;
11. home detention and monitoring; and
12. placement in a secure residential program.

The officer conducting the interrogation must consider several factors with respect to a juvenile's ability provide a voluntary statement. These factors include:

1. the juvenile's age;
2. the juvenile's background, experience, and education;
3. the juvenile's apparent level of intelligence; and
4. the juvenile's mental and physical condition.

Ordinarily and absent a particular showing, a juvenile age ten or younger will be entitled to the counseling and guidance of a parent or guardian.

When considering the duration and number of officers to be involved in the interview / interrogation process, officer(s) shall take into consideration the juvenile's age, the nature of the alleged offense, and the juvenile's mental and physical condition. There will be a maximum of two officers present during the interview / interrogation of juvenile suspects. The duration of the interview / interrogation will be reasonable.

Interviewing officer(s) may confer with the juvenile's parents or guardians before, during or immediately after the interview / interrogation as considered appropriate under the guidelines of this policy.

D. CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION OF JUVENILES

Prior to conducting a custodial interrogation of any juvenile, regardless of offense, the interrogating officer shall:

1. Make an effort reasonably calculated to give actual notice to the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian that the juvenile will be interrogated;
2. Contact an attorney designated by the Office of the Public Defender or by the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian. The attorney is required to advise the juvenile of the juvenile's rights. The juvenile is not allowed to waive the consultation with the attorney. The consultation with the attorney must be confidential;
3. After the attorney consultation, but before questioning, the interrogating officer will advise the juvenile of the juvenile's Miranda rights. If applicable, the officer will also advise the juvenile of the right to prompt presentment to a District Court commissioner;
4. Document the attempts to notify the parent, guardian, or custodian and the name and county of the attorney;
5. Record the interrogation unless impossible, impractical, or unsafe to do so.
6. All notifications described in this subsection will be documented on a Custodial Interrogation Log (Form #771).

If a threat to public safety exists, an officer may pose questions to the juvenile that are reasonably necessary to obtain information necessary to protect against the threat to public safety.



E. POLICE ACTIVITIES ON PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

General patrol activities of school properties are the responsibility of the school resource officers. Police manpower called to a school should be limited to that number which may reasonably be expected to be required to deal with the situation. This determination as to the level of required force can best be made by the ranking police officer on the scene.

QUESTIONING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Investigative questioning of students on school premises shall be conducted only in cases involving:

1. A crime committed on the premises;
2. An investigation in which the safety of students or other persons would be unduly endangered if questioning was delayed.

A school official shall be present during such interviews. Students will NOT be removed from school premises merely for the purposes of conducting an investigative interview.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Police officers possessing a search warrant may search that part of the school premises described in the search warrant.

"Investigative Searches" of school premises by police officers shall be conducted only with an appropriate search warrant or whenever the search is essential to prevent imminent danger to the safety and welfare of a pupil, another person or school property.

Every effort shall be made to conduct searches in a manner which will prevent disruption of the normal school routine and minimize embarrassment to pupils.

Officers will not search the student unless the pupil is under arrest, or the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the pupil is concealing a weapon which poses a danger to the pupil, the officer, or other persons. Officers shall not direct a school official to conduct a physical search of a pupil.

Personal possessions of students (including student lockers) will be searched only:

1. After regular class hours;
2. During regular class hours with the student present;
3. With a search warrant;
4. To prevent imminent danger to pupils or others;
5. Whenever school officials have substantial proof that a serious offense has been or is being committed.

4-625 DISPOSITION OF CHARGES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

The Department of Juvenile Services makes dispositions in numerous cases by reprimand, warning, referred to counseling, informal supervision, etc.

Officers also have the right to appeal dispositions in cases other than those described above. The State's Attorney's Office will review and make the final decision on all appealed cases.

Officers shall follow the procedures listed below when receiving a disposition document from the Department of



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Juvenile Services:

1. If the officer wishes to appeal the disposition, sign on the appropriate line at the bottom of the form and forward the entire form to the Teen Court Coordinator;
2. If satisfied with the disposition and not appealing, date and initial the top portion of the disposition form and forward it to the Teen Court Coordinator;
3. The Teen Court Coordinator will review and log all disposition forms;
4. The Teen Court Unit will scan reviewed copies of the disposition forms into the Document Imaging System. If a disposition has been appealed by an officer, the Teen Court Unit will forward the request and all related documents to the State's Attorney's Office.

4-626 JUVENILE DRIVER PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

Noting that alarmingly high numbers of juveniles are injured or killed in motor vehicle collisions annually, recognizing much of this is attributable to inexperience or inappropriate driving behavior and understanding that early parental intervention is critical in correcting this behavior, the Charles County Sheriff's Office is determined to take a proactive approach to this situation.

Any time an officer stops a juvenile driver as a result of a traffic violation, equipment violation or investigates a motor vehicle collision where a juvenile driver is found to be at fault, the juvenile's parent(s) may be notified at the discretion of the officer. This notification will be in addition to the notification that the MVA provides. The Juvenile M/V Violation Notification Form #888 has been developed for this purpose.

For purposes of this policy, the term "juvenile" refers to any person under the age of 18.

4-626.1 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

If the officer deems it necessary to send a notification to the parents or legal guardian of the juvenile driver, the officer will obtain the name and current mailing address from the juvenile.

In the cases where the juvenile driver refuses to provide this information, no additional enforcement action will be taken as a result of this refusal. In these cases, the notification will be addressed to "The Parent or Guardian of (Driver's Name)" and mailed to the juvenile's current mailing address. This will be the responsibility of the officer.

If it is determined the juvenile driver's parent or guardian is present at the time of the violation or collision, no further notification will be necessary.

4-627 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM BAIL BONDSMEN AND BOUNTY HUNTERS - GENERALLY

From time to time, members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are called upon to assist bail bondsmen, also known as bail agents or bounty hunters. Requests may come in the form of assisting with the apprehension of wanted persons, or taking custody of persons already apprehended by the bondsmen. In either case, it is incumbent upon members of this Agency to conduct themselves within the confines of law and policy.

Bail bondsmen are endowed, by common law, with the authority to seize defendants at any time and in any place in order to discharge their liability for the bond amount. At any time prior to forfeiture of the bond, the bondsman may retake the defendant and return him to custody, which has the effect of releasing the bondsman from his financial responsibility. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Taylor v. Taintor*, 83 U.S. 366, (1872) has determined a bondsman's authority is like that of a sheriff, re-arresting an escaping prisoner; and Maryland courts have held the bondsman has greater authority than a private citizen to effect an arrest, *Shifflett v. State*, 80 Md App 151, (1989). In *Frasher v. State*, 8 Md App 439, (1970), Maryland courts have held that the bondsman may request official help



in taking the defendant into custody, or he may do so himself; further, that no further process (warrant) was necessary to authorize arrest by the bondsman.

4-627.1 PROVIDING ASSISTANCE - OFFICERS

The Sheriff's role in assisting a bail bondsman is limited to protecting life and the privacy interest of the involved parties. Therefore, before taking custody of a person apprehended by a bail bondsman, or assisting the bondsman with an apprehension, the officer shall verify the existence of an outstanding warrant for the person's arrest. If no warrant can be confirmed, custody should not be accepted, nor should any assistance be provided in making an apprehension.

Prior to assisting a bondsman with transport of a person being taken into custody without a warrant, the officer shall verify the existence of bail paperwork indicating the person is obligated to the bondsman. Under these circumstances, the bondsman is responsible for presenting the person to the District Court Commissioner for commitment in the County in which the case is scheduled to be heard.

In any case, prior to assisting a bondsman in any manner, the officer shall verify and record the identity and authority of the individual by being present with proper proof of identification, and a current bondsman's license or bounty hunter's letter of authorization.

Because of the bondsman's unique authority to seize persons they have bonded at any time in any place, including the authority to break and enter the bonded person's house, officers must never use bondsmen or bounty hunters as agents to extend their own police powers. Officers shall not participate in the breaking of doors to apprehend a wanted individual unless in fresh pursuit or commanded by a valid search and seizure warrant. In other words, officers are bestowed with no greater authority by virtue of their association with a bondsman or bounty hunter, and officers should not utilize the bondsman's unique authority to circumvent due process.

4-650 MARYLAND UNIFORM CIVIL CITATIONS

Last Reviewed: 8/1/2025

- A. PURPOSE & SCOPE
- B. REFUSAL TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION
- C. UNIFORM MUNICIPAL INFRACTION / CIVIL CITATION (#DC-28)
- D. POSSESSION OF CANNABIS – CIVIL OFFENSE
- E. UNIFORM JUVENILE CIVIL CITATION FOR ALCOHOL OFFENSES (FORM #DC-31)

A. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy provides guidance and governs procedures for effectively issuing civil citations, when appropriate, and in accordance with all applicable laws.

The Uniform Municipal Infraction / Civil Citation (Form #DC-28) will be used to charge a person, 18 years of age and over, for adult civil violations.

The Uniform Juvenile Civil Citation for Alcohol Offenses (Form #DC-31) will be used to charge a person for juvenile (under 18 years of age) alcohol violations.

1. Each citation shall reflect only one charge.
2. Failure to sign the citation does not subject a defendant to arrest.
3. Code violations are not criminal violations for which an arrest may be made.

B. REFUSAL TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION

Criminal Law, §10-120 provides that failure or refusal to provide proof of identification and age, upon request of an



officer issuing a citation, is a misdemeanor. This person may be arrested and processed, even if the violation is for alcohol.

Criminal Law §10-120 does not require that written proof or a government issued identification be provided. If verbal proof appears reasonable, a citation may be issued.

§10-120 only applies to certain alcohol violations:

1. Criminal Law §10-113: Misrepresentation of Age
2. Criminal Law §10-114: Underage Possession
3. Criminal Law §10-115: False Documentation
4. Criminal Law §10-116: Obtaining for Underage Consumption
5. Criminal Law §10-117: Furnishing/Allowing Underage Consumption
6. Criminal Law §10-118: Unregistered Keg
7. Education §26-103: Alcohol on Public School Grounds

C. UNIFORM MUNICIPAL INFRACTION / CIVIL CITATION (#DC-28)

The Form #DC-28 is used for adult civil violations, also known as code violations. The following violations may be charged on the Form #DC-28:

Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article

1. §6-321: Public Consumption of Alcohol
2. §6-322: Open Containers

Education Article, §26-103

1. Possession or drinking alcoholic beverage on school property;
2. Possession or drinking alcoholic beverage on school property causing a disturbance.

Crimes and Punishments

1. Criminal Law § 5-601.1: Citation for possession of civil use or personal use amount (if under 21) of cannabis.
2. Criminal Law, § 9-609: Accidentally or negligently activating an alarm system.
3. Criminal Law, § 9-611: Failure to properly equip audible alarm system.
4. Criminal Law, § 10-113: False representation of age to obtain alcoholic beverage from licensed dealer.
5. Criminal Law, § 10-114: Unlawful possession of alcoholic beverage by person under age 21.
6. Criminal Law, § 10-115: Possession of a card or document that falsely identifies age with intent to obtain, possess or use an alcoholic beverage.
7. Criminal Law, § 10-116: Obtaining alcoholic beverage for consumption by a person under age 21.
8. Criminal Law, § 10-117: Furnishing alcoholic beverage for consumption by a person under age 21.
9. Criminal Law, § 10-118: Possession of unregistered keg.



10. Criminal Law, § 10-107: Distribution of any tobacco product to a minor (including cigarette rolling papers), obtaining any tobacco product for a minor.

NOTE: The above list is not all inclusive.

Completion of the Form #DC-28 will be handled as follows:

1. Civil Code violations are not criminal. It is unlawful to arrest a person solely based upon a civil code violation.
2. Failure of the defendant to sign the citation does not subject him / her to arrest. "Refused to Sign" shall be written in the defendant's signature block and the citation issued.
3. In the "Civil / Code Violations" area, officers must complete the section which indicates the fine amount the courts may impose.
4. The back of the original copy (white) should be used for recording any witness information.
5. A statement of probable cause for the issuance of the citation must be written on the back of the green copy. The officer shall date and sign this statement.
6. The Form #DC-28 is handled by the District Court who will notify the defendant of a hearing date.

D. POSSESSION OF CANNABIS – CIVIL OFFENSE

Possession of a civil use amount of cannabis or personal use amount of cannabis (if under 21) will be charged on a civil citation (Form #DC-28 for adult and Form #DC-31 for juvenile).

Smoking cannabis in a public place is a civil offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$50.

1. Incidents involving the civil violation of possession of cannabis will be handled as follows:
 - a) Cannabis will be collected, photographed, and field tested.
 - b) An Incident Report number will be obtained.
 - c) The I.R. number will be placed on the Civil Citation.
 - d) The cannabis will be documented on a Recovered CDS Incident Report and submitted for destruction.
 - e) Searches will not be conducted incident to civil citation.
 - f) Cell phones and non-CDS evidence will not be seized in reference to civil violations of cannabis possession.
 - g) An individual is not mandated to produce identification for a civil citation. In situations where the defendant does not produce identification, take a digital photo. If the individual refuses to permit a photo to be taken, attempt to capture one thru a digital mobile video / audio recorder (DMVR).
 - h) If the individual is pulled over for a traffic stop, there are still provisions related to the traffic violation that require the individual to produce identification.
 - i) In situations where it is not mandatory to produce identification, nothing prohibits officers from simply asking for identification.



2. In simple possession / use situations where the officer has probable cause to believe the individual possesses more than two and half (2 ½) ounces:
 - a) The officer may detain the individual until the cannabis can be weighed.
 - b) If the officer subsequently determines that the amount is less than two and a half (2 ½) ounces, the officer may issue the civil citation as appropriate and release the individual.
 - c) Follow all procedures listed above for a civil infraction.
3. Where the cannabis is clearly two and a half (2 ½ ounces) or more, proceed with a criminal investigation.

Multiple Offenses - Criminal and Civil

In cases where there is a criminal violation as well as a civil violation for cannabis possession:

1. Charge the criminal violation but do not charge the civil citation for cannabis.
2. This applies to all criminal violations. For example, if there is a robbery suspect in possession of cannabis, charge the robbery but not the civil citation for cannabis.
3. The cannabis will be collected, for either destruction or as evidence in support of the criminal violation.

E. UNIFORM JUVENILE CIVIL CITATION FOR ALCOHOL OFFENSES (FORM #DC-31)

The Form #DC-31 is used for juvenile civil violations, also known as code violations. The following violations may be charged on Form #DC-31:

Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article

1. §6-321: Public Consumption of Alcohol
2. §6-322: Open Containers

Education Article, §26-103

1. Possession or drinking alcoholic beverage on school property.
2. Possession or drinking alcoholic beverage on school property causing a disturbance.

Crimes and Punishments, Criminal Law

1. Criminal Law, §10-113: False representation of age to acquire alcoholic beverage from licensed dealer.
2. Criminal Law, §10-114: Unlawful possession of alcoholic beverage by person under age 21.
3. Criminal Law, §10-115: Possession of a card or document that falsely identifies age with intent to obtain, possess or use an alcoholic beverage.
4. Criminal Law, §10-118: Possession of unregistered keg.

Completion of the Form #DC-31 will be handled as follows:

1. Juvenile civil violations are not criminal violations. It is unlawful to arrest a person solely based upon a civil code violation.



2. Failure of the defendant to sign the citation does not subject him / her to arrest. "Refused to Sign" shall be written in the defendant's signature block and the citation issued.
3. Officers shall record witness information and complete a statement of probable cause on the back of the original citation page. The officer shall sign and date this statement.
4. Officers shall attempt to contact the juvenile's parent to respond, to take custody of the juvenile, and to sign the citation. When contacting a parent by phone, officers shall verify the juvenile's address. If a juvenile's parent cannot respond to the scene to sign and receive the parent's copy of Form #DC-31, the issuing officer shall send the copy by mail.
5. Juvenile civil violations are handled by the Department of Juvenile Services who will notify the parents of the juvenile of a hearing date.

4-651 MARYLAND UNIFORM CRIMINAL CITATION

- A. PURPOSE & SCOPE
- B. CRITERIA FOR ISSUING CITATIONS
- C. OFFENSES REQUIRING CITATIONS
- D. OFFENSES FOR DISCRETIONARY CITATIONS
- E. EXCEPTIONS - OFFENSES THAT CANNOT BE CHARGED BY CITATION
- F. REQUIRED FORMS AND REPORTS
- G. ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES
- H. LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING - STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION

A. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy provides guidance and governs procedures for effectively issuing criminal citations, when appropriate, and in accordance with all applicable laws.

The Maryland Uniform Criminal Citation Form #DC/CR-45 is used for charging adults (18 years of age and older) with certain offenses as described in this policy. Only one charge is permitted per each #DC/CR-45.

1. A portion of the law mandates, with certain exceptions, that a law enforcement officer charge a defendant by a Uniform Criminal Citation for certain criminal offenses in lieu of a statement of charges.
2. The law also authorizes a law enforcement officer, who has grounds to make a warrantless arrest, to make a custodial arrest and process a defendant prior to release upon his or her signature on a criminal citation.
3. Subject to the exceptions described below, an officer who has grounds to make an arrest for an offense for which the maximum penalty of imprisonment is 90 days or less, shall generally make the arrest, search incident to arrest, issue a citation, and release the person.
4. When a Criminal Citation is issued and a physical arrest not made, it is not mandatory to obtain fingerprints; however, photographs will be taken in all cases, using the officer's issued camera. Photographs of individuals which are taken upon #DC/CR-45 issuance can be taken at the local district station or at a location with an unobstructed background.

An officer shall not detain any person based upon race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or genetic information. An officer shall not participate in the use of any unlawful discriminatory characteristic as a cause for taking any law enforcement action against any individual or group of individuals.

For information concerning other warrantless arrest criteria not involving the issuance of a citation, refer to the



Arrests policy.

B. CRITERIA FOR ISSUING CITATIONS

A defendant must meet certain criteria to be released without approval by a court commissioner. If the defendant cannot meet the criteria listed below, the officer must charge the individual on a statement of charges and ensure the defendant's appearance before a court commissioner. Additionally, when charging such offenses on a statement of charges instead of a criminal citation, it is mandatory that the officer's specific reasons for not releasing the defendant be written into the statement of charges.

A law enforcement officer may charge a defendant by citation only if:

1. the officer is satisfied with the defendant's evidence of identity;
2. the officer reasonably believes that the defendant will comply with the citation;
3. the officer reasonably believes that the failure to charge on a statement of charges will not pose a threat to public safety;
4. the defendant is not subject to arrest for an alleged misdemeanor involving serious injury or an alleged felony, arising out of the same incident or based on an outstanding arrest warrant; and
5. the defendant complies with all lawful orders by the officer and must sign the citation.

C. OFFENSES REQUIRING CITATIONS

Subject to the requirements of Criteria for Issuing Citations (previous), an officer shall issue a citation for:

1. Any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation that does not carry a penalty of imprisonment;
2. Any other misdemeanor or local ordinance violation not involving serious injury or immediate health risk for which the maximum penalty of imprisonment is 90 days or less;
3. Criminal possession of cannabis under §5-601 of the Criminal Law Article.

D. OFFENSES FOR DISCRETIONARY CITATIONS

Subject to the requirements of Criteria for Issuing Citations (previous), an officer may issue a citation for:

1. Sale of an alcoholic beverage to an underage drinker or intoxicated person under §6-304, §6-307, §6-308, or §6-309 of the Alcoholic Beverages.
2. Malicious destruction of property under §6-301 of the Criminal Law Article, if the amount of damage to the property is less than \$500. It is understood that this property value section conflicts with Maryland §6-301 which sets the value of property damage at less than \$1,000. In circumstances where the value of the property damage exceeds \$500, but is less than \$1,000, officers will submit an application for a statement of charges through the District Court Commissioner.
3. Misdemeanor theft under §7-104(g)(2) of the Criminal Law Article (theft under \$1500).
4. Possession of a controlled dangerous substance other than cannabis under §5-601 of the criminal law article.



5. Possession with intent to distribute cannabis under CR 5-602 (b) of the criminal law article.
6. Growing or manufacturing cannabis or a cannabis product under CR 5-603 (b). This only applies when growing over the legal amount of two plants per household.

E. EXCEPTIONS - OFFENSES THAT CANNOT BE CHARGED BY CITATION

1. Failure to comply with a peace order under §3–1508 of the Courts Article.
2. Failure to comply with a protective order under §4–509 of the Family Law Article.
3. A violation of a condition of pretrial or post-trial release under §5–213.1 of the Criminal Procedure Article.
4. Possession of an electronic control device after conviction of a drug felony or crime of violence under §4–109(b) of the Criminal Law Article.
5. Violation of an out-of-state domestic violence order under §4–508.1 of the Family Law Article.
6. Abuse or neglect of an animal under §10–604 of the Criminal Law Article.

F. REQUIRED FORMS AND REPORTS

1. Uniform Criminal Citation Form #DC/CR-45

The officer shall use the Uniform Criminal Citation Form #DC/CR-45 to charge a defendant by citation. The officer shall use either:

- a) the pre-printed / pre-numbered book provided by the District Court; or
- b) in the case of an electronic format, the assigned electronic citation number provided by the District Court.

2. Probable Cause

The officer shall document the probable cause outlining the facts and circumstances substantiating the charge in the incident report.

3. Incident Report General Guidelines

In addition to the Uniform Criminal Citation, the officer shall complete an Incident Report detailing the circumstances of the incident and the arrest report as required by Agency policy. The Records Management Section will forward a copy of the report to the State's Attorney's Office with a copy of the citation.

- a) copy of the Uniform Criminal Citation if applicable, shall be given to the defendant upon their release.
- b) copies of the Citation, Incident Report shall be submitted to a supervisor for review and approval.



CJS Code	Statute 1	Statute 2	Statute 3	Statute 4	Charge Description	Type of Charge	Penalty	Fine
1 1564	CR	5	601	(a)(1)	POSS: Cannabis > 2 ½ ounces	MISDEMEANOR	6 MONTHS	1000
2 0060	CR	10	201	(c)(4)	DISTURB THE PEACE	MISDEMEANOR	60 DAYS	500
1 0521	CR	7	104	(3)	THEFT LESS THAN \$100.00	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
1 1137	CR	7	104		THEFT: \$100 TO UNDER \$1,500	MISDEMEANOR	6 MONTHS	500
2 2210	CR	6	402		TRESPASS-POSTED PROPERTY	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
3 4025	CR	6	301		MAL DEST PROP/VALU - \$1,000	MISDEMEANOR	60 DAYS	500
1 1476	CP	5	212		FAIL APPEAR-CITATION	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
1 1661	AB	6	320	(a)(1)	ALC. BEV./INTOXICATED ENDANGER	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	100
1 0191	CR	3	803		HARASS; A COURSE OF CONDUCT	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
1 0640	CR	10	110	(c)	LITTER/DUMP UNDER 100 LBS	MISDEMEANOR	30 DAYS	1500
1 1662	AB	6	320	(a)(2)	INTOXICATED PUBLIC DISTURBANCE	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	100
1 0005	FL	5	801		CONFINE UNATTENDED CHILD	MISDEMEANOR	30 DAYS	500
1 1143	CR	8	103	(b)	BAD CHECK/STOP PAY/LESS THAN \$100	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
1 0581	CR	8	206	(a)(1)	CRDT CRD/ANTHR CHG L/T \$100	MISDEMEANOR	90 DAYS	500
1 0928	ED	7	301		SCHOOL:FAIL SEND CHILD	MISDEMEANOR	3 DAYS	50 per day
2 0055	CR	10	201	(c)(3)	FAIL OBEY RENBLE/LAWFL	MISDEMEANOR	60 DAYS	500

Common Charges – Not All Inclusive

G. ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES

When an officer conducts a search of an individual being given a criminal citation and develops probable cause for an arrestable offense, he must make a full custody arrest and charge all the offenses including the original one on a Statement of Charges. In these cases, standard arrest procedures and the use of associated documents will be followed.

H. LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING - STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION

Law enforcement agencies are required to collect the following data on all criminal citations issued:

1. The date, location, and time of the issuance of the citation;
2. The offense charged;
3. The gender of the offender;
4. The date of birth of the offender;
5. The state and, if available, the county of residence of the offender; and



6. The race or ethnicity of the offender as:

- a) Asian;
- b) Black;
- c) Hispanic;
- d) White; or
- e) Other.

ITD shall be responsible for the collection and submission of this data to the state. This data will be stored by MSP who will submit citation data for all law enforcement agencies in the state to the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC) by March 1 each subsequent year.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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4-660 PROCESSING AND TEMPORARY DETENTION AREAS

- A. PURPOSE
- B. INSPECTIONS
- C. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL
- D. WEAPONS CONTROL
- E. OBSERVATION AND CONTROL OF DETAINED PERSONS
- F. SEARCH OF PERSONS TO BE PLACED IN TEMPORARY DETENTION AREAS
- G. REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN TEMPORARY DETENTION AREA
- H. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

A. PURPOSE

Officers often need to temporarily detain persons as part of the arrest and booking process or before booking them into CCDC. Daily operations are often unpredictable, and it may be necessary to use a room, space, or area in a law enforcement facility to separate persons under arrest, maintain control, complete reports and forms, conduct interviews and perform tests.

Temporary detention of persons legally held in custody by sworn officers of the Agency will conform to the criteria set forth in this policy. Persons will not be detained, except for temporary periods as defined in this policy. Only designated specific room(s) and area(s) within Agency facilities are authorized for use for temporary detention.

The person being temporarily detained will be constantly observed in person or by video monitor. A face-to-face visual observation of detainees will be conducted at least every thirty minutes. All detained persons will be segregated by sex, and juveniles will be separated by sight and sound from adults.

Generally, with the possible exception of a defense attorney or parent(s) of a young child, visitors should not be allowed into temporary detention areas. The first consideration for allowing a visitor in a temporary detention area shall be security. Officers shall have discretion as to when a visitor is or is not allowed access.

The use of a temporary detention area will be documented on a Temporary Detention / Secure Custody Log, Form #40, which will contain the following information:

1. location of the temporary detention;
2. name of the person detained;
3. name and ID number of the officer placing the person in temporary detention;
4. time and date the person is placed in temporary detention;
5. reason the person is being placed in temporary detention;
6. name(s) and purpose of any visitors allowed;
7. time and date the person is released from temporary detention;
8. reason the person is released from temporary detention;
9. destination of the person after his release; and
10. any special information or conditions related to the person while in temporary detention.

The officer placing a person in temporary detention is responsible for the person during the period the person is in temporary detention. If the original officer placing a person in temporary detention is relieved of this responsibility by a superior officer, this information will be documented in the log, including the date and time relieved, who is assuming the responsibility for the person in temporary detention and the name, rank and ID number of the supervisory officer authorizing this action.

Persons temporarily held will be provided the opportunity to use restroom facilities and be provided drinking water and other such personal needs as may be required. If the temporary detention area is used, a person may not be held without continuous control and supervision by Agency personnel for more than two (2) hours. Continuous control and supervision necessitate constant observation of the detainee.

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Persons held in temporary detention areas may be secured to anchor devices, such as a bar or ring which have been specifically designed for this purpose. They will not be secured to chairs, desks or other objects not designed for temporary detention.

In the event of a fire or other emergency within the facility, the Agency's building evacuation policy will be enforced and any subject being held in temporary detention will be immediately transported to the Charles County Detention Center. Temporary detention areas shall be kept free of any materials which might aid in the creation of a fire or which might fuel its continuation.

B. INSPECTIONS

All facilities designated as temporary detention areas will be inspected prior to and after their use to check for possible contraband and to ensure their suitability for the intended use. The area will be inspected for contraband, safety, cleanliness and proper function. The results of the inspection will be documented on the Temporary Detention / Secure Custody Log Form #40. Logs generated as a result of this process will be maintained at the local level for a period of three years. Each Agency audit conducted by OPR will examine these logs for compliance with this policy.

Within any component where a temporary detention area exists, the commander of the component will cause a weekly inspection to occur to check the area for cleanliness and sanitary conditions, first aid supplies, condition of restraining devices, weapons, contraband and any unsafe conditions. In addition, a visual inspection of fire detection/suppression equipment will be conducted weekly. This inspection will be documented on a Weekly Temporary Detention Area Inspection Form #836. Any discrepancies, weapons or contraband found will be documented. Steps taken to remedy any deficiencies discovered will also be noted.

In addition to the above required documented inspections, commanders shall ensure holding areas are visually inspected daily by the midnight shift supervisor, a shift commander or other designee.

C. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

Temporary detention occurring outside the confines of a holding facility such as a jail or other more secure correctional institution can involve close contact with detainees under challenging and sometimes less than ideal conditions. Therefore, personnel who utilize or monitor temporary detention areas will read and be familiar with the Agency's arrest and custody policies.

Additionally, to help reduce complacency, the Agency will provide training on the use of temporary detention to all personnel responsible for monitoring temporarily detained individuals. Officers receive initial training on prisoner processing and security while attending the Academy. The Police Station Technician supervisor will ensure that any newly hired Police Station Technicians complete the initial training before being allowed to monitor detainees. Refresher training on this subject will also be provided for officers, police station technicians and any other required personnel at a minimum of once every four (4) years.

D. WEAPONS CONTROL

No person may be brought into or secured within a temporary detention area unless there is provided a weapons lockbox for the storage of employee weapons while they are managing persons in custody. All weapons will be secured prior to handcuffs being removed from persons in custody. No employee or other person will enter a temporary detention area while wearing a weapon.

E. OBSERVATION AND CONTROL OF DETAINED PERSONS

No prisoner will be brought into a temporary detention area unless the area is monitored by an employee other than

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the employee handling the prisoner. No prisoner will be unhandcuffed in an Agency facility, except the Charles County Detention Center, unless there are at least two employees to handle the prisoner, or there is an employee at a remote observation site. No person other than an employee authorized to handle or deal with prisoners will be permitted to enter a holding area at any time it is occupied by a prisoner.

The officer placing a person in a temporary detention area will be mindful of the possibility of escape. The custody officer shall take precautions to prevent the escape of the detainee. Escape prevention techniques include:

1. thorough searches;
2. monitoring; and
3. proper prisoner handling.

In the event there is an escape from a temporary detention area, the custody officer shall immediately notify all Agency personnel in that facility and follow the guidelines set forth in the Agency's Prisoner Escape policy.

F. SEARCH OF PERSONS TO BE PLACED IN TEMPORARY DETENTION AREAS

In addition to any search requirements found elsewhere in policy, the following additional requirements apply to placing persons in temporary detention areas:

1. All persons prior to being placed in a temporary detention area will be searched for weapons, contraband, evidence, possible implements of escape and objects or clothing items which might be used for self-harm or unlawful purpose.
2. This search will be conducted by at least two employees or an employee who is being monitored from a remote location.
3. The search will be to a degree which assures items are not missed and may involve the removal of clothing items.
4. If clothing items are removed, the policy concerning sexually invasive searches will be followed.

G. REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN TEMPORARY DETENTION AREA

In the event of an emergency, or the need for assistance arises within a temporary detention area, the custody officer shall immediately notify the monitoring employee of the need. The monitoring employee will then notify the Communications Center of the situation and make a request for additional assistance as needed.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Annually, the Commander, North Patrol Division shall conduct a written administrative review of policies and procedures governing temporary detention areas. Refer to the Administrative Reporting Program policy for reporting requirements.

4-670 SEARCH AND SEIZURE

- A. SEARCH AND SEIZURE WITHOUT A WARRANT
- B. SEARCH INCIDENT TO ARREST
- C. CONSENT SEARCHES
- D. STOP AND FRISK
- E. VEHICLE SEARCHES
- F. CRIME SCENE SEARCHES
- G. HAND-HELD X-RAY IMAGING SYSTEM

A. SEARCH AND SEIZURE WITHOUT A WARRANT

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The following general guidelines and procedures are provided for officers to use in conducting searches that have not been reviewed and authorized by judicial personnel. The Supreme Court has ruled the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution allows police officers to conduct warrantless searches under certain limited circumstances.

The true test of any warrantless search is the demonstration that probable cause existed to justify the search. Officers should rely on their training and experience in conducting searches that meet the legal requirements for evidence to be admissible in court.

B. SEARCH INCIDENT TO ARREST

A warrantless search incident to arrest allows for a complete search of the arrestee and the area within the arrestee's immediate control, for the purpose of locating weapons, means of escape, and evidence of a crime. Also included within the scope of this search is the authority to search containers or other items of personal property within the arrestee's immediate control. This area is generally referred to as the "lunge" area. The search of the lunge area is permitted even when the defendant is in handcuffs or otherwise restricted.

C. CONSENT SEARCHES

There are situations in which officers may deem a consent search to be appropriate. When considering the admissibility of evidence obtained by consent, the officer should take into account and the courts will also take into account:

1. whether the person consenting to the search has legal standing to do so; and
2. whether the consent was given freely, voluntarily, and with the understanding the person had the right to refuse to consent.

D. STOP AND FRISK

When an officer has knowledge or information sufficient to justify a reasonable fear that a person stopped is presently armed and dangerous, the person may be "frisked."

The officer must be able to articulate the reasons for conducting the frisk. The frisk must be limited to a pat-down of the outside of a subject's clothing solely to determine if he is carrying a weapon. If the officer feels an object believed to be a weapon, a search in and under the subject's clothing may be conducted. Any illegal weapons found as a result of this search may be used as evidence in court.

If the frisk fails to detect a weapon or suspected weapon, the officer must cease and desist from any further search of the subject or his clothing. Items found as the result of a more extensive search could be inadmissible as evidence.

Anytime a frisk for weapons is conducted, a FIR #389 shall be completed. The category "Stop and Frisk" must be checked and the form must be submitted within 24 hours of the frisk.

E. VEHICLE SEARCHES

The Supreme Court has ruled the mobility of vehicles provides an exigent circumstance, wherein warrantless vehicle searches are justified, if probable cause exists to believe that a vehicle contains evidence or contraband. Police officers who have legitimately stopped an automobile and who have probable cause to believe contraband is concealed somewhere within it may conduct a warrantless search of the vehicle that is as thorough as a judicial officer could authorize by warrant.

Where police officers have probable cause to search an entire vehicle, they may conduct a warrantless search of every part of the vehicle and its contents, including all containers and packages that may conceal the object of the search. The scope of the search is not defined by the nature of the container in which the contraband is hidden.



Rather, it is defined by the object of the search and the places in which there is probable cause to believe it may be found.

Probable cause that justifies making an arrest of a vehicle's occupant is also generally sufficient for authorizing a search based on exigency. A search incident to arrest is legal where:

1. It is reasonable to believe the arrestee might access the vehicle at the time of the search;
2. It is reasonable to believe the vehicle contains evidence of the offense of arrest.

When one of these conditions applies, a warrantless search of a vehicle's entire passenger compartment may be made to include containers in the compartment, as a search incident to an arrest, for protection of the officer and/or to prevent the removal or destruction of evidence.

A vehicle may be searched at the scene of a crime if probable cause exists that the vehicle is related to the crime and is believed to contain evidence.

F. CRIME SCENE SEARCHES

Actions taken at the outset of an investigation at a crime scene can play a critical role in the resolution of a case. Carefully approaching, identifying, and securing a crime scene, within the confines of legal considerations, is key to ensuring potential evidence is not tainted.

For the search of a crime scene to be valid, it must fall within one of the narrowly allowed exceptions to the search warrant requirement of the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The "plain view doctrine" provides that if an officer is legally present at a location, then any contraband and/or evidence that is clearly visible to that officer may be seized.

Additionally, entry to and any subsequent warrantless search of a premises is permitted, under an emergency / exigency exception, where there exists a reasonable belief that public safety is in imminent danger, that there is an immediate need to protect or preserve life, or there is an immediate need to locate victims or suspects.

Any search outside of the immediate confines of an identified crime scene may be closely reviewed by the courts. Generally, in situations other than those indicated above, and where there is sufficient time and opportunity, a search warrant should be used.

G. HAND-HELD X-RAY IMAGING SYSTEM

A hand-held x-ray imaging system is available to assist with locating hidden contraband in vehicles, structures, or other concealment areas.

STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

The system is stored at the Forensic Science Section within the Evidence Bay. It is secured and accessible only by scan card to approved personnel. Any required maintenance or software updates will be completed by the Forensic Science Section.

TRAINING

Only personnel who have received specialized training in the use of the tool will operate the equipment. All users must follow the system's operating manual and training received.

USE



The system cannot be used to create probable cause. To use the system, the user must have already established probable cause, possess a search warrant, or have consent. Under no circumstances will the system be used on live human beings.

DATA

The Forensic Science Section will be responsible for the download and upload of all relevant data. Except for the Narcotics Enforcement Section (NES), all data will be uploaded into the CCSO DIMS. Data related to NES offenses will be transferred to the user for storage. It is the responsibility of the user to notify the Forensic Science Section regarding the need for data download. Data not downloaded will be automatically deleted from the tool after (90) days.

4-672 SEARCH AND SEIZURE - SEARCH WARRANTS

Searches conducted without a warrant are presumed to be unreasonable, and the burden is on the state (and, therefore, the officer) to prove the search was conducted lawfully. On the other hand, searches conducted pursuant to a search warrant are presumed to be reasonable and the burden is on the defendant to prove the search was unlawful.

4-672.1 SEARCH WARRANTS

A search warrant is a document signed by an authorized judicial officer based upon probable cause presented by an affiant officer. The warrant authorizes the officer to conduct a search for specific items considered to be evidence, tools or fruits of a crime. Search warrants must be served within 10 days of the date of issue. Once served, the warrant must be returned, within 10 days, to the issuing official with a description of what was seized, if anything.

All search warrant applications must reflect:

- the facts known to the affiant;
- the basis of the probable cause to believe there is property subject to seizure at a given location;
- a description of the items to be seized; and
- a detailed description of the place to be searched.

4-672.2 SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATION / SERVICE PROCEDURES

The Affidavit in Support of Application for the Warrant shall state that the affiant is a duly sworn law enforcement officer.

The warrant shall be issued to: Troy D. Berry, Sheriff of Charles County, Maryland, or any duly sworn law enforcement officer under his authority.

Any officer, regardless of assignment, must review any search warrant application with a CID supervisor prior to review and approval by the State's Attorney's Office. Approved warrants will be presented to a judicial officer. In the event the search warrant is for any member of the State's Attorney's Office, it will be reviewed and approved by a Circuit Court or District Court judge after CID review.

Once the warrant is endorsed by a judicial officer, and the assistance of the Emergency Services Team or the Forensic Science Section is anticipated, their respective commander(s) should be notified of the pending search warrant, along with a probable date of execution.

Once a date and time of service is set, the affiant will immediately notify his supervisor / commander and all other units / persons needed to assist in the execution of the warrant. The affiant or his supervisor will act as the Officer



in Charge (OIC) and will name a predetermined meeting location, where an execution plan will be prepared and respective assignments designated.

The application and execution of search warrants must comply with the requirements of Maryland and constitutional law, including Maryland Code, Crim. Pro. §1-203.

While executing a search warrant, all officers shall be clearly recognizable and identifiable as police officers. This shall include the wearing of a uniform which displays a badge and the name and identification number of the officer. The uniform for officers assigned to specialized sections – where a standard uniform is not generally worn and who participate in the execution of a search warrant – shall be the wearing of an outer ballistic vest carrier which displays the word SHERIFF or POLICE, the officer's name and the officer's Agency-issued identification number. The officer's badge shall also be displayed and clearly visible.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude an officer from wearing a standard Agency-issued police uniform during a search warrant, no matter the officer's assignment, as long as the officer's name, ID number and Agency badge are clearly displayed.

All search warrants obtained for occupied structures must have an Operational Plan, Form #865, completed and forwarded to the Commander, Field Operations Section or designee as soon as possible prior to service. The Commander will determine if the Emergency Services Team (EST) will be utilized to execute the search warrant based on the information contained in the Operational Plan and will notify the requesting supervisor.

On the date of service, the district commander of the district where the warrant will be served, and the shift commander, shall be notified by the affiant of the search warrant and the area where it will be served.

On arrival at the target location, all members will immediately position themselves at their pre-assigned locations and await further direction. The OIC will then notify Communications of the warrant service and the location.

If utilized, the Emergency Services Team, under the direction of its commander, will make the entry and secure the scene, including all persons found within the premises. Members of the Emergency Services Team will stand by at the scene and assist with security of the premises and any occupants. Flashbang, stun, distraction, or other similar military-style devices may not be used when executing a search warrant, absent exigent circumstances.

Unless executing a "no-knock" search warrant, officers shall allow a minimum of 20 seconds for the occupants to respond and open the door prior to attempting to make entry, unless exigent circumstances exist.

If a "no-knock" search warrant was obtained, after getting written approval from a CID supervisor and the State's Attorney, it shall only be executed between the hours of 0800 and 1900, absent exigent circumstances.

When the scene is secure, the Search Team will then enter and execute the warrant. The Forensic Science Section member will photograph the point of entry, all seized property, and any damages to the premises.

Prior to leaving the building, the OIC will leave a copy of the Search Warrant and a completed Return at the location.

Before securing from duty, the OIC will submit to his supervisor / commander a copy of:

- a proposed press release if appropriate; and
- a Crime Report or Commanders' Information Report, if appropriate.

Within 10 days of the warrant service, the warrant return and copy of the inventory of property will be returned by the affiant to the issuing judicial officer, or if not available, any other judicial officer.

At the conclusion of the search warrant, the unit supervisor will ensure that information about the search warrant is added to the Search Warrant Log. The Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division or his designee is responsible for ensuring that search warrant data is communicated to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention.



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4-680 VICTIM/ WITNESS ASSISTANCE

Victim / witness assistance is an integral part of sound law enforcement practices. The role of the Charles County Sheriff's Office is to ensure victims and other witnesses receive professional handling consistent with their important part in the criminal justice process. Agency personnel, from call takers, to the first officer on the scene, to the detective assigned the case and those assigned to the Victim Services Function, must make every reasonable effort to ensure the personal rights and the safety of victims and witnesses are protected. Personnel should be especially sensitive to the special needs of the victims and families of violent crimes such as homicides, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assaults and elderly abuse.

4-680.1 RIGHTS OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

The rights of victims and witnesses are outlined in the Maryland Constitution, Maryland Code, and summarized in the Crime Victims and Witnesses Pamphlet. The Criminal Justice Handbook containing the Maryland Code is issued to each officer; and pamphlets are stocked and available at each district station and from Victim Services. Victim / witness assistance information is also available on the State of Maryland's web site. Officers are to keep a supply of the pamphlets on-hand to give out to victims and witnesses. Officers shall record their name, identification number, incident number and a phone number on the front of each pamphlet issued. The pamphlet lists the Agency phone number and other phone numbers where assistance and information is available twenty-four hours a day.

It should be noted other agencies, such as the State's Attorney's Office, State Board of Victim Services, and other social service providers all offer assistance to victims / witnesses, sometimes in conjunction with and sometimes separate and apart from, the CCSO. The following guidelines, excerpted from the Maryland Code, outline law enforcement's role in providing services to victims / witnesses:

- A victim of a crime, victim's representative, or witness:
- should be treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity;
- should receive crisis intervention help, if needed, or be told where crisis intervention help, emergency medical treatment, creditor intercession services, or other social services and counseling may be obtained;
- should be told of the protection available, and, on request, be protected by a criminal justice unit, to the extent reasonable, practicable, and, in the unit's discretion, necessary, from harm or threats of harm arising out of the crime victim's or witness's cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts;
- should, during each phase of the investigative or court proceedings, be provided, to the extent practicable, with a waiting area that is separate from a suspect and the family and friends of a suspect;
- should be told of financial assistance, criminal injuries compensation, and any other social services available to the victim of a crime or victim's representative and receive help or information on how to apply for services;
- on written request, should be kept reasonably informed by a criminal justice unit or the State's Attorney of the arrest of a suspect and closing of the case, and should be told which office to contact for information about the case; and
- should have stolen or other property promptly returned and, on written request, should have the property promptly returned by a law enforcement unit when evidentiary requirements for prosecution can be satisfied by other means, unless there is a compelling law enforcement reason for keeping it.

With respect to protecting the identity of crime victims and witnesses, information to be excluded from press releases



and held confidential shall include:

- the name, address and telephone number of witnesses or victims of crimes; and
- the names of accused child abusers when identifying the accused would likely identify the victim(s).

Victims / witnesses with communication disabilities are entitled to the same range of police services as those who do not have disabilities. It is the intent of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to provide a qualified interpreter, upon request, to any person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Upon request, a victim of a crime will be provided a private room to report information related to a crime.

4-680.2 VICTIM/ WITNESS ASSISTANCE DURING PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

During a preliminary investigation, the investigating officer will ensure appropriate assistance and information is provided to victims / witnesses. As required by the circumstances, victims / witnesses will be provided with the Crime Victims and Witnesses pamphlet which describes available assistance and outlines the criminal justice process. The pamphlet provides the following:

- the case number assigned to the incident (provided by the officer);
- the telephone number for the victim / witness to call to report additional information or receive case updates and status (open, suspended or closed);
- information about applicable services (i.e., counseling, medical attention, compensation programs or emergency financial assistance, and victim advocacy); and
- steps to follow in the event the suspect, or those acting on the suspect's behalf, threaten or otherwise intimidate the victim / witness.

For cases involving violent crimes such as: homicides, serious assaults, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assaults and elderly abuse, immediate additional assistance may be requested and will normally be provided by CID, Victim Services and other agencies.

4-680.3 VICTIM / WITNESS ASSISTANCE DURING FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS

For every case where a follow-up investigation is warranted, the following victim / witness assistance services are to be provided by the investigating officer and/or Victim Services:

- re-contact the victim periodically to update them on the status of their case;
- explain to victims the procedures involved in the prosecution of their case and their role in those proceedings;
- if feasible, schedule line-ups, interviews and other required appearances at the convenience of the victim and, at the option of the investigating officer, provide transportation;
- in accordance with all applicable policies and when otherwise possible, promptly return victim property taken as evidence (except for contraband, disputed property and weapons used in the course of the crime), where permitted by law, rules of evidence, or approved by the Office of the State's Attorney;
- provide information about when an arrest is made, charges placed, custody status and how to track offender information through the State's VINE program; and
- Victim Services will monitor follow-up by providing victims with the opportunity to respond to a survey about their experience. Survey results will be used to evaluate and improve the delivery of services.



4-680.4 VICTIM/ WITNESS SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Coordinator of the Victim/ Witness Services Function is responsible for ensuring the following tasks are performed as designated:

- assist the Commander, Persons Crimes Section in defining the Victim Services Function goals and objectives on a fiscal year basis in conjunction with the development of Agency goals;
- maintain liaison with other criminal justice agencies, governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with victim / witness needs and rights;
- coordinate efforts with the MRO to periodically inform the public and the media about the Agency's victim assistance services;
- ensure the Agency, and particularly the Communications Section and district stations, are provided with up-to-date materials regarding victim / witness assistance and referral information; and
- complete a documented review of victim / witness assistance needs and available services within Charles County at least once every two years.

4-680.5 REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATIONS OF VICTIM HELPFULNESS

A U-Visa certification form is used by a non-citizen to petition for a change in immigration status if the non-citizen is a victim of qualifying criminal activity.

Any and all requests for U Nonimmigrant Status such as a request for a U-Visa certification must be forwarded to the Office of General Counsel for review.

4-690 HANDLE WITH CARE PROGRAM

The Handle with Care (HWC) program is a partnership between the Charles County Sheriff's Office and Charles County Public Schools. The goal of the program is to provide children who have been exposed to a traumatic incident a safe and reassuring environment while remaining in schools and in their classrooms, and to provide for the possibility of on-site mental health services at the schools, if needed.

4-690.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the HWC program is to prevent children's exposure to trauma and violence, mitigate negative effects experienced by children's exposure to trauma, and to increase knowledge and awareness of the issues caused by such exposure. HWC is a collaborative effort to designed to address childhood traumas and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

ACEs can come in many forms and have been shown to influence how a child grows into an adult and their likelihood of continuing in some course of negative conduct as they get older. Examples of ACEs officers may witness a child encountering include:

- Drug addicted parents
- Domestic violence – both physical violence and emotional trauma
- Physical and/or sexual child abuse
- Death of a parent
- Incarceration of a parent
- Police enforcement activities at the child's home



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- Alcoholism within the home
- Hunger and/or poverty

HWC provides the child's school with a "heads up" when a school-aged child has been identified as being involved in or exposed to some form of traumatic event.

4-690.2 LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to any and all other care and safeguards which must be addressed during a traumatic incident, the officer will determine if any children are involved, witnessed the incident, or are likely to be impacted by the incident. The officer will attempt to determine each child's name, date of birth or age, if they attend a public school in Charles County and, if so, the name of the school. If the child was exposed to a traumatic event and attends a public school in Charles County, the incident will qualify for the HWC program and the officer will follow the HWC protocols listed in this policy to the best of his ability.

Many incidents can be considered traumatic for a child. As a guide, officer should consider the ACEs listed within this policy as an example of when HWC should be implemented.

If children are present on the scene, the officer will attempt to take appropriate steps to minimize the impact on the children. When circumstances allow, this may include removing the children from the room before making an arrest or conducting victim/witness interviews, talking with the children about the incident, and/or providing parents/guardians with victim/witness resource information.

In cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, the notification to the schools of an HWC incident will not replace the need for a Child Protective Services Intake Report (Form #280) to be completed.

4-690.3 PROTOCOLS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Once the traumatic incident has been addressed, the officer must determine if there is a child involved who qualifies for the HWC program. If so, the officer will make an HWC notification to the Charles County Public Schools by using the CCSO HWC notification link on the Agency intranet, located under the "Reports" tab.

The only information to be provided through the intranet link is the child's first and last name, date of birth or age, and the name of the child's school.

If the intranet is not working, an email will be sent to one of the School Resource Unit supervisors who will then forward the information to the appropriate school official. In these cases, the subject of the email should read, "Handle with Care", and the body of the email should only contain the following information: the child's first and last name, date of birth or age, name of the child's school, and that there was a "Handle with Care" incident or that the child should be handled with care. For example:

Email Subject Line: *Handle with Care*

Body of Email: *Johnny Smith, Age 16, Thomas Stone High School – Handle with Care*

NO INFORMATION SURROUNDING THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT IS TO BE RELAYED TO THE CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY WAY OF THIS NOTIFICATION.

Notification can be made for any incident that an officer believes may impact a student's behavior in school. Supervisory approval is not required to send a notification.

If the officer is able to identify additional school-aged children who may be impacted, but are not home at the time of the traumatic incident, the names, dates of birth or ages, and schools of those additional children may be provided as well.



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The HWC program will not be implemented for children who are charged with a crime.

Current policy only applies to children enrolled in Charles County Public Schools.

4-700 INITIAL RESPONSE TO INVESTIGATIONS**Last reviewed: April 1, 2026**

- A. PURPOSE
- B. AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATIONS - IDENTIFYING STOLEN VEHICLES
- C. SEX CRIMES
- D. SEX OFFENSES - Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law (Quick Reference)
- E. CHILD NEGLECT CASES
- F. CHILD ABUSE CASES
- G. AUTHORITY FOR TAKING A CHILD INTO CUSTODY
- H. DEATH INVESTIGATION / NOTIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- I. BURGLARY / ROBBERY
- J. KIDNAPPING

A. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance and outlines responsibilities for the initial response to incidents that will likely be assigned to CID for further investigation. The patrol officer is usually the first to arrive on the scene. The first responsibility is to provide aid to the injured, then begin the preliminary investigation. On crime scenes where it is obvious that CID personnel will be handling the investigation, the detective may write the initial investigative report. If the initial report is handled by the responding detective, the patrol officer(s) will submit a supplement report detailing their actions and any information they obtained.

B. AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATIONS - IDENTIFYING STOLEN VEHICLES

During the investigation of auto thefts, the officer may encounter a vehicle missing the Public Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). All vehicles are required to have such a number. It is a violation of Criminal Law for a person to remove such a manufacturer's plate or for a person to possess or offer for sale any article where such a number has been removed. In the event a motor vehicle is discovered to be missing the manufacturer's serial number, the following policy will be adhered to:

In the event a motor vehicle is discovered to be missing the manufacturer's serial number, the following policy will be adhered to:

1. The vehicle will be seized.
2. The Criminal Investigations Division will be notified and will initiate efforts to locate confidential vehicle identification numbers.
3. The Criminal Investigations Division will conduct the follow-up investigation, using all means available to identify the appropriate owner.
4. If the appropriate owner is identified, the detective handling the case will notify the owner. The owner will be asked if they wish to take possession of the vehicle. If so, the owner will be required to complete and sign the appropriate form advising of the violation and the owner's responsibilities.

If the vehicle is at the tow lot, the tow company can request a salvage title to acquire the vehicle after 30 days of storage. If the vehicle is stored at the Annex, it is picked up by the original tow company after the investigation is

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completed by CCSO. The assigned detective will attempt to identify the last registered owner before contacting the tow company to retrieve the vehicle. Procedures located in the Towing and Vehicle Storage policy will apply.

C. SEX CRIMES

The initial contact with the victim of a sex crime is critical to a successful investigation and conclusion of the case. Because of the nature of these offenses, the victim must be treated with patience and understanding. There will probably be a need to obtain quick lookout information; however, this need must be considered and handled in light of the victim's condition and state of mind. The victim's emotional and physical health should be of primary concern to the initial responding officer and investigator. The Sheriff's Office is committed to the compassionate treatment of victims of sex crimes.

INITIAL RESPONSE

Patrol officers will generally be the first to have contact with a victim and they do not have the responsibility to completely investigate first or second degree rape nor third degree sex offenses. It shall be the responsibility of detectives assigned to CID to assume the investigation of all reported first and second degree rape cases, and third degree sex offense case. Patrol officer's responsibilities include the following:

1. Quickly assess the need for medical attention for the victim and provide this attention as needed;
2. Dependent upon the victim's condition, obtain a description of the suspect(s) and of any involved vehicle(s);
3. Verify in general that a specific crime has occurred (it is not necessary at this point to ask for specific graphic descriptions of the particular acts committed);
4. Broadcast a radio lookout for any suspect(s) and/or vehicle(s), giving their last known direction of travel if that information is available;
5. Request additional officers, a supervisor, and Criminal Investigations as needed;
6. Protect the victim from further trauma by calm reassurance and removal to a private area as soon as possible;
7. Locate and protect the crime scene, including the physical evidence on the victim's body (this should be accomplished by explaining to the victim the need to not bathe, change clothes, eat or drink);
8. Sympathetically listen to the victim's feelings and emotions, providing verbal support; however, the victim should not be touched or held except to provide immediately needed first aid;
9. Keep the victim continually informed as to what is happening and how and why the investigation is being conducted;
10. Patrol officers are expected to handle the complete investigation of fourth degree sex offenses only and should conduct in-depth interviews in these cases only, unless they are specifically assigned to do otherwise by an investigator or supervisor;
11. When conducting neighborhood or witness interviews, do not volunteer the information that you are investigating a rape or sex crime; instead indicate when necessary that it is a serious crime or assault;
12. The initial responding officer and any officer who in any way participates in the initial response to a sex offense will complete a supplemental report. This report is particularly required of any officer who questions the victim, a witness, or a suspect. It is also required of an officer who participates in a neighborhood canvass, search for or protection of the crime scene or any piece of evidence, or who, in responding to the scene, noticed anything unusual or of interest in the case.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS' RESPONSIBILITIES

If the initial report of the offense is made within 15 days of its occurrence, the detective assigned will call the SANE to conduct an examination and collect any physical evidence. In some circumstances, the SANE supervisor does not need to be contacted. Specifically for Jane Doe incidents, the only information required at the time of the SANE is a report number. In the case of a child victim, this examination may be conducted even if the report is not received within 15 days of the assault. The primary detective in the case is responsible to decide the value of such an examination in these cases.



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VICTIM INTERVIEWS

The following guidelines will be adhered to when conducting interviews of victims of sexual assault. The officer conducting the interview should endeavor to make the interview as comfortable as possible for the victim while, at the same time, acquiring the information necessary to successfully conclude the case.

The interviewer should:

1. Make a professional introduction and express his sincere concern for the victim's well-being and his devotion to a successful conclusion of the case.
2. Address the victim with dignity using the victim's last name and appropriate title.
3. Assure the victim that the Sheriff's Office will vigorously pursue the suspect and in all possible ways provide for the victim's safety.
4. Express an empathetic attitude toward the victim and provide assurance that the crime was not the fault of the victim.
5. Convince the victim of the competence and experience of the interviewer and explain the necessity of asking very personal questions.

In addition:

1. An initial interview may be delayed due to the victim's physical or emotional condition and, in any event, a second interview may be conducted at a point where there has been sufficient time since the assault to allow the victim to recover from the initial stress induced by that event.
2. A formal written or recorded statement will not be taken from victims of sex crimes, nor will victims be requested to submit to, or otherwise provide, a polygraph examination.
3. The victim will be provided the name and telephone number of the primary investigator to continue a flow of information between the Sheriff's Office and that victim during the course of the investigation and any subsequent prosecution of the case.
4. If the victim is a juvenile, depending on the circumstances of the investigation, the officer/detective shall consider whether a forensic interview is needed.

VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT – WAIVER OF RIGHTS – PROHIBITED

In this section, "sexually assaultive behavior" means an act that would constitute a sexual crime, sexual abuse of a minor or sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult.

At no time during an interaction with a victim of sexually assaultive behavior will any employee present a victim with a form purporting to:

1. Relieve the Sheriff's Office of an obligation to the victim.
2. Preclude or define the scope of an investigation by the Sheriff's Office into an act allegedly committed against the victim.
3. Prevent or limit prosecution of an act allegedly committed against the victim.
4. Limit a private right of action of the victim pertaining to an act allegedly committed against the victim or the victim's interaction with the Sheriff's Office.

VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT – REQUEST TO SUSPEND INVESTIGATION

If a victim of sexually assaultive behavior requests that the scope of an investigation be limited or that an investigation be temporarily or permanently suspended, the case officer will advise the victim that he or another officer will follow up with the victim within 30 days to confirm the victim continues to request the suspension of the investigation. The officer will discuss with the victim how and when the follow-up contact will be made; the victim will be asked the preferred manner for the follow up (e.g., phone, e-mail, or in-person and if a voice mail can be left). The officer will document the victim's preferences in an incident or supplemental report.

If, during the follow-up contact, the victim continues to request that the investigation be suspended, the officer will advise the victim that a decision to suspend an investigation is not permanent and the investigation can be



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reopened should the victim choose to pursue a criminal investigation at a later date, subject to any applicable statute of limitations. The victim will be provided with appropriate contact information. The follow-up contact will be documented in a supplemental report.

VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT – CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS

The officer / investigator should honor the confidentiality of the victim as much as possible. Officers / investigators should make efforts to provide a private and comfortable space for victims, especially when being asked to disclose details of their case.

Officers / investigators should make an effort to limit the number of disclosures that need to be made. Officers / investigators should be aware, and advise victims if appropriate, that the details of their case can, and will, become a matter of public record and cannot be fully protected as confidential.

Victims should be advised that the services provided by certified sexual assault crisis programs are confidential and that information discussed with sexual assault crisis program will not be shared with the investigator without the victim's consent.

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM

The SANE program was established to better serve the victim and the law enforcement officer in dealing with rape and sexual assault cases. The program utilizes a group of specially trained nurses who conduct the entire sexual assault examination. They collect evidence from both adult and child victims.

The SANE is committed to a single victim and will stay with that victim throughout the process. Consequently, the victim spends less time in the emergency room and the continuity of the examination and investigation is enhanced. All SANE examinations will be conducted in coordination with Charles Regional Medical Center (CRMC) and the Criminal Investigations Division.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY PROGRAM

The Criminal Investigations Division supervises and administrates the Sex Offender Registry Program (SOR) for Charles County. This includes the registration of offenders, address verifications, investigation of violations of the registry, administration of the registry and coordination with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services maintains an internet site which contains all registered offenders in the state (www.dpscs.state.md.us). Additional information can be located in the Criminal Investigations Division SOP.

D. SEX OFFENSES - Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law (Quick Reference)

Rape (Section 3-303) First Degree Penalty: Life		Vaginal Intercourse or sexual act by force or threat of force, and: 1) Employs a weapon, or 2) Inflicts: suffocation, strangulation, disfigurement, serious physical injury, or 3) Threatens death, any of #2 above, kidnapping, or 4) Acts with the aid of another person, or 5) In connection with a burglary in the first, second, or third degree.
Rape (Section 3-304) Second Degree Penalty: 20 Yrs.		Vaginal Intercourse or sexual act, and: 1) without consent, or 2) The victim is substantially cognitively impaired, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, or 3) The victim is under 14 and the suspect is 4 or more years older.



Sex Offense (Section 3-307) Third Degree Penalty: 10 Yrs.		Sex Contact against the will and without consent of the victim, and: 1) Employs a weapon, or 2) Inflicts: suffocation, strangulation, disfigurement, serious physical injury, or 3) Threatens death, any of #2 above, kidnapping, or 4) Acts with the aid of another person, or 5) The victim is substantially cognitively impaired, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, or 6) The victim is under 14 and the suspect is 4 or more years older. Sex act or vaginal intercourse where victim is 14 or 15 and suspect is at least 21.
Sex Offense (Section 3-308) Fourth Degree Penalty: 1 Yr.		1) Sex Contact against the will and without the consent of the victim, or 2) Sex Act with a person who is 14 or 15 and the suspect is 4 or more years older, or 3) Vaginal intercourse with a victim who is 14 or 15 and the suspect is 4 or more years older.

DEFINITIONS

Mentally Incapacitated - Means a victim who, due to the influence of any drug or act committed upon the victim, is rendered incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct, or of resisting the act (Section 3-301 (c)).

Physically Helpless - Means (1) a victim who is unconscious; or (2) a victim who does not consent to the act and is physically unable to resist the act or communicate unwillingness (Section 3-301 (d)).

Sexual Act - Means cunnilingus, fellatio, anilingus, or anal intercourse; also, includes placing any object or part of an individual's body into a genital or anal opening with the intent to obtain sexual gratification (Section 3-301 (e)).

Sexual Contact - Means the intentional touching of any part of the victim's or actor's anal or genital areas or other intimate parts for the purpose of gratification of either party (Section 3-301 (f)).

Substantially Cognitively Impaired - Means an individual who suffers from an intellectual disability or a mental disorder, either of which temporarily or permanently renders the individual substantially incapable of: 1) appraising the nature of the individual's conduct; 2) resisting vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact; or 3) communicating unwillingness to submit to vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact (Section 3-301(f)).

Vaginal Intercourse - Means genital copulation (Section 3-301 (g)).

Notes: 1) All the above is paraphrased and therefore if there is any doubt concerning a particular charge the appropriate section of Criminal Law should be consulted.

E. CHILD NEGLECT CASES

RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE

The investigation of child neglect is the primary responsibility of the Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services (CPS).

In cases where child neglect exists, but the child is not in immediate danger, the responding officer shall complete a Suspected Child Abuse / Neglect Report Form #280 prior to going off-duty, notify the Department of Social Services by submitting the Form #280 via email and forward the report to the Criminal Investigations Division.

In cases where child neglect exists and the child is in immediate danger, Protective Services On-Call person will be contacted concerning proper placement of the child. Add to the intake report and call sheet the worker's name who authorizes the disposition of the child in cases of immediate danger, as well as persons taking custody of the child. The officer will not place the child in the care or custody of persons identifying themselves as neighbors or friends unless authorized by a Child Protective Services worker. In addition, members of the Criminal Investigations

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Division should be consulted to determine if additional responses or resources are needed to expedite the investigation in real-time.

EXAMPLES OF CHILD NEGLECT

Child neglect cases are cases involving children who are in need of assistance or supervision and the parent / guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to correct the condition affecting the child. Examples:

1. An unattended or abandoned child, or a child without adequate supervision;
2. A child suffering from malnutrition;
3. A child without proper shelter or sleeping arrangements;
4. A child unlawfully kept from attending school;
5. A child who is emotionally disturbed due to continuous friction in the home, marital discord, or mentally-ill parents;
6. A child in need of medical, dental or surgical treatment.

Child neglect cases are not limited to these examples. Juveniles who are constant runaways or truants may also be victims of child neglect. Constant domestic or neighborhood dispute / disturbance calls involving children may also reveal cases of child neglect.

In many instances, child neglect cases could also be deemed child abuse cases. If the determination can be readily made that it is a child abuse case, the investigation will be conducted by a member of the Criminal Investigations Division according to procedures set forth in the agreement between the Charles County Department of Social Services, Charles County Health Department, Charles County Sheriff, Maryland State Police and the State's Attorney for Charles County.

MARYLAND SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM

Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings and the Code of Maryland Regulations provide for the safe abandonment of a newborn infant at a hospital, designated facility (which includes a State Police Barracks / local police department), or with a responsible adult. Mothers may leave a newborn infant at a designated facility or with a responsible adult with immunity from civil or criminal prosecution. The infant must be three (3) days or less in age, unharmed, and the mother must have no intent to return and claim custody. The abandonment may be done through a third party responsible adult with permission from the mother.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Sheriff's Office employees may find themselves called upon to accept a newborn infant under the guidelines of the law. If the mother of an infant or a responsible adult makes contact with an employee at a Sheriff's Office facility and wishes to abandon custody of the infant, certain procedures must be followed.

Employees will attempt to identify the mother of the infant and determine if the criteria is met for a safe abandonment. A detective will respond to the location and conduct an initial investigation to establish:

1. age of the infant, with reasonable medical certainty;
2. identification of the mother and the infant;
3. overall health of the infant, (no evidence of abuse or neglect);
4. the intent of the mother not to return for the infant and abandon parental custody.

EMS will immediately be contacted to provide for care and transport of the infant to a hospital. Detectives will consult with the State's Attorney to determine the criteria of the law is met, and the safe abandonment of the infant will be allowed with no civil or criminal liability of the mother. The detective will immediately contact the Department of Social Services and advise a case worker of the situation.

In the event of an abandonment of an infant at a designated facility other than the Sheriff's Office, an investigation



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will be completed in the same manner by officers from this Agency.

F. CHILD ABUSE CASES

RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE

Primary responsibility for the investigation of alleged child abuse rests within the Criminal Investigations Division. This responsibility extends to sexual abuse or exploitation. For physical abuse investigations, the primary responsibility rests with CID, however, it is understood these investigations may be investigated by other components of the Agency (i.e. Patrol Operations and the School Resource Unit). CID shall still be notified of those investigations. Cases that fall within the scope of Criminal Law, § 3-601 include:

1. Any abuse situation in which the victim is under 18 years of age and a custodial relationship exists between the suspect and the victim or the suspect is a regular household member (i.e., parents, step-parents, guardian, babysitter, roommate etc.).

NOTE: The child abuse statute does not include assaults upon children by persons not in a custodial relationship (e.g., neighbor, stranger, etc.); however, it does include siblings in a non-custodial role.

G. AUTHORITY FOR TAKING A CHILD INTO CUSTODY

(Courts & Jud. Proc. § 3-8A-14 Juvenile Cases, Annotated Code of Maryland)

A child may be taken into custody by any of the following methods:

1. Pursuant to an order of the court;
2. By a law enforcement officer pursuant to law of arrest;
3. By a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the child is in immediate danger from his surroundings and that his removal is necessary for his protection; or,
4. By a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the child has run away from his parents, guardian, or legal custodian. This can be facilitated by any contacted law enforcement officer, regardless of their respective unit or assignment.

ASSISTING PROTECTIVE SERVICES WITH CHILD REMOVAL

Authority for Removal - Immediate Danger Situations (Family Law, § 5-709):

1. If a Protective Services representative has probable cause to believe that a child is in serious physical danger and that an emergency situation exists, the representative may enter the household. If denied entry, a law enforcement officer shall accompany the representative;
2. The officer may use reasonable force to gain entry;
3. If the danger proves to be genuine, the representative may remove the child from the house. This can be facilitated by any contacted law enforcement officer, regardless of their respective unit or assignment.

H. DEATH INVESTIGATION / NOTIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTIFICATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Any officer who responds to a death scene or who discovers a dead body shall determine whether the Medical

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Examiner's Office needs to be contacted. If it is determined there is a need for a representative from the Medical Examiner's Office, the on-call Forensic Investigator (F.I.) or Deputy Medical Examiner (D.M.E.) shall be contacted. An on-call list is maintained at the District I station's front desk.

Deaths which require an investigation by the Medical Examiner's Office include:

1. Deaths resulting from trauma (such as violence, suicide or other casualty).
2. Deaths resulting from accidents (motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, train).
3. Deaths resulting from alcohol or drug intoxication (accidental or intentional).
4. Any sudden death if the deceased was in apparent good health or unattended by a physician.
5. Natural deaths in which the regular physician either cannot or will not sign a death certificate.
6. Natural deaths in which the deceased has no apparent regular physician.
7. Any death of a suspicious or unusual manner.

Officers investigating deaths that appear to be natural should immediately contact the deceased's physician and notify them of the incident. The investigating officer should then ascertain if, based on the deceased's medical history, the physician would agree to sign the death certificate.

The on-call F.I. or D.M.E. should not be contacted for incidents that are determined to be natural deaths and the deceased's regular physician is signing the death certificate.

The on-call F.I. or D.M.E. should be contacted if the deceased's physician refuses to sign the death certificate or if the physician is not licensed in Maryland and therefore cannot sign the death certificate.

If the medical examiner determines they will accept the case, the officer shall immediately notify the State's Attorney of the facts concerning the time, place, manner, and circumstances of the death. The notification shall be documented in the Report of Death Form #35. Additional details regarding the notification to the State's Attorney will be included in the incident report, as needed.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR / DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Each county in Maryland will have one or more physicians appointed by the State Postmortem Examiners Commission to act as the Deputy Medical Examiner(s) for that county. Forensic investigators shall be selected by the Chief Medical Examiner to investigate deaths on behalf of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Forensic Investigators receive specialized training in death investigation and will work closely with the County Deputy Medical Examiner.

Upon arriving at the scene, the F.I. shall take charge of the body and conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. If the incident is under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office, the F.I. shall arrange for the transportation of human remains from the scene of the incident at the conclusion of the on-scene investigation.

If the cause of death can be established by the F.I. and D.M.E. within a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the County D.M.E. will sign the death certificate. If the cause of death cannot be determined as a result of the on-scene investigation, an autopsy will be ordered to continue the investigation. The F.I. on the scene will determine if an autopsy will be required and will notify the investigating officer.

NOTIFICATION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Once an officer confirms or pronounces a person deceased, a supervisor shall be notified of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The supervisor shall then respond to the scene if available and determine the need to contact the Criminal Investigations Division.

The CID contact person listed on the CID daily lineup shall be notified of all deaths which are of a suspicious nature or as a result of a criminal act. The CID contact will determine if there is a need for an investigator to respond to



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the scene and assist with or assume the investigation.

There is no need to contact CID for deaths which are determined to be natural and there is no indication of foul play. If an officer determines a death appears to be from natural causes, the officer shall attempt to contact the deceased's physician as outlined in the Notification of Medical Examiner portion of this policy.

If, due to the nature of the incident, there was no need to immediately notify a representative of CID of the incident, the investigating officer shall place a notation on the Report of Death which indicates the notification was "Not Applicable."

For all incidents, whether CID was contacted or not, the investigating officer shall forward a copy of the Report of Death to the supervisor of the Major Crimes Unit as soon as practical. The preferred method of forwarding the report will be via email.

MEDICAL ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT (MOLST)

A Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form includes medical orders for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other medical personnel regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other life-sustaining treatment options for a specific patient. It is valid in all health care facilities and programs throughout Maryland and is codified under the Health-General Article 5-608. A copy of the form must be kept with the individual it applies to. The form must be signed and dated by an attending physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner. When an individual expires with a valid MOLST form, it is considered an attended death and no incident report is required by the Sheriff's Office.

DEATHS AT NURSING HOMES/LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

The response for a subject not breathing at a medical facility will be Code 1. Officers will start an investigation as normal and obtain details in reference to the death to verify there are no suspicious circumstances, such as elderly abuse, neglect, etc. A death report **will not be taken if**: The death is natural and the facility physician or the decedent's physician will sign the death certificate. Before clearing with no report, officers will verify medical staff is notifying next of kin. The family is responsible for funeral arrangements. Officers do not need to wait for the family or funeral home. When clearing the call, the officer will enter notes in the call sheet detailing the name of the doctor who will sign the death certificate and clear the call with "attended death, no report." A death report **will be taken** if either physician will not sign the death certificate or there are suspicious circumstances.

STATE ANATOMY BOARD

There are times officers may respond to a death investigation where no surviving next of kin can be located or surviving next of kin refuse to claim the decedent. If the decedent is not being transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the officer has exhausted all available leads in contacting a cooperating next of kin, the Maryland State Anatomy Board will be utilized for disposition of the decedent. After being contacted, they will respond and take custody of the body. The contact information for the Anatomy Board is as follows:

Phone: 410-547-1222

Website: <https://health.maryland.gov/anatomy/Pages/index.aspx>

NEXT-OF-KIN NOTIFICATION

Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office will make next-of-kin notifications in a prompt and considerate manner. All such notifications in the County shall, unless circumstances prevent it, be made in person.

It shall be the responsibility of the primary investigating officer to ensure notifications are made without undue delay. Prior to making the notification, the officer will verify that all information is correct. In most cases, notification will be made to the next-of-kin prior to releasing information to the media or any other person or entity.



Officers may request assistance from a member of the Chaplain Services, Victim Services, a close friend or family member, or other appropriate person in making the notification.

In instances where the next-of-kin resides in an area that makes direct notification by an officer of this Agency impractical, a message requesting notification be made will be sent to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the next-of-kin resides. Confirmation of the notification should be obtained from the agency having jurisdiction.

When a request is received from another law enforcement agency or other responsible authority to deliver an emergency notification to a next-of-kin within Charles County, every possible attempt will be made to cooperate with the requesting agency. The officer assigned to make such notification shall advise the Communications Section of the outcome. If requested, Communications will make a return call to the requesting agency.

I. BURGLARY / ROBBERY

Officers assigned to a Patrol District are required to conduct proactive patrols to assist in the suppression of residential and commercial burglaries, robberies, and the apprehension of individuals perpetrating these crimes.

INITIAL RESPONSE

It shall be the responsibility of patrol officers who are assigned to respond to a call involving burglary or robbery to complete the following:

1. An initial report will be completed detailing the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime.
2. Available witnesses will be interviewed and their statements documented in the officer's initial report.
3. A list of the stolen property will be entered into the report, including a description and any identifying numbers or markings.
4. Evidence left at the scene by the perpetrator will be photographed and collected.
5. The scene will be processed for latent fingerprints and DNA evidence, if applicable.
6. A neighborhood canvass for witnesses, additional surveillance video, and information concerning the crime will be conducted.
7. A crime information report will be completed prior to the completion of the reporting officer's shift.
8. The reporting officer will conduct a follow up investigation within 30 days of the incident to obtain additional information from the victim and advise on the status of the investigation.

Officers should not promise the assignment of a detective, nor give a specific reference to a time when the complainant will be contacted by Criminal Investigations.

BURGLARY- Annotated Code of Maryland

(Quick Reference)

Burglary CR 6-202(a)	Break and enter dwelling of another with the intent to commit:
First Degree Felony	1) a theft.



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Home Invasion CR 6-202(b) Felony	Break and enter dwelling of another with the intent to commit: 1) a crime of violence.
Burglary CR 6-203 Second Degree Felony	Break and enter the storehouse of another with the intent to: 1) commit a theft, or 2) commit a crime of violence, or 3) commit an arson in the second degree, or 4) steal, take or carry away a firearm.
Burglary CR 6-204 Third Degree Felony	Break and enter the dwelling of another with the intent to: 1) commit a crime.
Burglary CR 6-205 Fourth Degree Misdemeanor	A person may not: 1) break and enter the dwelling of another, nor 2) break and enter the storehouse of another, nor 3) be in or on the dwelling or storehouse of another or any yard, garden, or other area belonging to the dwelling or storehouse of another with the intent to commit theft, nor (see note 1) 4) possess burglar's tools with the intent to use or permit the use of the tools in the commission of any violation of this subheading.
Breaking and entering motor vehicle – Rogue and vagabond CR 6-206 Misdemeanor	A person may not: 1) possess burglar's tools with the intent to use or permit the use in the B & E of a motor vehicle 2) be in or on a motor vehicle with the intent to commit a theft of the vehicle or property in it.

Notes:

- 1) If a building or structure is divided into separately owned or leased units, each unit may not be considered a separate dwelling or storehouse for the purpose of prosecution unless it is objectively apparent that each unit constitutes a separate dwelling or storehouse.

DEFINITIONS

Burglar's tools- a picklock, key, crowbar, prybar, jack, bit, nitroglycerine, dynamite, gunpowder, or other explosive material, an acetylene torch, electric arc, burning bar, thermal lance, oxygen lance, or similar device capable of burning through metal, concrete, or other solid material, or any other tool, instrument, or



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device that has been adapted, designed, or used for committing or facilitating the commission of a burglary offense.

Crime of violence- abduction; arson in the first degree; kidnapping; manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; mayhem and maiming; murder; rape; robbery; robbery with a deadly weapon; carjacking or armed carjacking; sexual offense in the first degree; sexual offense in the second degree; use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence; an attempt to commit any of the aforesaid offenses; home invasion; child abuse in the first degree; sexual abuse of a minor; assault in the first degree; assault with intent to murder; assault with intent to rape; assault with intent to rob; assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.

Enclosure- any building, watercraft, aircraft, trailer, sleeping car, or other structure or vehicle.

J. KIDNAPPING

Kidnapping is the seizure, confinement and movement of a person against their will by force, fraud, or threat. Officers initially responding to the scene of a kidnapping shall complete the following actions:

1. Verify a kidnapping has occurred.
2. Verify the custody of the victim (if the victim is a juvenile).
3. Ensure the on-duty supervisor and shift commander are notified and respond to the scene.
4. Verify personal & contact information for the complainant.
5. Obtain personal information for victim, including the following:
 - a) Physical description (age, race, height, weight, etc.).
 - b) Clothing description (last known clothing types, styles, etc.).
 - c) Most current photograph of victim.
6. Determine last known date, time & location the victim was seen.
7. Obtain suspect description and all known personal information.
8. Obtain suspect vehicle description.
9. Determine if there is a potential known destination.
10. Broadcast a lookout for victim / suspect / suspect vehicle.
11. Secure crime scene and begin process (crime scene log, initial photographs, etc.).
12. Conduct a thorough check of the scene (minimum of two separate checks by different officers), to include the following:
 - a) Residence
 - b) Vehicles
 - c) Out buildings
13. Consider request of the activation of the Maryland Amber Plan (juvenile victim).
14. Request assistance of Criminal Investigations Division (CID, Forensic Science Section, etc.).
15. Complete Missing Person Report and enter victim into NCIC (if not immediately located).
16. Complete Incident Report.

TYPES OF KIDNAPPING

1. "KIDNAPPING" UNDER § 3-502 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE

This is kidnapping at the most basic. The crime consists of moving a person by force or fraud.

Typically, the force consists of an unlawful confinement. This section applies to victims of all ages, adults as well as children. The movement (or "asportation") must be more than incidental to another crime. For example, ordering a bank teller to the vault at gunpoint would not be kidnapping; the movement is incidental to the robbery. However, ordering the same teller into a car and driving her to another bank would be kidnapping in addition to robbery.



2. "CHILD KIDNAPPING" UNDER § 3-503 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE

There are two parts to this statute. § 3-503(a)(2) makes it a crime to use "force or fraud" to "kidnap, steal, take, or carry away a child under the age of 16 years." The only practical difference between § 3-503(a)(2) and § 3-502 (Kidnapping) is the penalty.

§ 3-503(a)(1) involves children under the age of 12. It is a crime to forcibly abduct or to "persuade or entice" a child under the age of 12 from her home or from her custodian's custody or control. It is also a crime to "secrete or harbor" a child under 12 with the intent of keeping the child from her lawful custodian.

3. KIDNAPPING BY A RELATIVE

Under the Family Law Article, it is a crime for a relative who knows that another person is the lawful custodian of the child, to do any of these following actions to a child under 16:

- a) Abduct, take, or carry away from the lawful custodian;
- b) Detain the child for more than 48 hours after the lawful custodian demands her return;
- c) Harbor or hide the child knowing that another relative did one of the first two items; or
- d) Act as an accessory to someone who has done the first, second, or third items above.

4-702 CIVIL CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

Except as discussed below, officers should not attempt to enforce civil child custody orders.

Officers must always comply with the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights. Officers may not enter a home without:

1. Consent by one who has authority to give consent;
2. Authority from a court in a warrant;
3. A request from and while accompanying Child Protective Services; or
4. Exigent circumstances.

These limitations on an officer's authority to enter a home apply generally as well as to child custody cases.

INITIAL RESPONSE

Officers responding to a call regarding a civil custody and/or visitation order will comply with the following:

1. Protect the safety of the parties, the children, and the community, and take appropriate action if a criminal violation occurs.
2. Encourage the parties to comply with the court order.
3. Officers shall not take it upon themselves to enforce the court order (for example, by removing the child from one parent's care or by taking the child from one parent's car and putting her in the other parent's car because the order gives one parent physical custody or because the visitation time is over).
4. Complaints that a parent is violating a court custody and visitation order need to be addressed in court by a judge.

JUDICIAL CHILD CUSTODY WARRANT

A judge may issue a **warrant** that directs law enforcement to take immediate physical custody of a child and to place them with another party. A child custody warrant issued by a Maryland court is valid throughout the state; a warrant issued by a judge in Garrett County is binding in Charles County, for example. An out-of-state custody order must be registered with a Maryland court to be enforceable. The Maryland court can then issue its own enforcement orders, including a warrant. Officers shall not enforce any out-of-state child custody warrant.



In addition to directing officers to take physical custody of a child, the warrant may also authorize officers to enter private property to take physical custody. The warrant may also authorize officers to make a forcible entry at any hour. Officers must comply with the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights. Officers shall not enter a home to take custody of a child without the following:

1. Explicit authorization from Child Protective Services.
2. Authorization from the court as the result of the issuance of a warrant.
3. Consent by a person who has authority to give consent.
4. The existence of exigent circumstances.

PROTECTIVE ORDER PROVISIONS

An interim or final protective order may also contain a provision directing law enforcement to take physical custody of a child. By statute, that order may explicitly authorize officers to “use all reasonable and necessary force to return the child to the custodial parent after service” of the order. Officers should not use force – against the respondent, the child, or anyone else – without that explicit authorization listed in the order.

4-703 CRIMES IN THE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

Last reviewed: 8/22/2025

MAJOR CRIMES

When notified by the Detention Center, a member of the Criminal Investigations Division will respond to the victim's location to initiate an investigation. Major crimes are homicide, rape, robbery, escape, etc.

MINOR CRIMES

The investigation of minor crimes which will result in internal administrative charges only, shall be the responsibility of Corrections Personnel.

Minor crimes which will result in formal criminal charges, will be investigated by Patrol Operations personnel.

Minor crimes are simple assaults, destruction of property, vandalism, etc.

SECURITY OF VICTIM / INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL

This Agency will maintain responsibility for the security of any incarcerated individual taken to a hospital or confined in the hospital. In an instance where a federal incarcerated individual housed at the detention center is hospitalized, the Charles County Sheriff's Office will maintain custody and security until the appropriate federal authority is notified by Corrections personnel, responds and assumes responsibility for the individual.

4-704 EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE

Eyewitnesses, who include complainants and victims, play a critical role in the criminal justice system. They are often essential to identifying, charging, and ultimately convicting perpetrators of crime, and in some cases may provide the sole piece of evidence against those individuals. For these reasons, the value of accurate and reliable eyewitness evidence cannot be overstated.

Recognizing the weight accorded eyewitness evidence by judges and juries, the State of Maryland created and passed HB 1200, effective October 1, 2014, which states the procedures to be followed in accordance with the Police Training Commission's Eyewitness Identification Model Policy. The procedures are codified at § 3-506 and § 3-506.1 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code.



4-704.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions of terms used in this section:

Administrator: A person conducting an identification procedure.

Blind: The administrator does not know the identity of the suspect.

Blinded: The administrator is unable to see the photographs being viewed by the eyewitness.

Eyewitness: A person who observes another person at or near the scene of an offense.

Filler: A person or photograph of a person who is not suspected of an offense and is included in an identification procedure.

Show-up: The live presentation of one suspect to an eyewitness shortly after the commission of a crime.

Photo Array: A display of a photograph of the suspect along with at least five filler photographs of other individuals whose physical characteristics resemble the suspect's description or appearance at the time of the incident.

Composite: Representation of description(s) of a suspect provided by witness(es). Composites may be completed by an artist, computer program, or Identi-Kit.

4-704.2 INITIAL REPORT OF A CRIME – CALL TAKER AND FIRST RESPONDER RESPONSIBILITIES

As the initial point of contact for a witness, the call taker should obtain and disseminate complete and accurate information from the caller. This information can include the description and/or the identity of the perpetrator of a crime. The actions of the call taker and Police Communications Officer (PCO) can affect the safety of those involved as well as the entire investigation.

After obtaining preliminary information and entering it into the CAD system for dispatch, the call taker should assure the caller the police are on the way. Based on the type of call, the call taker may want to ask for more information using open-ended questions, which allows for an unlimited response from the witness (e.g., "What can you tell me about the perpetrator?" or "Tell me in your own words what happened"). The call taker should follow with more directed questions if the caller is unresponsive to open-ended questions (e.g., "What type of weapon?" or "What make of vehicle?"). Call takers should avoid asking leading questions. Leading questions suggest an answer and may distort the caller's perception or memory.

The next point of contact for a witness will most likely be the first officer on the scene. The first responding officer is responsible to:

- obtain, preserve, and use the maximum amount of accurate information from the scene;
- locate and verify the identity of all witness(es);
- separate witnesses and instruct them to avoid discussing details of the incident with other witnesses;
- avoid saying anything to the witness(es) that may influence their accounts;
- determine / classify what crime or incident has occurred;
- attempt to identify the perpetrator(s);
- detain or arrest the perpetrator(s) if still present at the scene;
- attempt to determine the location of the perpetrator(s) if not on the scene;
- broadcast any updated description of the incident, perpetrator(s), and/or vehicle(s); and
- canvass the area for other witnesses.



Witnesses should not hear others' accounts because they may be influenced by that information. Independent witness statements can corroborate other witnesses' statements and other evidence in the investigation. The preliminary investigation at the scene forms a sound basis for the accurate collection of information and evidence during the follow-up investigation.

4-704.3 CONDUCTING SHOW-UPS (Effective 3/29/19)

Prior to conducting a show-up, approval shall be obtained by a supervisor the rank of corporal or above. The supervisor shall take into consideration the totality of the incident including information provided by witnesses, the lapse of time between the incident and the identification process, and safety issues for the suspect and witnesses.

Show-ups may occur when there is a reasonable likelihood that a witness may identify or exclude a suspect as being involved in the incident.

Where practical, a witness will be transported to the suspect's location in a police vehicle out of view of the suspect. Multiple witnesses must be transported separately. Prior to bringing the witness to the location of the suspect, officers must review CCSO Form #108b with the witness and avoid any discussion with the witness beyond that Form.

4-704.4 DOCUMENTATION OF SHOW-UPS (Effective 3/29/19)

The officer conducting the show-up shall, **if practical**, electronically record through the use of the digital mobile video/audio recorder (DMVR), the circumstances that led to conducting the show-up and the outcome of the procedure. The recording of this procedure would start with instructions, utilizing the Show-Up Identification Form #108b, being provided to the witness prior to the show-up, and would not end until after the witness exits the Agency vehicle.

This procedure would then be documented in a report or supplement. If the procedure is recorded on the digital mobile video/audio recorders (DMVR), follow Agency protocol to recover as evidence.

4-704.5 PHOTO ARRAYS

There are times during an investigation in which the identity of a suspect or witness needs to be confirmed by way of a photograph. If the person making the identification is familiar with the suspect or witness, showing them a single photograph is acceptable.

If the person making the identification is not familiar with the suspect or witness, a photographic array will be conducted to determine the identity of the suspect or witness.

4-704.6 COMPOSING A PHOTOGRAPHIC ARRAY

When the need arises to conduct a photographic array, the officer conducting the array shall adhere to the following procedures:

- The array shall be composed by someone other than the administrator.
- The array shall not be composed by the primary officer handling the investigation.
- The officer presenting the array **shall not** observe the composing of the array.
- A one-suspect array shall be composed of six (6) individual photos, one (1) of the photos being that of the suspect.



- The photographs shall be selected so as not to cause the suspect selected to unduly stand out from the other photographs. To the best of the officer's abilities, each photograph shall resemble the description of the perpetrator given by the eyewitness in significant physical features, including any unique or unusual features.
- The officer composing the array shall document the identities of all photographs in the array on the Photographic Identification Form #108. Identifying all photographs will permit the investigating officer to follow-up on any identifications made by the witness.
- Each photo will be placed in a randomly-numbered folder and stapled or otherwise affixed to that folder. The number on the folder will correspond to the number used to document each photograph on the Photographic Identification Form #108.
- The folders will be shuffled.
- The administrator shall have no knowledge of the filler photos or the placement of the suspect photo within the folders.
- The officer who composed the array shall provide the folders to the administrator, along with the attached Photographic Identification Form #108a.
- If a witness has previously participated in viewing a photo array in connection with the identification of another person suspected of involvement in the offense, the filler photos **shall be** different from the filler photos used in any prior identification procedure.

4-704.7 PRESENTATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF PHOTO ARRAYS

- The administrator will read the instructions on Form #108a to the eyewitness. The administrator will then hand the folders to the eyewitness.
- If the administrator is not a blind administrator, the administrator will become "blinded;" that is, the administrator shall conduct the presentation so that the administrator cannot see or track which photograph is being viewed by the eyewitnesses until after the procedure is completed.
- At the conclusion of the photo array, the officer shall document the required information on the Form #108a.
- If the witness made a positive identification of one of the photographs, they will be asked to affix their initials to the photograph.
- When possible, the presentation of the photo array should be audio and video recorded. If a video recording is not available, an audio recording should be made of the presentation. In the event neither is available, the presentation should be witnessed by a third party.
- The presentation procedures and the outcome of the presentation shall be documented on Form #108. The documentation shall include:
 - All identification and nonidentification results obtained during the identifying procedure;
 - The signed identification statement of the eyewitness;
 - The names of all persons present at the identification procedure;
 - The date and time of the identification procedure; and
 - Any eyewitness identification of a filler.
- If there are multiple witnesses, the identification procedure shall be conducted separately for each witness. The suspect's photograph shall be placed in a different position and number for each identification



conducted for each witness. The witnesses may not be allowed to communicate with each other until all identification procedures have been completed.

4-704.8 RETAINING PHOTO ARRAY AS EVIDENCE

The entire photo array, to include the folders and the Forms #108 and #108a, shall be packaged as evidence and held for all court proceedings in the CCSO Property Management Section. A photocopy may be made prior to packaging for the investigator's use.

Any and all audio / video recordings of this procedure will be placed on a compact disc as evidence and held for all court proceedings.

4-704.9 CID RESPONSIBILITIES

The Criminal Investigations Division will be responsible for the composition of all photo arrays within the Agency.

Any officer outside the Criminal Investigation Division requiring a photo array will contact an on-call CID supervisor to request a photo array.

The CID supervisor will assign a detective to compose the photo array for the officer requesting the lineup.

If no CID personnel are on duty, the on-call CID supervisor will evaluate the need to call out a detective to handle the assignment immediately. Otherwise, the array will be assigned to a detective when they return to duty.

4-704.10 DEVELOPING AND USING COMPOSITE IMAGES

Composite images can be beneficial investigative tools; however, they should not be used as stand-alone evidence and may not rise to the level of probable cause. Composites provide a depiction that may be used to develop investigative leads.

Instructions to the witness prior to conducting the procedure can facilitate the witness' recollection of the perpetrator. Officers preparing a composite shall:

- instruct each witness without other persons present;
- explain the type of composite technique to be used;
- instruct the witness to think back to the event and his/her frame of mind at the time; and
- explain to the witness how the composite will be used in the investigation.

The person preparing the composite shall select and employ the composite technique in such a manner that the witness' description is reasonably depicted. The person preparing the composite should:

- assess the ability of the witness to provide a description of the perpetrator;
- select the procedure to be used from those available (e.g., IdentiKit-type, artist, or computer-generated images);
- avoid showing the witness any photos immediately prior to development of the composite, unless part of the procedure;
- select an environment for conducting the procedure that minimizes distractions;
- conduct the procedure with each witness separately; and



- determine with the witness whether the composite is a reasonable representation of the perpetrator.

4-704.11 DOCUMENTING EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE

Documentation of the eyewitness procedure provides an accurate record of the results obtained from the witness and can be an important factor in the investigation and any subsequent court proceedings. The officer conducting procedures shall preserve the outcome by accurately documenting the type of procedure employed and the results of the procedure by recording any identification or non-identification obtained from the witness.

The results of the procedure shall be documented in writing, including the witness' own words regarding how certain he/she is of any identification. Photos, composites, statements, and any other materials used by a witness to make an identification shall be signed and dated by the witness.

4-707 ASSET SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE PROCEDURES

Last reviewed: 4/2/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. FORFEITURE OF CDS MONIES
- C. FORFEITURE OF GAMBLING MONIES
- D. VEHICLES – NARCOTIC RELATED IMPOUNDS
- E. HANDGUNS

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures regarding all asset seizure and forfeiture activities in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office prohibits officers from using bias based profiling in any enforcement program, including asset seizure and forfeitures.

B. FORFEITURE OF CDS MONIES

According to Title 12 of the Maryland Criminal Procedure Article, money used or intended to be used in connection with the unlawful manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled dangerous substance is contraband and presumed to be forfeitable. Mere proximity is no longer enough to support a seizure unless there is evidence that it was used or intended to be used in connection with the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or possession of CDS.

1. Following a seizure, the Agency has 30 days to notify the owner by first class mail that the property is subject to forfeiture.
2. The Criminal Procedure Article requires that contraband coin and currency seized pursuant to CDS offenses be photographed and a record of the quantity of each denomination of coin or currency be made.
3. Officers seizing money in these cases shall photograph (not copy) the money.
4. Seizures involving more than one bill shall be photographed as a whole (not individually).
5. After processing, seized money will then be deposited with the County Treasury by Property Management personnel.
6. Photographs may be substituted for the coin and currency in any criminal or forfeiture proceeding.

To apply for the forfeiture of money, a complaint and affidavit shall be filed in the District Court or the Circuit Court for Charles County by the State's Attorney's Office. The law requires the County to petition for the forfeiture of monies resulting from seizures for controlled substance offenses within ninety (90) days of the final disposition of the criminal case.



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C. FORFEITURE OF GAMBLING MONIES

According to Title 13 of the Criminal Procedure Article, money is prima facie contraband if seized by an officer in connection with an arrest for:

1. unlawfully playing or operating a bookmaking scheme;
2. unlawfully betting on a horse race, athletic event, lottery, or game; or
3. using an unlawful gaming table or gaming device.

The Criminal Procedure Article requires that contraband coin and currency seized pursuant to gambling offenses be photographed and a record of the quantity of each denomination of coin or currency be made.

1. Officers seizing money in these cases shall photograph (not copy) the money.
2. Seizures involving more than one bill shall be photographed as a whole (not individually).
3. After processing, seized money will then be deposited with the County Treasury by Property Management personnel.
4. Photographs may be substituted for the coin and currency in any criminal or forfeiture proceeding.

Monies shall be seized when there exists a clear connection to gambling violations. Through investigative means, every effort shall be made to clearly identify any potential claimants so that proper notification can be made. Pursuant to the law, when an officer seizes monies in connection with a violation of Maryland's gambling laws, he shall:

1. sign and date the CCSO notice (Gambling Letter Form #859);
2. have the person from whom the monies were seized, sign and date the form; and
3. provide the person from whom the monies were seized with a copy of the form.

To apply for the forfeiture of money, a complaint shall be filed in the District Court or the Circuit Court for Charles County by the State's Attorney's Office. Application for forfeiture shall be made within ninety (90) days after entry of a conviction or plea, unless the case is appealed.

The law of forfeiture differs between CDS cases and gambling cases. The law specifically states that in order for seized monies to be forfeited in gambling cases, timely notice must be given of the requirements for making claim for the return of seized monies. The law states that a claimant must:

1. apply within one year after the judgment or order was entered or the final disposition was taken; and
2. give written notice to the financial authority (Charles County Treasurer's Office) at least ten days before filing the complaint.

Issuance of Form #859 will serve as timely notice of the requirements for making claim for the return of the seized monies. The original copy of the form will be maintained in the main case file and will serve as documentation that proper notification was made.

D. VEHICLES - NARCOTIC RELATED IMPOUNDS

A vehicle will be impounded and subject to forfeiture if it was used during any of the following narcotic-related violations:

1. All felonies to include:
 - a) transporting, manufacturing, distribution, possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances (CDS), and conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; and



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- b) transportation, possession of raw materials or products or equipment of any kind intended for use in any of these offenses.
 2. Misdemeanors (simple possession of CDS) if used in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances law (Criminal Procedures 12-204(b)) or if any of the following criteria are met:
 - a) Any quantity of a controlled dangerous substance is sold or attempted to be sold in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substance law;
 - b) An amount of the controlled dangerous substance or paraphernalia is found that reasonably shows the violator intended to sell the controlled dangerous substance in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substance law;
 - c) The total circumstances of the case as listed below in this section dictate that a seizure and forfeiture are justified:
 - the possession of CDS;
 - the violator has an extensive criminal record;
 - the violator has a previous conviction for a CDS violation;
 - evidence that the motor vehicle was acquired by use of proceeds from a transaction involving a CDS;
 - circumstances of the arrest;
 - the way in which the motor vehicle was used.

A vehicle will not be impounded for forfeiture proceedings based solely on the possession of cannabis.

When an officer seizes a vehicle in accordance with this section, he will document the circumstances and reason for seizure (i.e., possession of cannabis / crack cocaine) on the vehicle seizure forms and associated incident report.

If the situation does not meet the above criteria, the officer will not seize the vehicle. Proper procedure for storing the vehicle will be followed as directed elsewhere in this Manual.

The vehicle seizure program for incidents involving individuals possessing less than 10 grams of cannabis has been suspended. The following will apply:

1. Vehicles **may be seized** in all other criminal incidents involving CDS not cannabis, whether it is simple possession or PWID, with supervisor approval.

The State will have to prove at a forfeiture hearing that the purported owner of certain property (i.e., vehicles, real property, and anything of value furnished for CDS, to include bank accounts, securities, furnishings, proceeds, etc.) subject to forfeiture had actual knowledge that the property was used or intended to be used to accomplish violations of the CDS laws.

In addition, Maryland law now prohibits a law enforcement agency or the Office of the State's Attorney from directly or indirectly transferring seized property to a federal law enforcement authority or agency unless a criminal case related to the seizure is prosecuted in federal court (Criminal Procedures 12-212).

E. HANDGUNS

Handguns seized pursuant to a violation of Criminal Procedure Article (unlawful wearing, carrying, transporting or use of a handgun) will be subject to forfeiture to the State of Maryland.

CONVERSION OF CONFISCATED HANDGUNS TO POLICE USE



The Sheriff may convert handguns confiscated and forfeited to Charles County Sheriff's Office use. The Agency may also use such firearms for the purpose of trading with a licensed gun dealer to defray costs of purchasing new weapons.

4-708 DEATH INVESTIGATION / NOTIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. NOTIFICATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER
- B. FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR / DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
- C. NOTIFICATION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
- D. MEDICAL ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT (MOLST)
- E. DEATHS AT NURSING HOMES/LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES
- F. STATE ANATOMY BOARD
- G. NEXT-OF-KIN NOTIFICATION

A. NOTIFICATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Any officer who responds to a death scene or who discovers a dead body shall determine whether the Medical Examiner's Office needs to be contacted. If it is determined there is a need for a representative from the Medical Examiner's Office, the on-call Forensic Investigator (F.I.) or Deputy Medical Examiner (D.M.E.) shall be contacted. An on-call list is maintained at the District I station's front desk.

Deaths which require an investigation by the Medical Examiner's Office include:

- 8. deaths resulting from trauma (such as violence, suicide or other casualty);
- 9. deaths resulting from accidents (motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, train);
- 10. deaths resulting from alcohol or drug intoxication (accidental or intentional);
- 11. any sudden death if the deceased was in apparent good health or unattended by a physician;
- 12. natural deaths in which the regular physician either cannot or will not sign a death certificate;
- 13. natural deaths in which the deceased has no apparent regular physician; and
- 14. any death of a suspicious or unusual manner.

Officers investigating deaths that appear to be natural should immediately contact the deceased's physician and notify them of the incident. The investigating officer should then ascertain if, based on the deceased's medical history, the physician would agree to sign the death certificate.

The on-call F.I. or D.M.E. should not be contacted for incidents that are determined to be natural deaths and the deceased's regular physician is signing the death certificate.

The on-call F.I. or D.M.E. should be contacted if the deceased's physician refuses to sign the death certificate or if the physician is not licensed in Maryland and therefore cannot sign the death certificate.

If the medical examiner determines they will accept the case, the officer shall immediately notify the State's Attorney of the facts concerning the time, place, manner, and circumstances of the death. The notification shall be documented in the Report of Death Form #35. Additional details regarding the notification to the State's Attorney will be included in the incident report, as needed.

B. FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR / DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Each county in Maryland will have one or more physicians appointed by the State Postmortem Examiners Commission to act as the Deputy Medical Examiner(s) for that county. Forensic investigators shall be selected by the Chief Medical Examiner to investigate deaths on behalf of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Forensic Investigators receive specialized training in death investigation and will work closely with the County Deputy Medical Examiner.



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Upon arriving at the scene, the F.I. shall take charge of the body and conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. If the incident is under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office, the F.I. shall arrange for the transportation of human remains from the scene of the incident at the conclusion of the on-scene investigation.

If the cause of death can be established by the F.I. and D.M.E. within a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the County D.M.E. will sign the death certificate. If the cause of death cannot be determined as a result of the on-scene investigation, an autopsy will be ordered to continue the investigation. The F.I. on the scene will determine if an autopsy will be required and will notify the investigating officer.

C. NOTIFICATION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Once an officer confirms or pronounces a person deceased, a supervisor shall be notified of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The supervisor shall then respond to the scene if available and determine the need to contact the Criminal Investigations Division.

The CID contact person listed on the CID daily lineup shall be notified of all deaths which are of a suspicious nature or as a result of a criminal act. The CID contact will determine if there is a need for an investigator to respond to the scene and assist with or assume the investigation.

There is no need to contact CID for deaths which are determined to be natural and there is no indication of foul play. If an officer determines a death appears to be from natural causes, the officer shall attempt to contact the deceased's physician as outlined in the Notification of Medical Examiner portion of this policy.

If, due to the nature of the incident, there was no need to immediately notify a representative of CID of the incident, the investigating officer shall place a notation on the Report of Death which indicates the notification was "Not Applicable."

For all incidents, whether CID was contacted or not, the investigating officer shall forward a copy of the Report of Death to the supervisor of the Major Crimes Unit as soon as practical. The preferred method of forwarding the report will be via email.

D. MEDICAL ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT (MOLST)

A Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form includes medical orders for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other medical personnel regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other life-sustaining treatment options for a specific patient. It is valid in all health care facilities and programs throughout Maryland and is codified under the Health-General Article 5-608. A copy of the form must be kept with the individual it applies to. The form must be signed and dated by an attending physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner. When an individual expires with a valid MOLST form, it is considered an attended death and no incident report is required by the Sheriff's Office.

E. DEATHS AT NURSING HOMES/LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

The response for a subject not breathing at a medical facility will be Code 1. Officers will start an investigation as normal and obtain details in reference to the death to verify there are no suspicious circumstances, such as elderly abuse, neglect, etc. A death report **will not be taken if**: The death is natural and the facility physician or the decedent's physician will sign the death certificate. Before clearing with no report, officers will verify medical staff is notifying next of kin. The family is responsible for funeral arrangements. Officers do not need to wait for the family or funeral home. When clearing the call, the officer will enter notes in the call sheet detailing the name of the doctor who will sign the death certificate and clear the call with "attended death, no report." A death report **will be taken** if either physician will not sign the death certificate or there are suspicious circumstances.



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F. STATE ANATOMY BOARD

There are times officers may respond to a death investigation where no surviving next of kin can be located or surviving next of kin refuse to claim the decedent. If the decedent is not being transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the officer has exhausted all available leads in contacting a cooperating next of kin, the Maryland State Anatomy Board will be utilized for disposition of the decedent. After being contacted, they will respond and take custody of the body. The contact information for the Anatomy Board is as follows:

Phone: 410-547-1222

Website: <https://health.maryland.gov/anatomy/Pages/index.aspx>

G. NEXT-OF-KIN NOTIFICATION

Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office will make next-of-kin notifications in a prompt and considerate manner. All such notifications in the County shall, unless circumstances prevent it, be made in person.

It shall be the responsibility of the primary investigating officer to ensure notifications are made without undue delay. Prior to making the notification the officer will verify that all information is correct. In most cases, notification will be made to the next-of-kin prior to releasing information to the media or any other person or entity.

Officers may request assistance from a member of the Chaplain Services, Victim Services, a close friend or family member, or other appropriate person in making the notification.

In instances where the next-of-kin resides in an area that makes direct notification by an officer of this Agency impractical, a message requesting notification be made will be sent to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the next-of-kin resides. Confirmation of the notification should be obtained from the agency having jurisdiction.

When a request is received from another law enforcement agency or other responsible authority to deliver an emergency notification to a next-of-kin within Charles County, every possible attempt will be made to cooperate with the requesting agency. The officer assigned to make such notification shall advise the Communications Section of the outcome. If requested, Communications will make a return call to the requesting agency.

4-709 TRUTH VERIFICATION FUNCTION

(Last Reviewed: 10/16/2025)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. AUTHORIZATION
- C. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS
- D. SUITABILITY FOR EXAMINATION
- E. REQUESTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- F. EXAMINER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide investigative officers and others with general knowledge of guidance and procedures for the use of polygraph examinations which will hereafter be referred to generally as examinations.

An examination is a valuable investigative aid in criminal or internal cases when used in conjunction with, but not as a substitute for, a thorough investigation. An examination may be employed, consistent with this policy, for such purposes to:

1. Verify, corroborate, or refute statements.
2. Obtain additional investigative leads.
3. Narrow or focus an investigation.



The polygraph is defined as an instrument that records certain physiological changes in a person undergoing questioning in an effort to obtain truth or deception. A polygraph simultaneously records a minimum of respiratory activity, galvanic skin resistance or conductivity, cardiovascular activity, and movement.

B. AUTHORIZATION

Examinations may be authorized when consistent with state and federal law and Agency policy. Situations in which authorization may be requested and approved include, but are not limited to:

1. A request from the State's Attorney's Office as part of an agreement with the defense attorney or for other investigative purpose.
2. An element of a pre-employment investigation of a candidate for a sworn, corrections, or civilian position in the Agency.
3. A request from other authorized criminal justice agencies.
4. An attempt to verify or reconcile statements of parents or guardians (e.g., in suspicious cases of missing or abused children) as well as witnesses or other individuals when alternative investigative means have been exhausted.
5. An effort to establish probable cause to seek a search warrant.
6. As part of an administrative or criminal internal investigation of an officer of this Agency or another criminal justice agency consistent with this policy.

The examination should not be used to verify a victim's / witness's allegation without sufficient grounds for suspecting that the victim / witness has given false or misleading statements.

When used as an element of a pre-employment investigation, the results of a polygraph examination shall not be used as the single determinant for making employment decisions. However, admissions made during the pretest, test or post-test interviews, together with other relevant information may be sufficient to support decisions regarding an applicant's employment status.

Examinations will not be conducted on victims of rape, sexual assault or child abuse.

C. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS

Once approved by their immediate supervisor, employees of this Agency may request an examination from one of the Agency's authorized examiners.

Any member of this Agency who wishes to employ an examination as part of an authorized investigation shall submit a Request for Truth Verification Examination Form #246 to the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function. The written request shall include copies of all relevant reports to include, but not be limited to:

1. Information obtained in the investigation that supports and justifies an examination.
2. Copies of crime or offense reports and investigative reports.
3. Evidence available and withheld from the subject.
4. Background information on the subject to be examined, to include criminal record and possible motivation.
5. Any statements made by the subject, complainants, and witnesses to include alibis.
6. Newspaper articles or other general information concerning the case.

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The supervisor will review the request and associated reports and make a preliminary determination as to whether an examination will be conducted. If approved by the supervisor, the case will be assigned to one of the examiners for review and a date and time will be set up for the examination. The supervisor will send a copy of the request form to the requesting officer advising whether the case was approved for testing, who will be conducting the examination and the date and time the examination is scheduled.

After receiving the case file, the examiner will review the material and make the final determination on the suitability for the exam. If an examiner feels that an examination should not or cannot be done, the examiner will provide the reason for the determination to the supervisor and the examination will not be conducted. The requesting employee will be notified by the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function and provided an explanation as to why the examination was not conducted.

If, because of the immediate need for an exam, it would be impractical to contact the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function, the requesting officer may contact an examiner directly and request an examination. In such an instance, the examiner will review the circumstances and suitability of the case and the individual to be tested and make a determination as to whether an examination will be conducted. If such a request is made, the examiner will, as soon as practical, contact and inform the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function of the request and examination, if one is conducted.

D. SUITABILITY FOR EXAMINATION

Submission to an examination must be a voluntary action with the exception of an employee of this Agency ordered to submit to an examination as part of an internal investigation. In all other cases, examinations shall not be administered without the subject's written approval, waiver, or other instrument.

Certain individuals and conditions are not conducive to successful testing and will generally be deemed unsuitable. Some examples of these individuals and conditions include the following:

1. Children under the age of thirteen (13).
2. Elderly persons.
3. Individuals with medical problems.
4. Individuals with mental conditions.
5. Individuals who are extremely tired.
6. Individuals under the influence of alcohol.
7. Individuals who are emotionally distraught.

If a subject has been interrogated by investigating officers prior to the exam, it shall be the examiner's discretion, based on his / her evaluation of the subject, as to whether or not an examination can be successfully conducted. The examiner shall have final authority on these matters.

If the subject is hearing impaired or does not speak English, the requesting employee will help make arrangements for a sign language interpreter or translator, as determined by the examiner.

In any interrogation of a suspect who has agreed, or who may reasonably be asked to agree, to an examination, requesting officers shall not pursue questions that may reveal information only the perpetrator could know. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Method of entry.
2. Property taken.
3. Weapons or type of force used to commit the crime.
4. Evidence left at the scene.
5. Clothing worn by the subject during the crime.
6. Unusual acts of the suspect during the crime.
7. Location from which property was taken.



Juveniles will not be tested unless at least one parent or guardian and/or a juvenile judge has signed a consent form. Juvenile tests will be handled in the same manner as adult tests; however, the examiner will take the subject's age and mental capacity into consideration when structuring the questions to be used during the test.

E. REQUESTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification by the Supervisor, Truth Verification Function that the request for an examination has been approved and receiving the scheduled date and time of the examination, the requesting officer shall contact the subject to be tested and arrange for his / her appearance for the examination. If problems exist with the scheduled date and time, the requesting officer shall immediately notify the examiner assigned to the case to make other arrangements.

Requesting officers shall not attempt to explain procedures that will be used in the examination, but shall advise subjects that these will be explained fully by the examiner. Subjects may be advised of the following:

1. The examination is voluntary, unless otherwise provided by this policy in cases of internal investigations.
2. Results of the examination are not acceptable in a court of law.
3. Results of the examination, taken alone, do not provide substantiation for a criminal charge.

Should the subject be late for or cancel the appointment, the requesting officer shall immediately notify the examiner.

If possible, the requesting officer shall report with the subject and any other authorized persons such as attorneys, parents, or legal guardians, to the examination location. The examiner shall be solely responsible for authorizing the presence of any person inside the examination or observation rooms.

F. EXAMINER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

After receiving a case from the supervisor and reviewing the documentation, the examiner will make the final determination on whether the case is suitable for an examination. If so, the examiner will coordinate with the requesting officer to ensure a thorough examination is completed. If scheduling conflicts exist, the examiner, in conjunction with the supervisor, will reschedule the examination to accommodate the subject's and examiner's schedule.

When conducting an examination as part of a pre-employment investigation of a candidate for a sworn, corrections or civilian position in the Agency, the examiner will review the examination questions with the candidate prior to administering the exam.

Once a criminal or administrative examination is complete, the examiner shall complete a Polygraph Examination Report Form #190 and attach it to a supplement for the main casefile. Once a pre-employment examination is completed, the examiner shall complete a Pre-Employment Polygraph Examination Report Form #784.

For all criminal examinations, the examiner will complete a supplemental report to the investigative case file documenting the following information:

1. Date and time of examination.
2. Names of examinee and examiner.
3. All relevant facts learned during examination.
4. Examination results.

4-710 NOTIFICATION OF SERIOUS INCIDENTS OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES



The Sheriff, Assistant Sheriffs, Criminal Investigations Commander and other appropriate commanders will be notified when their personnel are involved in the following incidents.

Notification is to be made by the on-duty commander, supervisor or senior officer:

1. Homicides;
2. Suicides of public officials or people of notoriety;
3. Arrest of public figures or members of their families;
4. Robberies of large amounts of money, e.g., \$25,000;
5. Robberies with serious shootings;
6. Kidnapping of public figures;
7. Kidnapping with ransom;
8. Extortion of excessive amounts of money or of public figures;
9. Shooting of a police officer or shooting by a police officer;
10. Arrest of an Agency police officer;
11. Force necessary in making an arrest where suspect is hospitalized;
12. Escapes;
13. Whenever a member of the Agency is hospitalized by means of an on-duty incident;
14. Threats against life of public official;
15. Major disaster;
16. Unusual occurrences;
17. Occurrences at the Detention Center.

4-711 K-9 OPERATIONS

The primary objective or mission of the K-9 Team is to provide line support to members of the Agency utilizing specially trained and highly mobile police K-9 dogs. The police K-9 can be particularly effective for:

- locating and apprehending individuals suspected of committing certain crimes;
- aiding in the search for missing persons, articles and evidence of criminal activity;
- building searches;
- crowd control;
- detecting the presence of explosives and illicit drugs;
- providing assistance in the service of certain warrants;
- promoting community relations;
- highly visible K-9 patrol as a means to deter criminal activity; and
- safeguarding police officers in the performance of certain duties.

4-711.1 DEFINITIONS

Police K-9 Dog - a K-9 typically recognized for its ability in serving the law enforcement community.

Police Patrol Dog - a police working dog utilized to aid patrol officers in their law enforcement duties and field operations.

K-9 Handler - an individual charged with the responsibility of utilizing a police working dog in the performance of his duties and attending to that dog at all times.

K-9 Team - comprised of the K-9 Handler and a specially trained police K-9 dog.

K-9 Supervisor - a sworn member of this Agency, with the rank of Sergeant or above, assigned to oversee the administration and operations of the K-9 Function.

Cross Trained K-9 - a police working dog that has been trained for both routine patrol operations, and for special



situations such as the detection of drugs, weapons, or explosives.

Dog Bite - any injury or wound inflicted by the mouth of a dog, whether accidentally or intentionally, to a human being. A breaking, puncture or tearing of the skin of the victim, need not be present to be considered a dog bite, as long as there is visual indication as to where the animal inflicted the wound (teeth impression, bruise, puncture, etc.).

On-Lead - physical attachment or connection by means of an appropriate rope, chain, strap, etc., between dog and handler for purposes of control and restraint.

Off-Lead - no physical attachment or connection between the dog and handler.

Bloodhound – a scent discrimination / trailing K-9 utilized to locate people and articles when the time lapsed is beyond the capabilities of a patrol dog.

4-711.2 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

The K-9 Function will work a regular schedule as assigned by the Patrol shift commander. Its members shall respond to requests for service from other Agency units.

The patrol duty hours of the officers assigned to the K-9 Function will be as assigned by the shift commander and will be dependent upon the overall needs of the Agency.

On regularly scheduled patrol days the officer will be afforded 30 minutes for each assigned police K-9 dog to provide any needed care. (See K-9 Function SOP 4-100.1 for further details)

In justifying the use of a police K-9, the handler shall have sufficient information, based upon facts and circumstances made available at the time, which would lead him / her to believe, as a reasonable and prudent law enforcement officer, that the use of the K-9 dog is appropriate and authorized.

The decision of the K-9 officer to use his dog in any situation is a serious decision. K-9 officers must be mindful of their duties to perform the police mission, along with using the K-9 dog in the areas for which it has been trained. The actions of the K-9 can be justified only by the facts which are known to the K-9 officer at the time they participate in those actions.

In all cases involving the deployment of the K-9 dog, the handler will make the final decision as to how and if the dog will be utilized. This responsibility may be superseded only if a supervisor / commander takes charge of the scene.

When a K-9 dog is released off-lead to apprehend a fleeing suspect, due care and judgment must be used to ensure against injury to innocent persons.

Under no circumstances is a K-9 dog to be released off-lead for apprehension purposes in crowded areas, or when other persons and/or police officers are in, or near, the path of the fleeing suspect. In addition, extremely close attention should be given to possible injury to the K-9 dog by vehicular traffic on streets and highways.

Whenever a K-9 report is completed for any incident where an investigative report number is assigned, a copy of the K-9 report shall be forwarded like any other supplement and included in the case file.

4-711.3 SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

All requests for special assignments; i.e., demonstrations, Executive Protection details, etc., will be made through the K-9 Supervisor or the Field Operations Commander. Requests for demonstrations must be made in writing 14 days prior to the event.



4-711.4 ON-CALL RESPONSIBILITIES

The decision to call out a K-9 team during off-duty hours shall only be made by an on-duty commander and coordinated through the K-9 Supervisor.

When an off-duty K-9 Function member is contacted and is legitimately unable to respond, the next available K-9 officer will then be utilized.

If no K-9 Function member can be contacted to respond to assist, the K-9 Supervisor or shift commander will be notified.

4-711.5 PROCEDURES FOR AGENCY PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH K-9 OPERATIONS

The K-9 handler, while deploying the K-9, shall assume responsibility for managing any K-9 search to ensure the safety and security of Agency personnel, civilians, and suspects.

If practical, when tracking, the K-9 team will be accompanied by at least one other law enforcement officer who will keep other units advised of the direction and progress of the track and to protect the handler.

Officer Safety

- Officers should not attempt to approach a K-9 dog or make contact with the animal without the permission of the K-9 handler.
- The fact that an officer is attired in a uniform similar to that of the K-9 handler does not render that officer immune from a K-9 bite and/or attack.
- Sudden movement, particularly hand motions or running, can prompt a K-9 to aggression. If a suspect is fleeing and the police K-9 is released, officers in the area should remain calm and motionless while the dog targets the person who is attempting to escape apprehension.
- If attacked by a K-9 dog officers should attempt to restrict movement as much as possible until the K-9 handler is able to remove the dog. Resistance or offensive gestures by a hostile victim can provoke the animal to a further degree of aggression.

Crime Scenes

The police K-9 can be an invaluable tool on the scene of various crimes. In order for the K-9 team to function to its potential, it is essential that the area in and around the scene of a crime be free of further contamination by responding personnel. The on-scene supervisor or investigating officer is responsible for establishing the perimeter; however, the primary responsibility falls on the supervisor to help monitor perimeter units and ensure that they are working in a manner that is helpful to the K-9 team. The following factors should always be considered at the scene of any incident where a police K-9 will be utilized:

- A dog works primarily by scent. Simply being in the area will create additional scents which will further complicate the task of the K-9.
- Exhaust fumes from vehicle engines will cause contamination to an area where the K-9 is working and retards the K-9's ability to utilize his sense of smell.
- Whenever a K-9 officer arrives on the scene of any incident where his services have been requested, certain information should be provided to him as follows:



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- Type of crime or incident.
 - What charges are likely to be placed against the suspect.
 - Description of suspect(s).
 - Precise location and time where the suspect(s) was last observed.
 - Type of weapon(s).
- When requesting a K-9 team for a building search, officers should remain outside of the building until the arrival of the K-9 team.
 - Whenever a suspect has exited a vehicle, the following details should be remembered if a K-9 team is to be used:
 - Do not enter the vehicle unless absolutely necessary.
 - If the engine is running, approach the vehicle from the opposite side of the bailout and turn it off.
 - During darkness, mark the spot where the fleeing suspect was last observed with a spotlight.
 - Do not disturb any clothing or articles which may have been discarded, lost or left behind by the suspect. Make the K-9 handler aware of these items if present.

4-711.6 ARREST/APPREHENSION PROCEDURES

When a K-9 team responds to assist an officer, and is able to locate and apprehend a violator, the apprehended suspect will be turned over to the officer, who will make the arrest and complete the necessary charging documents. When a K-9 officer observes a criminal violation and makes the arrest, a patrol officer will transport the suspect. The K-9 member will complete all the necessary charging documents. At no time will any suspect be transported in a K-9 vehicle.

In the event a K-9 officer makes an arrest and the suspect is injured, whether from the use of physical force or the use of the K-9, that member shall immediately notify the K-9 Supervisor if available, or a patrol supervisor if the K-9 Supervisor is not available. The K-9 Supervisor or the patrol supervisor will ensure that all necessary reports are completed and forwarded to the shift commander as soon as possible.

The K-9 handler shall seek appropriate medical attention for the injured suspect through either a hospital facility or the medical staff at the Charles County Detention Center. All injuries as a result of a K-9 apprehension shall be photographed.

4-711.7 REQUESTS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES FOR K-9 ASSISTANCE

When a Charles County Sheriff's Office K-9 is requested by a surrounding jurisdiction, if a K-9 team is currently working patrol, the patrol shift commander will make the determination to send the K-9 team. If a K-9 team is unavailable, or the working team does not meet the criteria needed by the surrounding jurisdiction, contact will be made with the Commander, Patrol Division South or his designee to determine if a call-out will be made.

4-711.8 USE OF ANCILLARY K-9 SUPPORT FROM NON-POLICE SOURCES

This Agency recognizes that outside resources specializing in highly trained search and rescue dogs can provide a needed service in augmenting the efforts of public safety in conducting search and rescue operations.

Services of outside search and rescue K-9 teams may be requested by authority of a command level officer. Commanders considering using outside assistance shall consult with the K-9 Supervisor or division commander, or in their absence, a Charles County Sheriff's K-9 handler who is participating in the search mission.

Civilian K-9 services shall not be utilized in the search for criminal suspects without the authorization of the Sheriff, Chief of Staff, or the requesting employee's Assistant Sheriff.



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Outside search and rescue teams who become involved in K-9 support efforts shall be required to coordinate their activities with the officer in charge at the scene and to cooperate fully with the search mission.

If at any time problems or conflicts develop between this Agency and members of any outside K-9 search and rescue group, the OIC shall immediately attempt to resolve the conflict. If unable to resolve the problem, the search and rescue team(s) shall be directed to cease any further actions and vacate the scene. A report of any such incident shall be prepared and forwarded to the Sheriff within 24 hours.

4-711.9 RETIREMENT AND ADOPTION OF K-9 DOGS

When the decision is made to retire any K-9, the handler may submit a request to the Sheriff to adopt the K-9. The request shall be in writing and submitted through the officer's chain of command. Along with the request, the handler shall submit a completed and signed K-9 Adoption Agreement Form #131. The form releases the Charles County Sheriff's Office from any liability for the K-9. Upon the Sheriff's approval, reimbursements as outlined in the K-9 Adoption Agreement and AOM 3-606 shall begin.

4-712 HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard was formed specifically to assist families of fallen officers at funerals when requested. The Honor Guard also serves as a community relations link by performing at various functions in and out of Charles County. The Honor Guard is comprised of sworn / correctional officers who represent the Agency at designated functions. Their operation will be in compliance with this document and any Unit SOPs. These requirements are essential due to the high visibility of the Honor Guard by the public and the image portrayed.

Members of the Honor Guard may be assigned from any Division within the Agency consistent with this policy. However, the Honor Guard is a segment of the Community Services Division for organizational and command purposes.

4-712.1 DEFINITIONS

Honor Guard - Generally a six member team, the Honor Guard is comprised of two Guards bearing rifles and four Color Bearers. The size of the team and duties of its members will vary according to the specific detail.

Alternate Honor Guard Members - There will be five alternate members who will be capable of performing as either Guards or Color Bearers.

Honor Guard Unit - Is comprised of the members of the Honor Guard and the Alternate Honor Guard members.

Details - Each Honor Guard performance will be termed as a "detail." Performances will be authorized by the Sheriff, an Assistant Sheriff, Patrol Operations Commander, or Honor Guard Commander. Performances generally include parades, funerals, opening ceremonies, graduations, and other appropriate functions.

4-712.2 EQUIPMENT

The following equipment will be supplied to the Honor Guard:

1. 2 Military Rifles
2. 4 flag staffs
3. 4 flag staff ornaments (brass in color)
 - a) Eagle
 - b) Bottony Cross
 - c) Spear Point (2)



1. 4 flags, 3' x 5', nylon
 - a) United States of America
 - b) Maryland State
 - c) Charles County
 - d) Charles County Sheriff's Office
1. 4 flag tassels and cords. Golden yellow in color, with 5" tassels and 9' cords. Each flag staff will have one flag and one flag tassel and cord attached to it.
2. 4 flag carrying harnesses, black in color, of either patent leather-type material, Clarino, or high quality cotton material.

4-712.3 UNIFORMS

It shall be the responsibility of the officers selected for duty with the Honor Guard to maintain all uniforms and accouterments in a condition of high readiness. Particular attention must be paid to pressing, polishing and cleanliness, with a superior military appearance being the required state.

A supplemental issue of uniforms and equipment will be made to members of the Honor Guard. Upon leaving the Honor Guard, all issued equipment and uniforms shall be returned to the Quartermaster.

4-712.4 SELECTION

Officers selected for this assignment will be on a volunteer basis. When vacancies occur, a notice soliciting volunteers will be posted throughout the Agency, including a closing date.

The Honor Guard Commander will make a selection based on the following criteria, following attendance and participation in (6) six practices:

1. Has consistently demonstrated a sharp military appearance.
2. Has consistently exhibited self-discipline, initiative, and a positive demeanor.
 - Officer's work performance.
 - Officer's availability for assignments beyond those scheduled during work hours
 - Officer's enthusiasm for joining the team

4-712.5 HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

The Honor Guard Commander is a duty assigned to the Commander, Community Relations. The Honor Guard Commander will receive and review requests for the Honor Guard, and shall have authority to approve or deny these requests. The Honor Guard Commander will be assisted by the Honor Guard Coordinator as defined within this policy.

4-712.6 HONOR GUARD COORDINATOR

The Honor Guard Coordinator will be of the rank of Sergeant. The Coordinator will report directly to the Honor Guard Commander, in all related matters. The Coordinator will be responsible for the training of members, scheduling of approved details, keeping of related records, and maintenance and custody of related equipment.

The Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing overtime and will maintain annual records on functions attended.

4-712.7 HONOR GUARD TRAINING



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The Honor Guard Coordinator will schedule and conduct all requisite training. At the minimum, training will be conducted on a quarterly basis. Prior to the performance of a detail, the Coordinator may schedule a training session.

4-712.8 REQUESTS FOR PERFORMANCE

All requests for performances by the Honor Guard will be submitted to the Honor Guard Commander, who will have responsibility for approval. Regardless of whether the request is approved or not, the Coordinator will inform the requestor of his decision.

4-714 MEDICAL CANNABIS

Last reviewed: 4/23/2025

1. Medical cannabis is regulated by state law, COMAR and the MCA.
2. Medical cannabis patients are not required to possess or provide their MCA patient identification card or number to law enforcement.
3. When officers encounter persons that present information that they are eligible to possess medical cannabis (e.g., patient, caregiver, transporter), and it is reasonably believed to be valid, the officer will not take any law enforcement action.
4. Questions regarding medical cannabis can be referred to the MCA.
5. Employees are prohibited from directly or constructively possessing any form of cannabis while on or off duty, except in the performance of their duties. Therefore, employees may not participate in any way in the provision of medical cannabis care and may not own or be employed by any business associated in any way with the distribution or use of cannabis.

4-810 SECURITY RESPONSE VESSEL (SRV)

The following sections establish procedures for the use, deployment and maintenance of the Charles County Sheriff's Office Security Response Vessel, hereinafter referred to as the SRV.

For radio dispatch and designation purposes, the SRV shall be referred to as "Sheriff's Boat 1" by both Police and Fire / EMS Communications.

The SRV will be trailered and stored at a central and secure site established for quick and decisive deployment when needed. The Communications Section will maintain a knowledge of the current storage location of this vessel. The vessel shall be available for use on a call-out basis, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

An operational function, command responsibility for the SRV is assigned to the Commander, Field Operations Section, Special Operations Division. The crew will perform in compliance with this policy and approved SOPs established for the SRV. Personnel selected for this assignment have the specialized training, experience or other qualifications to become vessel operators or crewmen. Personnel selected will receive specialized training which prepares them to perform their responsibilities or to hone their individual skills. All training for vessel operators and crewmen will be scheduled by the Commander, Field Operations Section or a designee.

Members of the SRV function will have regular assignments throughout the Agency, but will respond to situations requiring their talents, training and expertise when the need is presented. Vessel operators and crewmen, while working a real event, will be under the temporary command of the on-scene commander of the situation or event requiring a response.



4-810.1 SRV DEPLOYMENT

The primary responsibility of the SRV function is to provide waterway security patrols and maritime law enforcement on the waterways surrounding Charles County, or other duties as deemed appropriate and authorized by the Commander, Field Operations Section. They may be requested to perform the following duties:

- conduct marine security patrols, paying strict attention and detail to bridge infrastructures and privately owned and operated shoreline properties; i.e., Mirant Power Generating Plant, federal reservations;
- conduct law enforcement patrols in the waterways surrounding Charles County;
- locate, respond, and assist, when requested, to marine related lost or missing persons, overdue vessels, and vessels in distress;
- conduct search and rescue missions, when requested, and assist any other agency in search and rescue missions; i.e., U. S. Coast Guard, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police, Maryland Transportation Authority Police or Charles County Fire and EMS Departments;
- assist and back-up, when requested, other law enforcement agencies; i.e., federal, state, and local with any other law enforcement, and/or criminal activities for marine support;
- respond, if requested, to assist local Charles County Fire and EMS departments with any marine related fire call; i.e., boat fires, marina fires, residential and commercial waterfront fires; and
- maintain a working relationship and dialogue with Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Operations Division and other operational components on matters pertaining to Homeland Security Intelligence, trends, or targets of local concern.

The decision not to deploy the vessel or to cease an operation as a consequent of obvious dangers or weather conditions will be the sole responsibility of the vessel operator, who is the best informed as to individual capabilities and the vessel's safety capabilities.

The SRV function can be activated by the Commander, Special Operations Division, Commander, Field Operations Section or a designee for homeland security, surveillance, overt patrol operations, any covert operations, warrant service, assistance to allied law enforcement agencies and search and rescue activities. Unless law enforcement related, the recovery of bodies, vessels, vehicles, or other items shall be left to those agencies equipped for such operations.

The SRV function is primarily a law enforcement and homeland security tool; however, if it has been activated and an emergency rescue situation arises that is reachable prior to arrival of other rescue equipment, the Agency vessel shall respond and take appropriate action.

The SRV will deploy with a minimum of one Agency-designated vessel operator, who will not participate in the operation mission other than to operate and maintain the vessel. The SRV may deploy with one crewman in addition to the designated operator.

The Commander, Field Operations Section shall utilize only Agency approved vessel operators for deployment purposes.

Due to liability concerns and unless exigent circumstances exist, the SRV will not be used to engage in towing operations of stranded and/or disabled boats. When responding to a stranded and/or disabled vessel, the vessel may be anchored and the occupants taken to the nearest safe harbor. If towing is required and authorized by the Commander, Field Operations Section, the vessel will be towed to the nearest safe harbor or shoreline.



4-820 LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE (LRAD)

The Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) is a high-intensity, directional, acoustical array for long-range, clear hailing and notification. The LRAD is a communication device that can transmit live or prerecorded messages. Unlike handheld bullhorn devices, the LRAD emits acoustic sound pressure levels up to 140 decibels, resulting in clear, intelligible communications.

The Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) will be used to maximize the safety of all individuals involved in an incident. The LRAD is only authorized for use as a communication device and is not designed to be used as a weapon.

4-820.1 USE OF LRAD FOR COMMUNICATION

Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office may use the LRAD during the following types of situations:

- Dispersal of crowds.
- Natural Disasters.
- Evacuations.
- Communicate to protestors.
- Search and rescue operations.
- Hostage and barricaded subject incidents.
- Suicidal persons where other methods of communication are ineffective or not practical.
- Service of high-risk search or arrest warrants.
- Crowd communication during large scale events such as parades, festivals or concerts.
- Traffic control management.
- Enforce perimeters or establish safety areas during rapidly evolving events.

4-820.2 MAINTENANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY

The LRAD is assigned to the Community Relations Section (CRS) Commander. The CRS Commander, or in their absence, the Field Operations Commander may authorize the use of the LRAD.

The Community Relations Section (CSD) Commander will maintain a list of personnel trained and authorized to use the LRAD and will be responsible for maintaining the device and providing training.

4-900 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. CARE AND MAINTENANCE
- D. DEPLOYMENT PROTOCOL
- E. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT
- F. DOWNLOADING AED DATA
- G. REPORTING PROCEDURES
- H. TRAINING
- I. QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines, responsibilities, and limitations in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office who are either sworn, civilian, or corrections staff.



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Commanders, in their respected areas will be responsible to ensure the AED Coordinator is notified of use of AEDs, malfunctions, or replacement equipment needed. All AED units are contracted through an outside vendor for repair, service, or replacement parts.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is a licensed provider through the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS). The Agency AEDs are located throughout Agency facilities. Locations include HQ, SMCJA, Firearms Range, SOD, CCDC, district stations, Patrol South, FSS, Circuit Court, Fingerprint Office, and Property Management. Specific locations of AEDs within these facilities will be maintained by the Facilities Maintenance Manager through the Special Services Commander. Guidelines are established as set forth by the Medical Director of the Charles County Association of Emergency Services AED Program and Maryland Medical Protocols of MIEMSS.

B. DEFINITIONS

AED: Automated External Defibrillator- an advanced medical device used by first responders and emergency medical services to deliver an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart of a person experiencing cardiac arrest. The AED has built-in computers which allow the device to evaluate the person's heart rhythm and deliver a shock if necessary.

Agency AED Coordinator- The Facilities Maintenance Manager will serve as the Agency AED Coordinator. The AED Coordinator will be the contact for any AED related use or service issues.

BLS Providers- Basic Life Support providers include all first responding emergency personnel, whether in hospital or out-of-hospital, and usually include those persons associated with Fire / EMS organizations and law enforcement personnel.

ALS Providers- Advanced Life Support providers include many first responding emergency personnel, whether in hospital or out-of-hospital, who have more advanced medical training, experience, and certifications and usually include paramedics, nurses, or physicians.

MIEMSS- Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the state agency that regulates participation in the AED program.

C. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Sworn officers who are assigned or possess an Agency AED while on routine patrol shall safeguard the unit from potential damage. The suggested method of transportation of the AED is to secure the unit by seatbelt or by placing the unit on the floorboard of the patrol vehicle. If the AED is maintained at a fixed facility, the unit shall be visible and accessible for immediate use.

AED units assigned to officers will be inspected and exchanged during shift change. A GREEN checkmark displayed on a small LCD screen located on the top left next to the power button indicates readiness. Any other symbols or warning indicators should be reported to the AED Coordinator. The AED will remain out of service until a replacement can be obtained or the unit serviced. The AED will be thoroughly inspected once per month by the vendor. Completed inspection sheets will be maintained by our service provider for a period of five (5) years.

D. DEPLOYMENT PROTOCOL

Agency employees shall deploy the AED utilizing the specific guidelines and training provided.

NOTE: Cardiac arrest secondary to trauma is not treated according to this protocol. In trauma situations, transport should be rapid with CPR by BLS / ALS providers.



E. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

The following listed items will be kept with the AED at all times:

1. Two sets of defibrillator chest pads
2. One pocket face mask
3. Disposable gloves
4. Two safety razors (for shaving person's chest if necessary, for proper pad contact)
5. One absorbent towel
6. Five 4x4 gauze pads
7. Maryland Facility AED Report Forms for Cardiac Arrest

A ready-to-use AED should be kept in a closed, intact case with no visible signs of damage which would interfere with its use. It is the responsibility of the Agency AED Coordinator to maintain surplus supplies and ensure the policies and procedures established herein are followed by Agency personnel. The AED Coordinator will contact the Agency's AED service provider for a replacement unit and pads after each reported use. Any missing or used equipment will be replaced immediately by contacting the AED Coordinator.

F. DOWNLOADING AED DATA

When the AED is utilized the unit data will be downloaded to the USB device attached to the AED and go with the person during transport to a medical facility. The employee is responsible for downloading the stored data from the AED (see instructions attached to AED).

The Report Form for Cardiac Arrest will be scanned by using the QR code attached to the unit and completed by the employee after use.



Public Access AED Use Report Form

The Public Access AED Use Report Form must be completed within 48 hours of any event in which pads or electrodes are applied to a person, even if no shocks are delivered.



Please keep this QR code with the AED device for easy access to the electronic form.

Photocopies are acceptable. Instructions for the data download are provided at the printer station as well as with the AED Coordinator.

G. REPORTING PROCEDURES

Whenever an AED unit is used, whether the person was shocked or not, employees will adhere to the following reporting procedures.

1. A Maryland Facility Report Form for Cardiac Arrest will be completed by scanning the laminated QR code attached to the AED. The employee will notify the Agency AED Coordinator via email, before the end of the employee's tour of duty, advising the unit location.
2. The Data Report generated from the AED memory will be uploaded to the USB attached to the unit and given to EMS staff for advanced medical care reporting (see laminated instructions attached to the AED).
3. The AED Coordinator will ensure MIEMSS received the AED use report within 48 hours of the incident.
4. In cases of death, a copy of the form will be attached to the death report completed by the employee.
5. In the event of an AED malfunction, the AED Coordinator will complete a mandatory FDA medical products reporting form and submit it to the FDA.

MIEMSS protocol mandates the Maryland Facility AED Report Form for Cardiac Arrest should be filled out



immediately after an incident by the main care giver at the scene and the AED operator, if a different person.

The employee will follow the listed reporting procedures and report distribution guidelines outlined in this policy.

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

The Maryland Facility AED Report Form for Cardiac Arrest will be completed online, and a USB copy of the AED data download will be sent with the receiving emergency medical staff to provide to hospital staff.

The original of this form, the data download, and a copy of any Report of Death will be forwarded to the AED Coordinator.

The AED Coordinator will be notified of AED use and location by email; the coordinator will ensure the Maryland Facility AED Report Form for Cardiac Arrest was completed within 48 hours. The coordinator will provide data downloads from the machine to the County AED Coordinator and MIEMSS.

H. TRAINING

The Commander, Training Division will be responsible for the initial and biennial CPR and AED training / re-certification to all sworn, correctional, and select civilian staff as required by the Maryland Facility Automated Defibrillation Program, a program of MIEMSS. The Training Division will be responsible for maintaining certifications and administering the training.

I. QUALITY ASSURANCE

For quality purposes, the following records must be maintained:

1. A log showing the dates of the performance of manufacturer recommended maintenance, as well the company performing the maintenance.
2. Repairs performed on the AED, as well the date and the company that performed the repair.
3. Dates and frequency of routine safety inspections of the AED, documentation of a properly functioning AED, and the individual conducting the inspections.
4. Documentation of all personnel authorized to operate AEDs, including dates of initial training and subsequent required refresher training, as well as current recognition from a MIEMSS approved AED training program.
5. Documentation showing the name, address, and telephone number of the sponsoring physician and verification the physician meets required qualifications.
6. Completed Maryland Facility AED Report Form for Cardiac Arrest for each incident requiring AED deployment.
7. Mandatory FDA medical products reporting form in the event of an AED malfunction.

When an AED is utilized, it will be the responsibility of the Agency AED Coordinator to contact the program sponsoring physician to conduct a quality review in accordance with the quality review procedures as set forth by the facility AED Program.



CHAPTER 5 – AGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM

5-100 REPORTS AND REPORT WRITING

- A. PURPOSE
- B. GENERAL REPORTING PROCEDURES
- C. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT REQUIRING REPORTS
- D. INCIDENTS REQUIRING REPORTS
- E. CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING SPECIFIC REPORTING PROCEDURES
- F. REPORTING CAUTIONS
- G. TELEPHONE / LETTER GENERATED REPORTS
- H. LEGIBLE NAMES

A. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to document incidents of many different kinds on various types of reports and forms. This is done so a permanent record of events is available for:

1. criminal charges and prosecution;
2. civil liability protection;
3. assistance to victims and other interested parties;
4. further investigation;
5. reference in regards to unusual events or occurrences;
6. matters of public safety / health / welfare; and
7. gathering statistical information for NIBRS and other applications.

B. GENERAL REPORTING PROCEDURES

The primary document controlling report writing for CCSO will be the Report Writing Guide. Officers of this Agency shall make or cause to be made, complete, detailed and accurate reports for all reportable incidents / offenses on the proper forms and in the proper formats. Additionally:

1. each report will be assigned an incident or event number unique to that occurrence;
2. reports shall be legibly printed in blue or black ink, typewritten, or prepared in a computerized reporting system;
3. twenty-four hour military time will be used throughout all reports;
4. the exact location of occurrence, including at least the hundred block designation if not the correct, complete physical address, will be recorded on the report. When appropriate and available, the town, community, subdivision, etc., will be listed;
5. all reports will reflect whether or not the incident / crime occurred in "Charles County Maryland;"
6. the reporting officer will affix his signature followed by his ID number (officer's last name printed legibly below or beside signature) on all reports in blue ink to distinguish photocopies from original documents;
7. the incident, offense, and persons tabs of the Incident Report should be completed prior to going in-service from the call. The final report should be completed prior to the end of the tour of duty (work week) for the officer.
8. in no case, without the permission of a district or shift commander, shall a report be placed "on hold" if the reporting officer does not anticipate reporting for duty the following day; e.g., days off, scheduled leave,



etc.;

9. all reports will contain information material to the matter
10. reports will be reviewed and approved or rejected by the appropriate supervisor immediately upon completion;
11. regardless of an investigation's status, supplemental reports will be completed and submitted if any additional information is developed;
12. under no circumstances shall an employee knowingly include, or permit the inclusion of, any false, fraudulent or misleading information in any official report prepared or produced by this Agency;
13. under no circumstances shall an employee knowingly exclude any information which by its omission would be misleading or fraudulent. Further, no pertinent information shall be omitted with the intent of avoiding follow-up investigation or avoiding completion of a multiple-page report;
14. If a supplemental report is generated for an incident with pending criminal charges, the officer shall notify the State's Attorney's Office that the report has been submitted. If the supplemental report includes exculpatory information, the officer will make immediate notification to the assigned prosecutor and send a copy of the supplemental report directly to the prosecutor. If no prosecutor is assigned, the officer will make notification and send a copy of the supplement to the District Court or Circuit Court coordinator. The notification made shall be documented in the supplement.
15. If exculpatory evidence is received or discovered by an Agency employee for a case that has been adjudicated, the employee will collect and preserve the evidence, document how the evidence was received or discovered in a supplemental report, and make immediate notification to the prosecutor. Additionally, the employee will send a copy of the supplement to the District Court or Circuit Court coordinator. The notification made shall be documented in the supplement.

C. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT REQUIRING REPORTS

Not every complaint received, or call for service dispatched, requires the completion of a report. A record of the incident exists in the Agency CAD system. Some incidents not requiring reports are as follows:

1. complaints which are determined to be unfounded;
2. incidents which are investigated in their entirety by another agency;
3. calls on which the responding units are canceled prior to arrival;
4. incidents for which no victim or complainant can be verified, no crime can be determined and no participants can be located; i.e., gone on arrival, unable to locate;
5. events for which a police response is necessary, but the completion of a report would only duplicate statistical data already captured; i.e., routine loud music complaints, accidental / false alarms, disabled vehicles or routine disorderly conduct calls; and
6. minor (vehicles operable), property-damage-only motor vehicle accidents which do not involve Agency vehicles, where an exchange of personal and insurance information is accomplished, and no other violations are present (i.e., driving while intoxicated, driving while suspended, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving without a license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, etc.). (Reporting procedures for motor vehicle collisions involving Agency vehicles can be found in the Agency Vehicle Crashes policy.



D. INCIDENTS REQUIRING REPORTS

Certain incidents or events necessitate the completion of a written report. Officers may become involved in or become aware of these incidents as a result of:

1. citizens' reports of crimes;
2. citizens' complaints;
3. being dispatched or assigned to a call;
4. self-initiated criminal and non-criminal cases; and / or
5. incidents involving arrests, citations, or summonses.

Dependent upon the nature, course and scope of a particular investigation, additional reports or forms may be required. Any property or evidence recovered as a result of an officer's official duties will be recorded and will require completion of an I.R., whether the property is immediately released or not. Crime Information Reports shall be completed as directed elsewhere in this Manual.

E. CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING SPECIFIC REPORTING PROCEDURES

Some incidents by their very nature require specialized reporting procedures. Just as different incidents require varied report forms and formats, some reports require the inclusion of specific information for various purposes, compilation of statistical data or entry of stolen property in the METERS / NCIC computer system. Others necessitate procedures unique to that particular incident type. The following portion of this policy addresses some of these circumstances and requirements:

1. Child / vulnerable adult / elderly abuse reports must contain the relationship between the suspect(s) and the victim(s) to establish a care, custodial or familial association.
2. All missing person reports will be completed and submitted before the reporting officer secures from his shift. Supplements will be completed every seventy-two hours for a period of ten days on non- critical missing person cases. After ten days, the investigation will be forwarded to CID for follow-up. A notation will be made in the final supplement indicating contact was made with the complainant at the end of the ten-day period, and the missing person has not been located. If at any time during the initial ten-day period, information is developed indicating the missing person has left Charles County, the case will be immediately forwarded to CID for investigation. In those missing person cases deemed to be critical, an immediate notification will be made to CID.
3. When a combination of offenses occurs during the same incident or continuing course of incidents, a single report will be sufficient. The incidents shall be listed with the most serious first; i.e., Homicide / Robbery, Rape / Possession of Cannabis, Burglary / Auto Theft, etc.

All reports requiring prompt METERS / NCIC entry or removal will be completed and submitted to a supervisor immediately for review and approval; i.e., juvenile / critical missing person, stolen / recovered vehicles, stolen / recovered registration plates.

All reports for stolen or recovered vehicles must contain:

1. whether the vehicle was displaying the front, rear, both or no registration plates at the time of the theft or recovery;
2. whether or not the vehicle has been entered in the "Watch Your Car" program; and
3. if so, whether or not the vehicle is displaying the program decals.

All reports in which a suspect has been developed and are being closed with no charges shall contain the following wording:



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1. "On (date) I spoke with (name of prosecutor). After review of the case, (name of prosecutor) indicated based on the facts and evidence known at this time, the State's Attorney's Office would not pursue prosecution."

When an officer conducts a traffic stop where no Incident Report is generated and only a must-appear traffic citation is issued (i.e., Driving without Insurance, Attaching an unauthorized registration plate to avoid ID), the officer will request an IR number for Traffic Stop-Must Appear. Any associated videos will be linked to the case using the IR number. The incident report will automatically close with no further required input from the officer.

F. REPORTING CAUTIONS

In any report form or format, there are a number of possibilities for errors to be made. Care must be taken to recognize this and every effort made to avoid mistakes. Most reports rejected by Records Management are due to insufficient or inaccurate information. Recognizing that the reviewing supervisor may not be the last person reading them, it should become the goal of each employee to prepare complete, accurate and properly formatted reports. Employees should consider their reports may be, and often are read by:

1. accused individuals;
2. defense attorneys;
3. state's attorneys;
4. judges;
5. insurance companies;
6. investigators from this and allied agencies;
7. command staff officers;
8. victims; and
9. members of the public, including news media.

Commonly made mistakes and problem areas include:

1. improperly transcribing incident numbers;
2. incorrect offense / incident types;
3. improperly transcribing telephone numbers;
4. failure to include area codes;
5. improperly transcribing dates of birth;
6. incomplete property descriptions;
7. failure to include nature of damage to property;
8. inaccurate property values;
9. incorrect vehicle VIN's;
10. incorrect spelling of names;
11. transposing names of victims, suspects / accused, complainants and witnesses;
12. missing report format captions;
13. insufficient information specific to the incident type (see the Circumstances Requiring Specific Reporting Procedures section);
14. failure to include Property Held number for property / evidence recovered;
15. failure to properly designate persons as suspects or accused; and
16. illegibility.

G. TELEPHONE / LETTER GENERATED REPORTS

Except as provided for in the Telephone Reporting policy, the CCSO does not take reports generated by a telephone call or a letter. All reports are taken in person from a complainant, victim, or other reporting person. Rare exceptions may be made to this policy in those circumstances which would serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose and/or relieve some undue hardship to the victim, complainant or other reporting person if that person were required to meet personally with CCSO personnel. For this exception to occur, the approval of a



supervisor (Sergeant or above in rank) must be obtained. When such approval is granted, a Patrol Operations officer will write the initial report.

Some examples which may warrant an exception are:

1. the reporting person is an out-of-state resident who was passing through Charles County when the crime occurred and is currently not in or near Charles County; or
2. a person who is an out-of-state resident has information concerning a serious crime having been committed or about to be committed within Charles County and the person is unable or unwilling to come to Charles County to make a report.

When reports are made from information not received in person, the report narrative will clearly state the reporting officer was not on the crime scene and did not speak with the reporting person face-to-face. If the report was the result of a letter, the reporting officer will attempt to contact the reporting person by telephone to facilitate completion of the report. The letter will be attached to the original report.

H. LEGIBLE NAMES

Officers must print their last names legibly below or beside their signatures in parentheses on any official or legal documents requiring a signature, such as citations, warnings, forms, and repair orders, unless these documents are preprinted with the officer's name. The officer's ID number must also be legible. Supervisors are to ensure that both printed names and ID numbers are legible on all such documents. This policy includes all employees who may sign official and/or legal documents in the course of their duties.

5-110 TELEPHONE REPORTING

The Charles County Sheriff's Office will provide the service of telephone information gathering for the purpose of generating an official report, providing advice to citizens, gathering information from previously reported incidents, and documenting said information in supplemental reports. This service will be provided if the specific conditions contained in this policy are met. It is anticipated better service will be provided the public without any loss in the Agency's effectiveness in filling its role; and as a result of this process, better efficiency in the use of resources will be realized.

5-110.1 ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONING

The Telephone Reporting Function will be activated at the discretion of the Sheriff or his designee, and will be assigned to the Commander, South Patrol Division. When activated, the function will be staffed by sworn personnel on modified duty or temporarily assigned to the function.

5-110.2 CASE CRITERIA

Absent emergency operations and without prior approval of the Sheriff or his designee, all of the following criteria must be met before a call will be handled by this function:

- The suspect must be unknown and must have left the scene; and
- The incident must have "occurred earlier;" and
- There must be no evidence left on the scene to be processed or gathered; and
- No damage to any county, state, or federal property may have occurred.
- The "unknown suspect" criteria does not refer to internet / identity / financial crimes.

Consistent with the criteria stated in the previous paragraph, the following events may be handled through this process:



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- Theft (except shoplifting and motor vehicle theft);
- Vandalism (except school or place of worship);
- Indecent, threatening or annoying phone calls (unless the complainant or Agency personnel believes there to be a danger to the complainant);
- Financial Crimes (credit card fraud / identity theft / etc.) – if necessary, contact Financial Crimes Supervisor to see if CID will assume investigation;
- Lost property; and
- The taking of a supplemental information report for a previously reported event.

All requests for telephone reporting will be handled via computer terminal (requiring a CAD entry as for all other calls for service). Once the CAD entry arrives in Communications, the PCO will confirm the incident qualifies for this function, and then assign the call to be handled by the TRF.

In no case when an officer has responded to the scene of a call for service will that call be reassigned to the telephone reporting function without the approval of the on duty Shift Commander. For those instances, Communications will be notified to reassign the call and advised the reason for the call being reassigned to this function.

If the initial report of an incident has been assigned to an officer in the telephone reporting function, but information is developed which requires an officer to respond, an officer will be dispatched to the scene to assist in the incident. This might include such assistance as:

- Collecting evidence;
- Photographing damaged property; and
- Interviewing witnesses or suspects.

In these instances, the responding officer will prepare a supplemental report to the initial report handled by the TRF. The officer's supervisor will then determine if the responding officer will continue to follow up on the incident.

If additional information is developed which requires an officer to respond, prior to the initial report being assigned, the officer in the TRF will add notes to the call sheet advising an officer will need to be dispatched to the scene and advise Communications. An officer will then be dispatched to the scene to handle the call.

In addition to handling initial calls for service as mentioned previously in this policy, officers assigned to this function will field calls when citizens contact the Sheriff's Office and request to speak with an officer who is unavailable at the time of the call.

The call taker will document the call in a CAD entry labeled "Additional Information" and assign the call to be handled by the TRF. The officers assigned to TRF will provide advice to the caller and if additional information related to a previously reported incident is obtained, complete a supplemental report related to the incident. Once completed, the officer will notify the author of the initial report.

5-110.3 OFFICER STATUS CRITERIA

Officers in the telephone reporting function will notify Communications and the on duty shift commander at the beginning of their shift each day and advise which hours they will be working.

Officers in a Non-Officer status, assigned to the telephone reporting function, will not handle any walk-in calls for service (reports, repair orders, etc.) or have any physical contact with citizens while working.

Officers not in a Non-Officer status, assigned to the telephone reporting function, may handle walk-in calls for service with the approval of the Supervisor / Shift Commander on duty. All walk-in calls must fall within the allowed medical restrictions of the officer working, if any, and meet the Case Criteria described in 5-110.2.



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5-110.4 REPORT REVIEW

When an officer in the telephone reporting function is continuing to work with their respective Patrol Squad / Shift their reports will continue through the same Squad / Shift review / approval process.

If the officer assigned to the telephone reporting function is on a modified schedule and not working with their respective Patrol Squad / Shift their reports will be directed to the South Patrol Division Administrative Sergeant for review.

When approved, the report will be forwarded to the Records Section to be filed. A copy will be sent by Records to the district commander for the district in which the incident occurred and to CID.

5-110.5 FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

If, in the opinion of the South Patrol Division Administrative Sergeant a report needs follow-up investigation, the report will be assigned to the shift commander working at the time of the original call and will be marked "follow-up recommended." In these cases, the shift commander will assign an officer in that district to the investigative follow-up and supplemental reporting as deemed necessary by the commander.

5-110.6 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

The Telephone Reporting Function is not permanently staffed, but can be activated based on the Agency's needs. Generally, when activated it will operate as described above. However, in some cases, officers can be assigned to the function during emergency situations or special assignments and operation of the function can be modified by special order or executive directive.

5-150 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTING PROGRAM

(Last Reviewed: 12/3/2025)

- A. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- B. DISSEMINATION
- C. DEFINITIONS
- D. EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
- E. OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
- F. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
- G. PATROL DIVISION
- H. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
- I. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
- J. SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION
- K. TRAINING DIVISION
- L. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
- M. SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION
- N. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
- O. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
- P. CORRECTIONS DIVISION

A. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency has established an Administrative Reporting Program to provide information to the Sheriff and others regarding performance of the Agency and all its components. This is accomplished through the completion of various reports on a recurring basis. Through this reporting system, the Agency can identify both positive and negative outcomes and work to correct deficiencies.



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Division Commanders / Directors are responsible for ensuring each administrative report assigned to their division is completed and submitted, meeting all established deadlines. The Commander, Executive Services Division, or designee is responsible for overseeing the Administrative Reporting Program and may work in conjunction with the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility to assure the integrity of the program is maintained.

The Commander, Executive Services Division will, on behalf of the Sheriff, assist in collecting any reports which may become delinquent. Any such delinquent report, not justified by unusual or extreme circumstances, will be considered a serious breach of administrative and management responsibilities.

B. DISSEMINATION

All listed administrative reports will be documented in writing. Upon completion, unless noted otherwise, each report will be sent up the chain of command for review by the Sheriff prior to any dissemination. Upon approval of the Sheriff, copies will be provided to all affected members of the Executive Command Staff and other employees and external entities as required.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. **Administrative Review** – a documented examination or study of an incident or occurrence, a series of incidents or occurrences, or program, prepared by a member or outside entity designated by the Sheriff. The review should indicate whether policy, training, equipment or disciplinary issues should be addressed. Less formal than an analysis. Administrative reviews are intended to be provided to the Sheriff, or designee, for review.
2. **Analysis** – a systematic, structured process for dissecting an event into its basic parts to identify any patterns or trends that could indicate program effectiveness (or ineffectiveness), training needs, equipment needs and/or policy/procedure changes.
3. **Audit** – a sampling and review or accounting of records and practices that conform to generally accepted standards.
4. **Evaluation** – a careful appraisal and study to determine the significance and/or worth or condition, and to draw conclusions pertaining to an item, project or undertaking.
5. **Plan** – documented identification methods to achieve desirable goals or conditions.
6. **Report** – a document that presents information in an organized format, typically intended for a specific audience and purpose. Reports can inform, educate and offer recommendations.
7. **Review** – to examine or study; less formal than an analysis.
8. **Survey** – to conduct a general examination or appraisal.

D. EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Executive Services Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Agency Annual Report** – A comprehensive report compiled each year by the Media Relations Office (MRO), outlining the activities of the Agency during the previous calendar year. The report is published on the Agency intranet and the public-facing webpage. The report will:
 - a) describe the structure of the Agency;
 - b) introduce the current Executive Staff;
 - c) explain and display the specific activities of each component of the Agency and highlight specific accomplishments;
 - d) display summary data concerning investigations conducted by OPR in a manner designed to provide public and employee confidence that these investigations are conducted impartially with just results;
 - e) display data concerning the number of crimes, motor vehicle crashes, incidents and activities handled by the Agency which might provide the community insight concerning the fulfillment of



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the responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff.

2. **Strategic Management Plan (SMP)** – An annual multi-year planning document, forecasting fiscal year and long-term goals for each division and organizational component, which is utilized to help guide the budget process. The Planning and Accreditation Section is responsible for compiling and publishing the document on the Agency intranet following the annual SMP Conference.

E. OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

The General Counsel, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Judgement or Settlement Report** – An annual report containing a list of all use of force incidents that occurred the previous calendar year, involved a sworn officer, and resulted in a monetary settlement or judgment against the Agency. This report will be submitted through the chain of command to the Sheriff for review, prior to the required submission of the report to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). Per Maryland Public Safety Article 3-528, the report must contain the following information:
 - a) The age, gender, ethnicity and race of each individual involved in the incident;
 - b) The age, gender, ethnicity and race of the sworn officer involved in the incident;
 - c) A brief description of the circumstances surrounding the incident, such as:
 - The date, time and location of the incident;
 - The date on which the civil action was filed;
 - The date on which the civil action was resolved; and
 - The amount of the settlement or judgement awarded to the plaintiff.

F. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative reports:

1. **Officer Discipline and Serious Officer Incident Report (ODSOI)** – An annual report required to be submitted to the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) each year, in accordance with Maryland Public Safety Article §3-207(b)(1).
2. **Agency Cash Funds Report** – An annual report documenting the results of all quarterly audits of the Agency's cash funds and accounts during the previous calendar year.
3. **Use of Force Analysis** – An annual, documented analysis concerning the use of force by Agency personnel during the previous calendar year. This analysis will be a confidential document for distribution through the chain of command to the Sheriff. No information contained in the analysis will be shared with any other outside entity without the approval of the Sheriff.

The use of force analysis will contain:

- a) a listing of all use of force incidents, including dates and times of incidents;
- b) types of encounters resulting in use of force;
- c) the final disposition of each incident which has reached a final conclusion;
- d) any developing trends in use of force;
- e) observations regarding the effectiveness of techniques used and recommendations regarding alternate methods which have proven more effective in similar situations;
- f) any conclusions regarding the need for additional training or equipment;
- g) any need for revision of policy or procedures;
- h) identified individuals who may need further evaluation for developing tendencies of excessive use of force;
- i) possible biases, patterns or trends developing toward any particular group or segment of the



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- population, including related to a subject's race, age and gender;
- j) developing technology which may impact the use of force or monitoring of the use of force;
- k) trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person, including employees; and
- l) a review of all assaults on the Agency's sworn law enforcement officers during the previous calendar year.
 - The purpose of the review of assaults on officers is to determine trends or patterns and to make recommendations to enhance officer safety, modifications to policy or address training issues.
 - Assault incidents reviewed can include felony or misdemeanor charges or related charges.
 - The review should evaluate the implications of each type of incident based on these and other criteria, including time of day, type of initial call, presence of multiple officers, or prior history of the arrestee(s).

4. **Pursuit Analysis** – An annual, documented analysis of the information contained in vehicle pursuit reports and supervisor critiques during the previous calendar year. The analysis will also include a review of policy, reporting procedures and training pursuit techniques and any recommendations for change.

The analysis will list each pursuit by date and time of occurrence and will include for each pursuit:

- a) the reason for the pursuit;
- b) the geographical scope of the pursuit;
- c) Agency employees involved in the pursuit;
- d) any other agencies involved in the pursuit;
- e) injuries (or deaths) resulting from the pursuit (including those to the fleeing suspect(s) and to third parties);
- f) arrests made or charges placed;
- g) violations of policy, training, procedures or techniques by any pursuing employee or other officer;
- h) adequacy of policy, training, procedures or techniques to the pursuit; and
- i) recommendations for improvements of any kind.

5. **Statistical Summary of Internal Investigations** – An annual, documented, statistical summary of complaints and internal investigations conducted the previous calendar year. Upon approval of the Sheriff, the summary will be provided to the Agency's Media Relations Office, to be published in the Agency Annual Report, which is made available to the public and Agency employees.

The summary will contain the following:

- a) total number of internal investigations;
- b) number of investigations resulting from complaints made from sources external to the Agency;
- c) number of investigations generated by complaints from within the Agency;
- d) number of investigations resulting in exonerated findings;
- e) number of investigations resulting in sustained findings;
- f) number of investigations resulting in non-sustained findings;
- g) number of investigations resulting in unfounded findings; and
- h) comparison of these numbers with those of previous years.

6. **Component Inspection Report** – A documented report of the results of component inspections completed once every calendar year. The report will identify any deficiencies and recommendations for improvement or correction, as well as positive aspects of the area being inspected. Results of safety inspections may be included. Copies of this report will not be shared outside of the Executive Command Staff except with the permission of the Sheriff. A follow-up written report will be completed for any deficiencies that cannot be immediately corrected.

7. **Bias Based Profiling Administrative Review** – An annual, documented review of Agency activities and practices with potential for bias based profiling, that occurred during the previous year. In addition to providing the Sheriff with statistical data, the review will identify any problems found, detail any corrective



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actions taken and make recommendations for any changes in policy or training that may be needed. Agency practices that will be reviewed include, but are not limited to:

- a) traffic and field contacts,
- b) asset forfeiture efforts, and
- c) citizen complaints.

8. **Annual Audit of Property Management** – An annual audit of the management of property collected by the Agency. The audit will be documented on the Evidence/Property Room Inspection Report, Form #001.
9. **Quarterly Unannounced Property Inspection Reports** – Reports containing the results of random, unannounced inspections of all property collection and handling throughout the Agency conducted each quarter. The results of the inspections will be documented on the Evidence/Property Room Inspection Report, Form #001.
10. **Review of Secondary Employment** – An annual, documented review of secondary employment practices of Agency employees for the previous 12 months.

G. PATROL DIVISION

The Commander, North Patrol Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Administrative Review of Temporary Detention** – An annual, documented administrative review of policies and procedures governing the Agency's temporary detention areas. The review shall include whether the areas currently being used are adequate for the Agency's needs and any recommendation for changes or improvements. This review is typically completed by the Commander, North Patrol Division, with input from other members of the Executive Command Staff.

H. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Commander, Criminal Investigations Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Review of Victim / Witness Assistance Needs and Available Services** – An annual, documented review of victim / witness assistance needs and available services within the Agency's service area. This review will document victim / witness needs and services which may be met by the Agency, other government entities, private-sector organizations or community programs available for such purpose. Should there be no available method to deal with these needs, suggestions for creation of feasible methods will be made if they are apparent.

This review will be conducted by the Victim / Witness Services Coordinator and forwarded through the chain of command to the Commander, Criminal Investigations Division, who will determine if resources are available to address any needs identified. The reviews will be maintained by the division for a period of two years.

The review will include the following information:

- a) overview of the data compiled from victim / witness surveys;
- b) the major types of victimization within Charles County;
- c) listing of victim assistance and related community services available within Charles County;
- d) number and type of incidents in which Victim Services provided assistance; and
- e) identification of all unfulfilled needs of victims and proposals to address those needs which are realistic and within the resources available to the Agency.



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2. **Review of Criminal Intelligence Procedures** – A documented annual review of Agency procedures and processes for collection and dissemination of criminal intelligence information.
3. **Facial Recognition Technology Audit and Report** – A documented annual audit of the Agency's use of facial recognition technology to determine compliance with Maryland law and policy. The audit report will be published, disclosing information on the use of facial recognition technology for the prior calendar year. This report is submitted to the GOCPP annually.

I. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Community Services Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative reports:

1. **Review and Evaluation of Juvenile Programs** – An annual, documented review and evaluation of all Agency enforcement and prevention programs related to juveniles. This evaluation should consider both the quantitative and qualitative elements of each program. The Juvenile Program Evaluation Form #125 shall be used to document a review of each program. The results of the review will be documented in a report which will include:
 - a) the number of juveniles served by each program;
 - b) if a program has specific clients who are targeted for a particular purpose, the report will provide specific numbers and percentages of successes and/or lack of success in meeting program objectives; and
 - c) recommendations regarding whether a specific program should continue as is, be modified, or be discontinued.
2. **Evaluation of Crime Prevention Effectiveness** – A documented evaluation of the effectiveness of crime prevention programs conducted every two years. This evaluation may involve the use of citizen survey information, crime analysis information, feedback from community support organizations, or any combination of information sources which provide data which proves or disproves the effectiveness of a program or individual effort.
3. **Community Policing Report** – A quarterly, written report containing information gathered through meetings with citizen groups, either separately or in conjunction with the advisory groups established by the district commanders. In addition, information from citizen surveys or follow-up questionnaires completed by patrol supervisors or OPR may be used. In any event, data will be used to support this report and its recommendations. These quarterly reports will be compiled into an annual report for submission to the state of Maryland. The report will include at least the following:
 - a) a description of current concerns voiced by the community;
 - b) a description of potential problems that have bearing on law enforcement activities within the community;
 - c) a statement of recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
 - d) a statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.
4. **Summary of Citizen Attitudes and Opinions** – A written summary describing the attitudes and opinions of citizens within the CCSO service area, completed every two years. This summary will be the result of documented surveys conducted throughout the previous two years. This survey may be conducted by Agency personnel or may be done at the direction of the Agency by another entity. The Community Services Survey, Form #788, will be used to collect the data. The survey may be conducted by mail, in person, by telephone, online or some combination of methods. The summary will contain at least the following information:
 - a) overall Agency performance;
 - b) overall competency of Agency employees;
 - c) citizens' perceptions of officers' attitudes and behavior;
 - d) community concern over safety and security within the Agency's service area as a whole; and



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- e) citizens' recommendations and suggestions for improvements.
5. **Review of Crossing Guard Locations** – An annual, documented review of crossing guard locations to evaluate the use of crossing guards, within the restraints of available budget, at the locations needed because crossing safety might otherwise be unacceptable. The Commander, Community Services Division, will use this report in preparation of budget requests to add or remove funding for crossing guard positions. Factors to be considered include:
- a) the numbers,
 - b) frequency of use, and
 - c) motor skills and relative cognitive ability of the persons using the crossing.

J. SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Commander, Special Operations Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative reports:

1. **Selective Enforcement Report** – An annual report of the selective enforcement operations carried out by the Agency. The report will document and evaluate collision data from the past year, including location, time, and violation factors. The information will be made available to the MRO for use in press releases and the Agency Annual Report. The following will be included:
 - a) selective enforcement locations and the reasons these locations were selected;
 - b) results of the selective enforcement (number of citations, equipment repair orders, arrests, etc.); and
 - c) an evaluation of the effects of these activities on traffic collisions.
2. **EST Report** – A semi-annual report documenting the activities of the Emergency Services Team (EST) for the preceding six months. The report will contain the following information, on a format developed by the MPCTC:
 - a) The number of times the EST was activated and deployed by the Agency in the previous six months;
 - b) The name of the county or municipal corporation and zip code of the location where the EST was deployed for each activation;
 - c) The reason for each activation and deployment of the EST;
 - d) The legal authority, including type of warrant, if any, for each activation and deployment of the EST; and
 - e) The result of each activation and deployment of the team, including:
 - the number of arrests made, if any;
 - whether property was seized;
 - whether a forcible entry was made;
 - whether a weapon was discharged by an EST member; and
 - whether a person or domestic animal was injured or killed by an EST member.
3. **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Report** – An annual report documenting UAS use by the Agency and its effectiveness.
4. **Speed Monitoring System Report** – An annual report on the Speed Monitoring System which includes critical related to citations, revenue, expenditures and other data required by the state. The report is submitted to the MPCTC annually.

K. TRAINING DIVISION

The Commander, Training Division, or designee will facilitate the following administrative reviews with the other members of the Executive Command Staff during regularly scheduled Training Advisory Council (TAC) meetings. Results of each review will be documented in the TAC meeting minutes which are provided to the Sheriff and all



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members of the Executive Command Staff.

1. **Administrative Review of DMVR Program** – An annual, documented review of the Agency's DMVR program to determine any deficiencies and recommendations for improvement regarding policy, procedures or training.
2. **Administrative Review of Active Threat Policy/Training** – An annual, documented review of policy and training needs pertaining to Active Threats, including any recommendations for improvement.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Administrative Services Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative reports:

1. **Fiscal Status Report** – A quarterly report detailing the status of the Agency's fiscal accounts during the previous quarter, to include initial appropriation, beginning balances, expenditures and encumbrances and unencumbered balances.
2. **Analysis of Recruitment Plan** – A documented, annual analysis of the Agency's recruitment plan to assess its effectiveness. The analysis will include:
 - a) work force composition statistics,
 - b) demographic data of sworn and corrections applicants,
 - c) progress toward stated objectives, and
 - d) recommendations for any needed revisions.
3. **Evaluation of Personnel Early Warning System** – A documented, annual evaluation of the Agency's Personnel Early Warning System to determine the effectiveness of the system. This evaluation is done in coordination with the Office of Professional Responsibility. All initial and follow-up reports will be reviewed, and input and commentary will be solicited from those employees who have been involved in the system during the previous year. This information will be evaluated and used, if needed, to revise the system to make it more responsive to the needs of the employee and the Agency.
4. **Analysis of Employee Grievances** – A documented, annual analysis of employee grievances, as well as supporting policies and practices, to identify any patterns or issues that may indicate a need for change. The analysis will include any recommendations for improvement.
5. **Employee Performance Evaluation Audit** – A documented, annual audit to certify that a performance evaluation was completed for every permanent employee during the previous calendar year, with the exception of the Sheriff.
6. **Special Evaluation Report** – An annual report of special evaluations conducted during the previous year.
7. **Fit for Duty Evaluation Report** – An annual report of fit for duty evaluations conducted during the previous year.

M. SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Special Services Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative reports:

1. **Court Security Survey** – A documented survey conducted at least once every two years to determine the court security function of the Agency is being properly addressed and to identify any security concerns. The survey will be conducted in conjunction with court personnel. The survey will examine:



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- a) facilities;
 - b) equipment; and
 - c) security plans / procedures.
2. **Agency Collision Report** – A quarterly report containing information regarding each Agency collision. The report will be provided to all Assistant Sheriffs, Chief of Staff and Sheriff, with a copy to the Office of General Counsel. This report shall be in the form of a list, beginning at the start of each calendar year, with each collision making up a succeeding section on the list. At the end of the list there will be a tabulation of the information contained on the list. The list will be filed at the end of the calendar year and a new list begun.

The following information will be included in the report for each Agency collision:

- a) the date of the collision;
 - b) the identifying case number associated with the collision;
 - c) the name of the operator of the Agency vehicle involved;
 - d) the names of any Agency personnel who may be the subject of disciplinary action as a result of the collision;
 - e) any special circumstances or considerations which may impact the investigation or disciplinary action;
 - f) the finding of preventable or non-preventable;
 - g) extent of damage to Agency property; and
 - h) any other information the Commander, OPR, the Assistant Sheriffs or the Sheriff believes to be valuable reference information concerning Agency collisions.
3. **Semi-Annual Inspection of Property Management Report** – A report containing the results of the semi-annual inspections of Property Management. This report will be documented on the Evidence/Property Room Inspection Report, Form #001. The purpose of the inspection is to determine all Property Management procedures and security measures are being properly followed. Results of the inspection, including any discrepancies, as well as the steps taken to correct any discrepancies and prevent their reoccurrence, will be documented and filed for a period of three years.
4. **Audit of Property Management when Property and Evidence Custodian Position Change Occurs** – Whenever the property and evidence custodian is replaced, reassigned or transferred, an audit of property and evidence will be conducted in compliance with Agency accreditation standards. The audit will include a sampling of the total amount of high risk property records under the Agency's care. This audit will be documented on the Evidence/Property Room Inspection Report, Form #001. This audit will be conducted jointly by the Commander, Property Management Section or his designee, and the newly designated property and evidence custodian, under the supervision of the Office of Professional Responsibility and with guidance from the Agency's Accreditation Manager. In addition, the keys to the affected storage areas will be changed.

N. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Director, Information Technology Division, or designee is responsible for completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Audit of Central Records Computer System** – A documented, annual audit of the Agency computer system to determine the status of passwords, access codes and access violations. This audit will determine whether passwords and access codes are effective in deterring unauthorized access to systems. Any violations of authorized access will be reviewed to determine that they have been effectively dealt with and are unlikely to continue. The results of the audit, including any violations, will be documented by designated personnel within the Information Technology Division and forwarded to the Director, ITD.



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O. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Commander, Support Services Division, or designee, is responsible for the completion of the following administrative report:

1. **Retention Schedule Compliance Report** – An annual report to certify documents/records maintained throughout the Agency have been destroyed in accordance with the Agency's Retention Schedule. Any recommendations for modifications to the retention schedule will be included in the report.

P. CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Director, Corrections Division, or designee, is responsible for the completion of the following administrative reports:

Monthly Reports:

1. **Report to the Sheriff** – provides the Sheriff with a comprehensive overview of jail operations and key metrics, including updates on population and alternative sentencing trends, classification data, security data, security and maintenance issues, medical and transport statistics, inspections by outside agencies and staffing concerns. This report informs leadership of operational performance, emerging issues and resource needs.
2. **Jail Statistics Report** – submitted to the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)

Quarterly Reports:

1. **Deaths in Custody Report** – submitted to the GOCPP

Annual Reports:

1. **Pre-Trial Detention Data Report** – submitted to the GOCPP
2. **Restrictive Housing Report** – submitted to the GOCPP
3. **Census Report** – submitted to the Bureau of Justice Statistics / U.S. Department of Justice
4. **Opioid Disorder Examinations and Treatment Reporting** – submitted to the GOCPP
5. **State Aid Booking Actual Cost Report** – submitted to CCSO Accounting Section
6. **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant Data Report** – submitted when applying for federal reimbursement for the costs of housing undocumented criminal aliens in local detention facilities, in compliance with SCAAP guidelines. The report includes data such as inmate identification, immigration status, offense details, length of incarceration and associated costs.

5-200 AGENCY FORMS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office uses many different forms in the completion of its daily activities. These forms are both internally and externally developed. Regardless of the origin of a particular form, all forms will be controlled and utilized in accordance with Agency policy applicable to that form.

Forms developed outside the Agency may have associated instructions detailing their use. These instructions may be adopted, modified or added to, in order to meet the needs of the CCSO. In any case, a division / section will be identified as the subject matter expert, regarding the use of each form developed outside the Agency.

In contrast to forms developed outside the Agency, many forms are developed and used specifically in response to the needs of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Each of these forms will have an Agency division / section assigned as the subject matter expert regarding its development and use.

For each form, there must be a method to ensure:

- the form is appropriate to the use made of it by the Agency;

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- there is a ready supply of the current issue of each form if a hard copy is required and each form is available to all Agency members electronically on the Agency intranet;
- there is a process for removing an obsolete form;
- there is a process for revising a form; and
- there is a process for creating a new form as the need arises.

5-200.1 FORMS RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL

The authority and responsibility for development and control of Agency forms is assigned to the Planning & Accreditation Section, Executive Services Division, with the exception of forms used solely by the Corrections Division. Forms solely used by the Corrections Division will be developed and maintained by the Standards Commander, Corrections Division, in accordance with the division's unique policy and procedures as well as state Corrections standards.

Forms used by the CCSO shall be controlled and are required to have an assigned form number. Forms which are used only within a single component of the Agency will still require the assignment of an Agency form number. A master of each Agency form shall be maintained and a record of its history accurately kept for future reference. All forms will be tracked via a Forms Accountability Log which is published on the intranet.

The majority of Agency forms will be stored and accessed electronically on the Agency intranet. Individual employees will use only approved Agency forms or others as may be required by law or another government entity which controls a process which the employee is subject to use. For example: Accident Reports, Traffic Citations, Probable Cause, Animal Bite Reports, etc., are developed and controlled by Maryland State Agencies.

The responsibility for printing, ordering and stocking of Agency forms that for various reasons cannot be printed off the Agency intranet is assigned to the Quartermaster. The Division Commander / Director or designee of any component using forms that are required to be printed will be responsible for notifying the Quartermaster when supplies are getting low in order that the Quartermaster may have time to reorder.

Division Commanders / Directors or their designees will ensure that any form necessary for the completion of his personnel's duties is available for their use and that only current and approved forms are used.

5-200.2 FORMS DEVELOPMENT

All Agency forms will be computer generated.

When the need for a new form arises, or the revision of an existing form is apparent, the following procedures will be followed:

- A mock-up of the new form or a corrected copy of a current form will be sent to the Accreditation Coordinator, Planning & Accreditation Section or for Corrections-specific forms, the Standards Commander, Corrections Division;
- Any new form will be assigned a CCSO form number and given a creation date, and any updated form will be assigned a new revision date. The Planning & Accreditation Section will be responsible for issuing all form numbers Agency-wide;
- Upon completion of the revision or creation of an Agency form, an updated version of the form with an explanation of the change(s) and reason(s) and person(s) requesting changes will be emailed to the responsible Division Commander / Director or designee who is described as the subject matter expert, for approval at the division level;
- Upon approval, the approved version will be published on the Agency intranet and the requestor notified;



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- The Forms Accountability Log will be updated to reflect all updated information and all correspondence and drafts will be retained for future reference;
- If a form is deemed by the division / section to be obsolete, an email or verbal notification from the Division Commander / Director or designee should be sent to the Accreditation Coordinator, Planning & Accreditation Section, or for Corrections-specific forms, the Standards Commander, Corrections Division, stating their approval to remove it from active status;
- If a form is determined to be obsolete, it will be removed from the Agency intranet and the form status updated on the Forms Accountability Log. Form numbers that have been retired may be reissued after one year.

5-200.3 FORMS AUDITS

Periodically, a formal audit of all Agency forms is necessary to determine the status of each form. The main goal of the audit will be to identify forms that may need to be updated or discontinued based on lack of use or change in Agency needs. An Agency-wide forms audit will be conducted at least once every three years, managed by the Commander, Executive Services Division and the Director, Corrections Division. Records will be kept of all feedback and results of the audit for historical reference. Any forms being discontinued will be cross-checked in Agency policy to ensure policy references to that form are also removed or modified as appropriate. If during review of corresponding policy, it is determined the form may still be needed, that information will be communicated to the Division Commander / Director or designee responsible for the form for a final determination.

5-300 AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE AND MAIL HANDLING

(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)

- A. PURPOSE
- B. LETTERS AND MEMORANDUMS
- C. AGENCY MAIL HANDLING
- D. FACSIMILE UNIT (FAX MACHINE)

A. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance regarding formal written correspondence with individuals or organizations outside of the Agency and within the Agency, and the handling of interdepartmental and U.S. Postal mail.

B. LETTERS AND MEMORANDUMS

All formal written Agency correspondence will be prepared on one of the following forms:

1. AGENCY LETTERHEAD: All correspondence sent outside the Agency and formal letters from the Sheriff and other members of the Executive Command Staff to Agency employees. A business envelope will be used.
2. AGENCY MEMORANDUM: Correspondence within the Agency.

As addressed elsewhere in policy, all correspondence directed to a member of the Agency Command Staff will adhere to the employee's chain of command unless otherwise specified. Examples of that which may be transmitted outside the chain of command include but are not limited to:

1. correspondence of a personal nature;
2. unresolved complaints of discrimination or harassment; and/or
3. any matter which may have an operational need to remain highly confidential.



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Correspondence will be in memorandum form addressed to the final recipient "through" each member of the sender's chain of command. Each member of the chain of command will review, comment on and initial the correspondence. The Chain of Command Coversheet, Form #144 will be used for this purpose. The body of the correspondence will be completed on Memorandum Form #144A. Correspondence will generally be sent by email or electronic means. When not practical or available, correspondence will be sent through inter-office mail.

C. AGENCY MAIL HANDLING

It is the responsibility of the commander, director, or manager of each Agency component to ensure that mail, to and from the component, is expeditiously handled. This means that components which work a 24 / 7 schedule will move mail at least once in each period of the day (evenings, nights, and days); and all other components will move mail at least once for each day of the week for which any of the component's personnel work.

To facilitate this process, the Headquarters Mail Room is the focal point for all pick-up and deliveries. Mail will be dropped off and picked up at the Headquarters Mail Room.

Mail for delivery by the US Postal Service will be processed through the La Plata Post Office (Zip Code 20646). Transport of U.S. Mail between the La Plata Post Office and Headquarters will be the responsibility of the Commander, Corrections Division, who shall utilize Corrections Transport Officers to fulfill this function. U.S. Mail coming into the Agency will be delivered to the Records Section for sorting and distribution.

MAIL REQUIRING SIGNATURES

When there is mail to be picked up at the Post Office which requires a signature, the Corrections Transport Officer will sign for that mail. Any such mail received will be bundled and delivered to the mail room for sorting and distribution by a police records technician.

CADET MAIL DELIVERY

When manpower allows, there are regularly scheduled mail runs which are handled by Agency cadets. There are occasions and sometimes periods when there are no cadets available to staff these mail runs. When these runs do take place, they relieve the various commanders of the responsibility for mail pick-up and delivery. The schedule for these runs is:

1. Monday through Friday:
 - a) 0900 to 1100, and
 - b) 1600 to 1800; then
2. Saturday and Sunday:
 - a) 1200 to 1400 hours.

If these mail-runs do not occur during the scheduled hours, the various commanders will ensure the mail is moved as previously required by this policy.

MAIL NEEDING U.S. POSTAGE

Whenever mail to be sent via the U.S. Postal Service needs postage applied to the envelope or package, it can be brought to the Records Management Section at Headquarters where postage will be applied. Outgoing Mail Codes Form #756 will be attached to all envelopes or packages with the proper Agency account circled. This applies only to official Agency correspondence. Once mail has been weighed and franked, it may be left at Records for delivery to the U.S. Post Office on the next scheduled mail run, or it may be carried to the Post Office by the Agency employee needing the item mailed.



D. FACSIMILE UNIT (FAX MACHINE)

The Office of the Sheriff currently has fax machines at several locations within the Agency.

For purposes of this Agency, the fax machine will be utilized for low-volume transmittals needed immediately, inclusive of incoming transmittals. Regular mail shall be used in lieu of the fax machine when copy is not needed immediately.

Document preparation - All documents, reports, transmittals, etc., to be sent shall be clearly marked COPY in bold across the face.

Telecopy cover letter - A telecopy cover letter shall be prepared by the requestor / operator, and preface the transmittal.

Authorized users - Employees assigned to the component of the Agency where the fax machine is located, and who are authorized by their respective commanders to do so, may operate the fax machines.

Authorized transmittals - Personnel requesting transmittals shall review the Records Management Section policy, to ensure information, reports, etc., transmitted are not subject to confidentiality.

Responsibility to ensure the transmittal is not of a confidential nature shall be that of the Charles County Sheriff's Office requestor and not the fax machine user.

Associated outside Agency transmittal - From time to time associated outside agencies, e.g., State's Attorney's Office, will request a message to be sent via Agency fax machine. Any such requests will be satisfied in accordance with this policy and for legitimate law enforcement purposes only.

Restricted use of fax machines - Agency fax machines are for official use. Use of Agency fax machines for commercial or personal business transactions is prohibited.

Failure to comply with any part of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

CHAPTER 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT, SAFETY, AND FITNESS

6-100 RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY

Last reviewed: April 1, 2026

- A. PURPOSE
- B. SAFE WORK PRACTICES
- C. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. SUPERVISORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
- E. SAFETY OFFICER AND INSPECTIONS

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of establishing a defined Risk Management and Safety Policy is to prevent and/or substantially decrease all types of occupational accidents and illnesses. It is the goal of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and its employees to increase productivity by securing a work environment free of safety hazards.

The occupational safe work practices outlined in this policy are applicable to all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Employees are expected to familiarize themselves with, and abide by, job procedures and safety guidelines specific to their respective departments.



It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to administer its programs so that employees work under safe and healthy conditions, seek out and correct unsafe conditions, eliminate unsafe acts, and make accident prevention an important responsibility.

All employees shall receive documented orientation detailing responsibilities and procedures for developing and maintaining a safe working environment, which are detailed in this policy.

B. SAFE WORK PRACTICES

Most accidents and injuries can be avoided by the application of caution and common sense under all working situations. Safety should be a consideration in every situation.

Employees must take every precaution to prevent accidents involving the general public, fellow employees and themselves. Employees shall follow instructions and obey and apply safety rules and practices at all times:

1. Whenever personal protective equipment (vehicle seat belts, hard hats, respirators, etc.) is provided for protection, their usage is required.
2. Know the job and be fully acquainted with the tools and equipment used on each job. Be familiar with safety requirements. Only authorized and properly trained personnel shall operate equipment.
3. Smoking and/or cell phone use are prohibited when refueling equipment or handling gasoline or other volatile materials.
4. All chemicals shall be properly labeled. Promptly store flammable materials in approved containers to prevent fires.
5. Keep work areas clean and orderly at all times, free of trash and unnecessary equipment. Straighten up personal work area daily and dispose of hazardous materials properly.
6. Use passageways and aisles as directed. Office furniture and equipment shall be arranged to allow easy traffic flow and to minimize tripping hazards.
7. Never use chairs, desks, tables, boxes, file cabinets, etc., for ladders.
8. Exercise caution when working in hot temperatures.
9. Do not attempt repairs on equipment, unless such repair is part of your duties.
10. Use of extension cords or other electrical service extenders shall be used only as directed by a manufacturer. Keep cords clean and free from exposure to heat which can damage insulation.
11. Treat all electrical wires as live wires.
12. Do not drag cords over sharp edges or run cables across aisles where they are subject to damage.
13. Electrical shock is a sign that something is wrong. Any equipment which shocks when used shall immediately be disconnected, reported to a supervisor, and replaced or repaired as necessary.
14. Never leave an unsafe condition unguarded or unmarked--even temporarily.
15. First aid kits shall be available.
16. No attempt shall be made to lift an object beyond personal physical ability.



17. Do not wear loose jewelry or loose clothing (neckties, loose headbands, and shirt tails) when working around or operating rotating machinery or tools.

C. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to create and maintain a safe working environment free from unnecessary hazards or unsafe working conditions. It is imperative that the administration of this Agency provide for Sheriff's Office employees the tools and resources necessary to accomplish those tasks. When in the work environment, all employees will maintain a safe work ethic by considering the following:

1. safety for yourself;
2. safety for your co-workers;
3. safety for the public;
4. protection of Sheriff's Office and County property; and
5. protection of private property.

It is the duty of each employee to know and follow regulations which pertain to any work the employee might perform. This includes the application of regulations outlined in this policy supplemented by regulations which pertain to individual job assignments and the use of common sense in all situations.

If an employee feels unable to perform assigned work for any reason, the supervisor in charge must be advised and informed of the reasons.

When an employee considers that the work being done is in violation of the provisions of this policy, or that sufficient safeguards are not being used, or that the work is not being performed in a safe manner, the employee should immediately bring the matter to the attention of a supervisor.

It shall be understood by employees that we operate under those rules and regulations of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MOSHA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Employees violating safety rules, procedures, or standards, or acting in a manner which endangers their own or another's personal safety, may be subject to disciplinary action.

D. SUPERVISORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

All levels of supervision shall have responsibility for safety.

Supervisors and commanders have the authority and responsibility for maintaining safe working conditions within their jurisdictions. Although personnel exposure to hazards varies, it is expected that effort will be directed toward controlling liabilities and waste of materials. Therefore, supervisors and commanders shall:

1. Ensure that the policies and procedures set forth herein are complied with by all personnel under their direction.
2. Provide the leadership and positive direction essential in maintaining loss prevention policies as a consideration in all operations.
3. Ensure personnel are provided with the proper safety equipment needed to perform their tasks in a safe manner and reinforce the need for each employee to use the personal protective equipment given to them.
4. Devote a portion of staff meetings as needed, to discuss safety issues.
5. Call upon the Standards and Inspections Safety Officer for any assistance needed in promoting effective



safety control.

6. Investigate incidents immediately for accurate reporting and preventive action.
7. Via the chain of command, ensure each division commander is aware of injuries, accidents and liabilities incurred by his employees. An excessive number is an indication that some policies and practices need corrective or disciplinary action.
8. Ensure that on-the-job injuries and accident reporting procedures are followed.
9. Be aware of the status of employees off work due to on-the-job injuries or accidents, and make modified duty assignments available where applicable.
10. Receive training as needed to enable them to discharge their responsibilities and provide leadership, direction, and support for the Risk Management and Safety Program by means of the following:
 - a) Setting a good example;
 - b) Being familiar with, evaluating, and ensuring compliance with the safety rules;
 - c) Being aware of the principal causes of accidents;
 - d) Ensuring that speedy corrective action is taken on all known safety hazards;
 - e) Supporting safety enforcement activities of subordinates;
 - f) Ensuring that all employees are permitted to report safety hazards without fear of reprisal;
 - g) Recommending revisions in this policy to address changing Sheriff's Office needs and new developments in the field of Occupational Safety and Health.

E. SAFETY OFFICER AND INSPECTIONS

The Safety Officer (Standards and Inspections Section) shall watch for and report unsafe behavior and practices. The Safety Officer is responsible to make official reports of all unsafe activities. The Safety Officer is also required to draw immediate attention to, and make immediate notifications of, any unsafe activity which poses an imminent danger.

Instant notifications made by the Safety Officer can be to the individuals involved in the unsafe activity, a controlling supervisor, or any management or administrative official who may assist in remedying the unsafe condition or activity. Such notifications are in addition to the requirement for the Safety Officer to make written reports.

The Safety Officer is not charged to personally regulate safe behavior of employees in the manner of a supervisor. The Safety Officer acts in an administrative capacity. Supervisory and management personnel are charged to make operational decisions in light of the Safety Officer's recommendations, and report in writing through the chain of command to the Commander, OPR, any need to ignore or act contrary to these recommendations.

The Safety Officer is a part of the Office of Professional Responsibility and reports directly to the Assistant Commander, OPR. All required reports under this policy section are made to the Commander, OPR. The commander will report any significant issues to the Chief of Staff.

Unsafe activities fall into two categories. One is individual behavior contrary to instructions or to normal safe conduct. This sort of behavior shall be corrected through the employee's chain of command. In cases where supervisory personnel are not contacted directly regarding an employee's unsafe activities, supervisors will be made aware of such activities through the written reports of the Safety Officer forwarded through the chain of command.

The second type of unsafe behavior stems from unsafe methods and procedures permitted by someone in authority. The Safety Officer shall report to the Commander, OPR, in writing, such unsafe practices and recommend corrections. The Safety Officer shall not be concerned about disciplinary action for unsafe behavior, only that it is corrected. The duties can be found in the OPR SOP.



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SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The Safety Officer will conduct safety inspections in accordance to specifications established by OSHA / MOSHA. Notification will be made to division commanders, documenting findings. Upon completion of safety inspections, the Safety Officer shall review with the respective division commander deficiencies noted prior to completion of a written report. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the division commander where the inspection took place

The Agency's designated Safety Officer will conduct annual safety inspections of each component of the Agency. Safety inspections may be done in coordination with the County Government safety inspector. Those inspections may be done randomly, as part of the annual component inspections, or as a follow-up inspection in an area where safety issues have been discovered. The Safety Officer will develop procedures for the conduct of staff inspections, prepare written reports of the results of the inspection, with recommendations for correction of any noted deficiencies, note any positive aspects of the operation of the component inspected, and develop a time-table for follow-up inspection of any deficiencies which could not be corrected during the course of the initial inspection. The Safety Officer will detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse of Agency resources.

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions by employees are always welcome and helpful in preventing accidents. Suggestions may be submitted to a supervisor or to the Safety Officer directly.

All suggestions shall explain the potential problem or hazard and give any possible solutions to correcting the matter.

6-201 EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND FITNESS

- A. PURPOSE
- B. AGENCY FITNESS TESTING PROGRAM
- C. STATE MANDATED PHYSICAL AGILITY ASSESSMENT
- D. STATE MANDATED MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT
- E. PERSONAL TRAINING PROGRAM
- F. AGENCY FITNESS FACILITIES
- G. EMPLOYEE ON-DUTY EXERCISE TIME
- H. HEALTH AND FITNESS INCENTIVES
- I. AGENCY PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

A. PURPOSE

The CCSO encourages all its employees to engage in appropriate exercise, periodical physical exams, and good nutritional habits as part of an overall healthy and physically fit lifestyle. All persons must be able to perform the essential functions of their respective positions. It is therefore the responsibility of individual employees to maintain a level of physical conditioning which allows them to perform as required. All Sheriff's Office employees have access to the physical fitness facilities at Agency locations and an Employee Fitness Program.

The hope is that all Sheriff's Office employees will develop healthy habits that will not only serve them well during their service here, but will carry on into retirement and endeavors outside the Sheriff's Office. Satisfactory general health and physical fitness may also positively affect mental health and aid in reducing stress and anxiety associated with the profession. To further assist employees in improving mental health and overall wellness, the CCSO provides access to wellness initiatives and resources to help support the mental health of Agency employees, their families and retirees.

Employee physical fitness programs are managed by the Commander, Training Division and the Fitness Coordinator, who is a sworn officer assigned to the Training Division. The mental health and wellness programs are managed by the Commander / Director, Administrative Services Division.



B. AGENCY FITNESS TESTING PROGRAM

Each component of the Agency Fitness Test has been determined to have a direct correlation to the physical demands of law enforcement officers, and a strong emphasis is placed on cardiorespiratory health. Non-sworn employees will also benefit by maintaining a higher standard of fitness. Studies by the Cooper Institute have shown that having a moderate to high level of cardiorespiratory fitness significantly decreases the risk of developing coronary artery disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and certain cancers.

The Fitness Coordinator is responsible for administering the Agency Fitness Test annually and for properly documenting participation and results. Sworn and Correctional officers are required to participate in the program and civilian employees may volunteer to participate and are encouraged to do so. In addition, sworn police officers are required by law to participate in a State mandated physical agility assessment detailed elsewhere in this policy.

All employees are encouraged to be examined, at their own expense, by a licensed physician prior to participating in the fitness test. The fitness test may be conducted at any location convenient to the employees and the Fitness Coordinator.

Officers on modified duty will not participate in the testing without written authorization from their physician, provided to the Fitness Coordinator.

The Agency physical fitness test is comprised of the following components:

1. Sit and reach flexibility test;
2. One-minute push-up test – measures upper body dynamic strength;
3. One-minute sit-up test – measures muscular endurance of the abdominals;
4. One mile run– measures cardiovascular capacity.

Performance in each component is scored Fair, Good, Excellent or Superior based on the following criteria. The Sheriff's Office recommends that all employees participating in the physical fitness test strive to achieve a score at least in the "Fair" range based on the standards created by the Cooper Institute. While a score of "Fair" is a passing score, scoring in the higher categories is encouraged.

1. A score of FAIR consists of:
 - a) One-minute push-up test: 20-24
 - b) One-minute sit-up test: 25-29
 - c) One-mile run: 12:01 - 13:00 minutes
 - d) Sit and reach test: under 11 inches
2. A score of GOOD consists of:
 - a) One-minute push-up test: 25-29
 - b) One-minute sit-up test: 30-35
 - c) One-mile run: 11:01 - 12:00 minutes
 - d) Sit and reach test: 11 inches – 12.99 inches
3. A score of EXCELLENT consists of:
 - a) One-minute push-up test: 30-39
 - b) One-minute sit-up test: 36-42
 - c) One-mile run: 10:01 – 11:00 minutes
 - d) Sit and reach test: 13 inches – under 14.75 inches
4. A score of SUPERIOR consists of:

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- a) One-minute push-up test: 40 or more
- b) One-minute sit-up test: 43 or more
- c) One-mile run: 10.00 minutes and under
- d) Sit and reach test: 14.75 inches and higher

Should an officer be unable to score at least "Fair" during the Agency physical fitness test, there will be no negative action taken against the officer, however, they are encouraged to use the services of the personal training program, found in Section E.

Employees can find a detailed explanation of the fitness test on the Agency Intranet, under Division Links / Training / Fitness Testing.

C. STATE MANDATED PHYSICAL AGILITY ASSESSMENT

In addition to participating in the Agency fitness testing program, Maryland law requires that, certified police officers must submit to an annual physical agility assessment as determined by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC). This assessment is a requirement for initial certification and any subsequent recertification. MPCTC has identified the following as evaluation components:

1. The officer will climb over a barrier.
2. The officer will pull/drag a 150-pound individual/manikin at least 15 feet.
3. The officer will demonstrate an ability to run for a distance of at least 300 feet.
4. The officer will demonstrate the ability to traverse up and down at least two flights of stairs.

The Training Division and the Fitness Coordinator will incorporate the physical agility assessment components, as identified by MPCTC, into the Agency Fitness Testing Program and / or other Agency training programs to ensure that all certified police officers in the Agency meet the requirements.

Each officer's participation and certification that they have the physical ability to carry out their assigned duties will be documented by the Training Division and will be available for review by the Commission. These components (other than the run) will not be included in the Agency's fitness incentive program described elsewhere in policy.

Officers not participating in the physical agility assessment by the end of the calendar year will be placed in a non-officer status pending their completion of the assessment and any other outstanding MPCTC requirements.

D. STATE MANDATED MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Maryland law provides a police officer shall submit to a mental health assessment every two (2) years to establish continuing fitness to carry out the officer's assigned duties as a police officer. This authority does not preclude or limit an agency from administering for employment purposes a separate wellness or mental health program and / or standards in addition to this assessment.

The Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commissions has determined that a mental health assessment is a comprehensive process that can assist in determining if the police officer has adequate support mechanisms in place to ensure emotional well-being. An assessment will determine if an area of concern exists, the nature of the concern and follow up recommendations if needed. A mental health assessment is not the same as a mental health evaluation although it may include the completion and review of a mental health screening as part of the assessment process.

Sworn officers, court security officers and AEU officers are required to complete the assessment every two years in order to maintain their MPCTC certification, with no exceptions. The Agency will contract with a licensed mental health provider to conduct the assessments. All phases of the assessment must be completed to include signing the required consent forms, screenings, and meeting with the provider. If an area of concern is identified, follow-up recommendations will be provided. The Administrative Services Division is responsible for managing the mental



health assessment program and maintaining all related records.

E. PERSONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The purpose of the personal training program is to educate participants in the principles of progressive resistance training, cardiovascular health, and proper exercise technique. This is a voluntary training program administered by the Training Division for employees interested in improving their overall health and fitness. Fitness classes of various intensity and levels will be coordinated by the Training Division and made available to all employees. Participants may work individually or in small groups and may seek advice and guidance from the Fitness Coordinator and Training staff on improving their health and fitness. Additionally, the Charles County Sheriff's Office wellness app is available to all employees and provides information on nutrition, weight loss strategies, fitness and injury prevention.

Any information obtained by the Fitness Coordinator that could be considered medical information will be maintained by the employee and will not be shared with the Sheriff's Office.

NEWLY HIRED POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Newly hired recruits will be expected to improve their physical fitness levels as they proceed through the Police or Corrections Academy. Recruits are strongly encouraged to meet with the Fitness Coordinator in order to ensure they are properly prepared upon acceptance to the Police or Corrections Academy.

F. AGENCY FITNESS FACILITIES

Physical fitness facilities are located at the District 3 Station and the South Patrol Division, District 1 Annex, and are available to any Agency employee 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Fitness facilities may only be used by Agency employees.

Agency employees will be afforded time during the work week to exercise as outlined elsewhere in this policy.

Maintenance of the fitness areas is the responsibility of all employees utilizing the facility; however the Fitness Coordinator / Training Division Commander (District 3) and the Corrections Commander of Facilities Management, Fitness Coordinator (District 1 Annex) are responsible for the overall upkeep and equipment maintenance at the facilities.

The following rules will be followed at all times when utilizing the Agency fitness facilities:

1. Detached lifting (free) weights shall not be dropped or left on the floor.
2. Equipment / weights will be used properly and safely by employees.
3. All physical conditioning equipment must be returned to its proper place when not being used.
 - a) Exercise machines that rely on weight plates for loading shall be left unloaded upon completion of the employee's exercise program.
 - b) All weight plates will be returned to the storage racks.
4. All areas, including the fitness facilities and adjacent locker / dressing rooms, must be kept neat and orderly at all times.
5. Any defects in a fitness room or related fitness equipment will be reported to the Fitness Coordinators via email, describing the defect.
6. Equipment shall be cleaned and sanitized after use. Cleaning materials for this purpose will be maintained at each Agency fitness facility.
7. Food and beverages, other than water, are prohibited.

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8. Cursing, playing loud music, or making noises that may disturb others utilizing the Agency fitness facility / people outside the Agency fitness facility, are prohibited.
9. Towels, clothing, personal items, toiletries and other items left in the locker rooms may be disposed of if unclaimed within 5 days.

Improper or unsafe use of Agency fitness facilities or Agency fitness equipment by an employee may lead to the loss of their workout privileges in Agency facilities and / or discipline.

G. EMPLOYEE ON-DUTY EXERCISE TIME

All Sheriff's Office employees are afforded one and one-half hours of on-duty exercise time per work week when practical and approved by their supervisor. This time does not accumulate; if the employee is unable to exercise due to work constraints during the work week, the one and one-half hours for that week does not carry over. Supervisors and commanders will make every effort to facilitate the on-duty exercise periods and encourage their subordinates to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Contractual agreements with active members of EST / ERT and any other special teams will not be affected by this policy; however, those already permitted on-duty time for exercise will not be granted this additional one and one-half hours.

An employee utilizing the on-duty exercise period may choose to exercise at one of the Agency owned and maintained facilities or may choose to use other facilities such as a personal gym or running / walking at a park. In either event, the time allotted for this purpose is designated to be used to exercise while on duty and not meant to be compensation for periods of time the employee exercises while off duty.

Since the employee is still on duty during this exercise period, they are subject to having their exercise time canceled and being called back to work by their supervisor if necessary. Because employees are subject to call back, any request to use this time to exercise at a location outside of Charles County will be denied.

H. HEALTH AND FITNESS INCENTIVES

The Agency offers financial incentives for employees who meet certain eligibility requirements when completing the Agency Fitness Test. Employees may also receive financial incentives for having either a physical exam or a dental exam, or both, each calendar year. For specific requirements and compensation amounts, refer to the Special Pay policy.

I. AGENCY PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Agency Peer Support Program was established in an effort to promote positive mental health practices and wellness for Agency members. The program consists of two components: The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team and the Peer Support Team. The following sections outline a summary of each program. Detailed information is located in the Peer Support Program SOP, located on the Agency intranet.

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM

The CISM team activates after a traumatic critical incident to provide psychological first aid and crisis intervention to Agency employees involved and/or affected by the incident. The primary goal is to mitigate the immediate and potentially long-term impact of stress on the employee. CISM interventions may include defusings, debriefings, and one-on-one support. The CISM team is typically activated after incidents such as officer-involved shootings, death or serious injury of an employee, significant fatalities or disaster scenes, or other high-impact events. The team consists of Agency employees and outside personnel specially trained in the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation model.

CISM TEAM REFERRALS

A request for CISM team response may be initiated by any supervisor or above for a critical incident. Request



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methods include the following:

1. CISM portal request via Agency intranet. Located under the Administrative Services Division and Reports tabs.
2. Email request to CISM@ccso.us
3. In special cases where an emergency response is needed, the Mental Health Liaison may be contacted via telephone. The CISM request portal and / or email are the preferred request methods.

PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The Peer Support Team is a voluntary program designed to offer assistance, support, referral resources and information to employees when personal or professional problems negatively affect them. Unlike the CISM Team, which is incident-driven and short-term, Peer Support is broader in scope and may include long-term, informal conversations and check-ins. Most Peer Support Team interactions are one-on-one peer counseling and support. Members of the Peer Support Team are current and former Agency members who receive specialized training in the area of peer support.

PEER SUPPORT TEAM REFERRALS

Active and retired Agency employees and their family/significant others are eligible to participate in peer support. Supervisory approval is not required to initiate the process. Any on-duty activity that requires the employee to leave their duty station is subject to supervisory approval. Peer Support request methods include the following:

1. Cordico Wellness App
2. Email request to peersupport@ccso.us
3. Direct request to a Peer Support Team member
4. Contact with the Mental Health Liaison

CONFIDENTIALITY

Employee interactions with the Peer Support Program are confidential in nature. CISM Team and Peer Support Team members providing services may not disclose the contents of any written or oral communication regarding a peer support interaction, except in the following situations:

1. An explicit threat of suicide, the disclosure of which the peer support specialist believes is necessary to avoid a suicide attempt.
2. An explicit threat of imminent and serious bodily harm or death to a clearly identified or identifiable individual.
3. Information relating to the abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult, or abuse or neglect that is otherwise required to be reported by law.
4. The admission of criminal conduct.
5. The disclosure is authorized by each peer support program participant who was a party to the communication.
6. A court of competent jurisdiction issues an order or subpoena requiring the disclosure of the communication.



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6-202 PROCEDURES IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR INJURY**(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)**

All accidents and/or injuries involving an employee or volunteer shall be reported to a supervisor as soon as possible. Supervisors and employees should see that an injured employee or volunteer receives prompt medical attention.

When an employee or volunteer is injured on the job, a Report of Injury or Illness, Form #227, shall be completed and emailed to HR@ccso.us within twenty-four (24) hours of the injury (see Injured in the Line of Duty policy). The employee or volunteer - or in the case the injuries prevent such preparation, the supervisor - shall prepare Form #227. Supervisors shall investigate all injuries. There are areas for the supervisor to record information required for the investigation, specifically witness and supervisor blocks, etc. The investigation shall be completed on Form #227 before the end of the shift during which the injury occurred. Should additional space be required, a continuation / supplement can be submitted with Form #227. A separate report is not needed. The Form #227, along with any attachments, will be emailed to Human Resources and originals sent through the chain of command to Human Resources.

Employees and volunteers should be aware of the following procedures when an accident or injury occurs:

1. Report all injuries, no matter how slight, to a supervisor immediately;
2. Seek appropriate medical treatment;
3. If possible, an employee at the accident scene shall accompany the injured to the hospital;
4. A supervisor will go to the hospital to coordinate the investigation and Sheriff's Office responsibilities;
5. If the accident is serious enough to warrant immediate investigation at the scene, the Safety Officer shall be notified and included in the investigation; and
6. If the accident is serious, the supervisor shall immediately notify the division commander of the involved employee.

Modified duty tasks for eligible volunteers will be determined on a case-by-case basis; consideration will be given to the specific medical / personal needs of the volunteer and the Agency.

INJURY INVESTIGATIONS

The supervisor will investigate all injuries incurred by an employee or volunteer as a result of an employee's or volunteer's performance of their duties and provide details of the investigation on the Report of Injury or Illness. The report will contain at least the following information:

1. the circumstances and facts related to the injury event;
2. the investigator's opinion of the cause of the injury;
3. the use or lack of use of any safety devices which could have or should have prevented or lessened the injury;
4. statements of the injured employee or volunteer and any witnesses to the injury; and
5. the investigator's recommendations for removal of any discovered hazards causing or contributing to the cause of the injury.

NOTE: Injury investigations may contain confidential information and should not be disclosed without legal authority. They will not have an I.R. number assigned. Injury benefits and restrictions are outlined elsewhere in policy.

OFFICERS INVOLVED IN CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Per the MOU, whenever an officer is seriously injured or killed as a result of an accident or assault, or is involved in an incident where another person is seriously injured or killed:

1. As soon as practical, where the officer's radio and/or duty weapon is retained by the Agency, the Agency



will provide the officer with a replacement radio and/or weapon, unless his police powers are suspended;

2. As soon as practical, the Agency will notify the designated FOP representative about the incident; and
3. The Agency shall release only the officer's last name, rank, tenure, and duty assignment to the public within the first 48 hours of the critical incident.

NOTIFICATION OF INJURY

The Sheriff, Chief of Staff, Assistant Sheriffs, and appropriate division commander will be notified whenever an employee or volunteer is seriously injured on the job. Whenever possible, the district / shift commander shall respond to the scene.

6-203 USE OF INTOXICANTS AND DRUGS

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. EMPLOYEE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING
- D. RANDOM DRUG TESTING
- E. DIRECTED DRUG TESTING

A. PURPOSE

The use of intoxicants (including alcohol) and drugs by employees of this Agency can result in an immediate reduction of effectiveness and public support. Therefore, employees are held to comply with the following requirements:

1. Employees are prohibited from consuming any illegal intoxicants on- or off -duty.
2. Employees are prohibited from consuming cannabis on- or off -duty. Although legal in the state of Maryland, cannabis use and possession remains illegal under federal law.
3. Employees are prohibited from consuming any intoxicants while on duty, except as necessary to execute an official assignment and only with prior approval of the employee's division commander / director.
4. Employees are prohibited from purchasing or consuming any intoxicants while wearing a CCSO uniform, or operating an agency vehicle.
5. Employees are prohibited from reporting for work while impaired by or under the influence of any intoxicant (the odor of intoxicants upon the breath of the employee or about their person will be presumptive evidence of violation of this section).
6. Employees will not possess, bring into, or keep any open intoxicant on Agency premises and / or Agency vehicles, except as necessary to execute an official assignment.
7. Employees are prohibited from using any drugs (prescription or non-prescription) which will negatively impact their abilities to perform the essential functions of their positions. It is incumbent upon each employee to notify his supervisor immediately upon reporting for work if he has consumed or must continue to consume such a drug for medical purposes.

B. DEFINITIONS

Drug Testing Coordinator - an Office of Professional Responsibility employee responsible for coordinating activities in the drug testing program and developing control methods to ensure program integrity.



Medical Review Officer - a licensed physician with knowledge of substance abuse disorders and appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate positive laboratory test results together with an employee's medical history and any other relevant biomedical information.

C. EMPLOYEE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is obligated to ensure that employees do not use illegal drugs nor abuse prescribed medication. This obligation is accomplished through:

1. employee participation in the Random Drug Testing Program;
2. employee submission to testing for drug / alcohol abuse as part of a program instituted as a result of prior disciplinary proceedings against the employee related to the use of drugs or alcohol;
3. pre-employment testing for drug abuse by prospective employees; and
4. testing where a reasonable suspicion exists that an employee may be abusing a controlled substance or prescribed medication.
5. When reasonable suspicion exists that an employee is abusing controlled substances, alcohol, or prescribed medications, the employee's supervisor may require him to submit to testing. Testing shall be coordinated through the Office of Professional Responsibility.
6. Directed Drug Testing as a condition of employment.

Failure by an employee to comply with any component of the random drug testing program, as directed, shall be considered insubordination. Violations may result in administrative and/or disciplinary action, with a maximum penalty of dismissal.

D. RANDOM DRUG TESTING

The random drug testing program is a proactive approach to a serious problem facing our community. It is not based on:

1. an identified drug problem within the Agency; or,
2. targeting employee groups or specific employees.

The following is a sampling of drugs that may or may not be included in the urine test. This list is not all-inclusive, and specific drugs may be added to or deleted from the list at any time:

1. Amphetamines
2. Barbiturates
3. Benzodiazepines
4. Cocaine
5. MDMA
6. Cannabis
7. Methadone
8. Methamphetamine
9. Opiates
10. Oxycodone
11. Phencyclidine
12. Propoxyphene

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The Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, administers the random drug testing program through the Drug Testing Coordinator.

All information is considered confidential, and during the notification process, shall be released only to the employee's supervisor, commander or those with a legitimate need to know. No employee shall discuss the identity of any employee selected to be tested, except to make notifications to the employee at the time of test.

Records relating to employee drug testing are confidential, and shall be secured and maintained by the Drug Testing Coordinator. Any employee, without a legitimate need to know, who attempts to obtain confidential information concerning the identity of selected employees or tests results; or, who attempts to compromise or corrupt any component of the random drug testing program, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

PERSONNEL SUBJECT TO TESTING

Because all employees of the Agency have access to or come in contact with firearms, controlled dangerous substances, detainees, arrestees, and / or sensitive information, all agency employees, including sworn, corrections, and civilian are subject to random drug testing.

Employees to be tested shall be selected by automated random sampling. The Drug Testing Coordinator maintains lists of employees selected for testing. The names of selected employees shall not be announced in advance.

In a random selection process, some employees may be selected more than once a year, while others may not. The selection process is not affected by or related to other established mandatory drug testing; i.e., position testing, pre-employment, disciplinary action, or testing based on reasonable suspicion.

NOTIFICATIONS

The Drug Testing Coordinator will notify the selected employee's supervisor. The Drug Testing Coordinator will provide a Random Drug Testing Notification Form #419 to the supervisor for service or serve the form directly to the employee. The employee shall report to the laboratory with the Random Drug Testing Form #419 within two hours following notification. Supervisors may transport employees to the laboratory if they are not assigned an Agency vehicle or their vehicle is unavailable for service.

In rare cases, employees may be unable to report to the test site within two hours of the notification. In such cases, supervisors shall immediately contact the Drug Testing Coordinator to explain the delay and advise the employee's anticipated time of arrival at the test site.

TEST DEFERRALS

An employee may only be deferred from drug screening when:

1. on authorized leave at the time of notification;
2. on official travel status out of the area;
3. on administrative leave; or
4. upon the request of a command level officer in their chain of command.

In deferral cases, the Drug Testing Coordinator will be notified of the employee's deferral status within two hours of receiving the selection notification. The Drug Testing Coordinator will complete the "deferral" section of the Random Drug Testing Notification Form #419 and retain a copy in IA Pro. The Drug Testing Coordinator may attempt to serve the selected employee for a period of 30 days after the deferral. After 30 days, the selection will be vacated.

TESTING PROCESS



Notified employees shall respond to the contract laboratory with the Random Drug Testing Notification Form, and follow laboratory procedures such as:

1. present photo identification;
2. the collector may be asked for his / her identification;
3. remove all unnecessary outer garments such as coats, jackets, hats or caps; wallets may be kept, purses must be secured in the lock box;
4. when instructed by the collector, wash and thoroughly dry hands;
5. select an unopened specimen bottle;
6. there will be the opportunity to provide a specimen in privacy;
7. remain at the test site until a sample is obtained and provide a sufficient quantity of urine to conduct the test; and
8. watch the preparation and sealing of the specimen and initial the identification label to ensure the integrity of the collection process;

If, because of medical reasons, the employee is physically unable to provide a urine specimen, a physician may issue a deferral applicable only to the selection for that date. If the physician does not issue a deferral, the selected employee shall immediately report to the test site and provide a urine sample.

TEST RESULTS

The Medical Review Officer will review the results of every test conducted through the random drug testing program. After review, they will provide the results of all tests to the Drug Testing Coordinator, with one of the following three determinations:

1. Positive- Indication of illegal substances.
2. Negative- No indication of illegal substances.
3. Negative Dilute- The urine specimen has a higher concentration of water than that of a normal urine specimen.

When the laboratory determines that an employee's urine has tested positive for one of the pre-determined drugs, the Medical Review Officer will verify the test result against the employee's medical history to determine if the substance has been legally prescribed and is being used for a legitimate purpose. If the substance is found to be legally prescribed and used for legitimate purposes, the test is determined to be negative.

When a positive test result is received by the Drug Testing Coordinator, they will make notification to the Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility. An Internal Affairs investigation will be conducted.

Within seven (7) days of receiving the confirmed positive test, the employee will be notified in writing of the result. The notification will include the following:

1. A copy of the laboratory test indicating the test results.
2. A copy or written summary of this policy.
3. Notification of their right to have the original specimen sent for verification testing at a laboratory of their



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choosing, at their own expense.

4. A list of certified laboratories.

Employees desiring a verification test will respond, in writing, to the Drug Testing Coordinator with a specified laboratory from the list. The Drug Testing Coordinator will facilitate contact between the Medical Review Officer and the employee to have the verification test completed.

An employee may presume test results were negative for the pre-determined substances unless otherwise notified.

E. DIRECTED DRUG TESTING

The purpose of this policy is to allow the Sheriff to require an applicant to submit to directed, non-random drug testing as a condition of employment for applicants seeking safety-sensitive positions within the agency, based on relevant background factors, particularly those related to prior narcotics use or abuse.

This section applies to all applicants seeking employment in safety-sensitive positions, including but not limited to:

1. Sworn law enforcement officers
2. Correctional officers
3. Communications personnel
4. Evidence custodians
5. Any other positions designated by the Sheriff as safety-sensitive

DIRECTED DRUG TESTING CRITERIA

Directed drug testing may be required for employees when the pre-employment background investigation reveals:

1. Prior drug-related arrests or convictions (excluding expunged records);
2. Admission of past narcotics use that exceed agency policy thresholds or standards found in COMAR related to the certification of Police and Correctional Officers;
3. Prior employment terminations or disciplinary actions related to drug use;
4. Associations with known drug offenders that raise reasonable concerns;
5. Any other substantiated factors that, in the Sheriff's judgment, warrant further verification of the applicant's fitness for duty.

PROCEDURES

When the determination is made by the Sheriff that, as a condition of employment based on any of the above listed factors, an applicant must agree to submit to directed drug testing as a condition of employment the applicant will be notified of these requirements prior to commencement of employment with the agency. This notification will be documented on Directed Drug Testing as Condition of Employment Form #418.

Employees subject to this policy, prior to employment, must agree to the following terms outlined in Directed Drug Testing as Condition of Employment Form #418.

1. Directed drug testing will be determined, at a time of the drug testing coordinator's choosing, for up to two years of employment with the Agency
2. Testing will be scheduled during working hours
3. Failure to comply with these requirements subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment
4. An employee's mandatory participation in directed drug testing as a condition of employment does not exclude them from the random drug testing program



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A list of employees who are subject to this policy will be maintained by the Drug Testing Coordinator in the Office of Professional Responsibility. When an affected employee is selected for directed drug testing by the Drug Testing Coordinator, the Drug Testing Coordinator will provide a Directed Drug Testing Notification Form #421 to the supervisor of the affected employee for service or serve the form directly to the employee. The employee shall report to the laboratory with the Directed Drug Testing Notification Form #421 within 2 hours following notification.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

This policy is enacted in accordance with Maryland state law and applicable federal regulations regarding drug-free workplace requirements. Any disputes regarding directed drug testing will be reviewed by the Sheriff or an appointed designee, whose decision will be final.

6-204 INGESTION OR EXPOSURE TO CDS**Last reviewed: April 1, 2026****USE OF CDS DURING COVERT INVESTIGATIONS**

The use of CDS during covert investigations is prohibited. However, conditions may arise where it is necessary for an investigator to ingest CDS to assure personal safety. If this occurs, the investigator shall notify his supervisor as soon as possible, no later than the end of the shift. The supervisor shall immediately notify the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility through their chain of command, and an Internal Affairs investigator shall, for the benefit of the employee, arrange for a urinalysis test.

The supervisor shall document the incident on a confidential memorandum to his commanding officer, who shall determine whether or not the ingestion was justified. The Commander shall submit a copy of the memorandum to the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility. Results of urinalysis, if known, shall not be recorded on any police report generated as a result of the incident during which the ingestion occurred.

ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO CDS

Any employee, on or off-duty, accidentally subjected to inhalation or absorption of CDS shall notify a supervisor, as soon as possible after the occurrence. The supervisor shall document the incident before the end of the shift on a Report of Injury or Illness Form #227 and shall follow the procedure outlined in the Injured in the Line of Duty policy. The report shall indicate the substance to which the officer was exposed, and a brief account of the exposure. The supervisor shall forward a copy of the report, with appropriate recommendations, through the chain of command to the division commander.

After the division commander considers the totality of the circumstances and consults with the Commander, Office of Professional Responsibility, he may order the affected employee to submit to urinalysis for the employee's benefit. The testing process will be managed through the Office of Professional Responsibility.

6-300 BUILDING EMERGENCY EVACUATION

The purpose of this section is to facilitate the prompt and safe evacuation of the Charles County Sheriff's Office buildings in the event of a fire, bomb threat or other emergency situation.

Commanders will establish policy for emergency evacuation of the facilities under their command. All personnel assigned to work at any CCSO facility shall be familiar with this plan and learn the nearest exits and escape routes from their work areas prior to any emergency occurring.

6-300.1 EVACUATION PROCEDURES

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to evacuate any facility where a fire has erupted and is beyond the incipient stage. In the event of a fire, bomb threat or other emergency requiring the evacuation of a building,



the following procedures are to be observed by all personnel:

Alarm Activation:

- any person who discovers a fire or becomes aware of an emergency situation requiring the evacuation of a facility will immediately pull the closest fire alarm box;
- normally, activation of the fire alarm system causes all exit doors to automatically unlock; however, in case of a system failure or older facilities, employees should be prepared to use their key cards or keys to exit the building;
- if safe to do so, activation of the fire alarm should be followed by immediately calling 911;
- caller should remain calm and provide requested emergency information to 911 call takers;
- attempts to fight a small controllable fire should be made only by those trained to do so; and
- upon exiting the building, immediately report to an assigned assembly area.

Fire Alarm Panel:

If a facility is equipped with a fire alarm panel, the closest employee should check for fire indications. This information should be provided to the 911 call taker if requested.

Building Emergency Coordinators:

Each facility will have a designated Building Emergency Coordinator.

The Building Emergency Coordinator on the scene will provide status reports, as available, to the Incident Commander as requested.

The designated Building Emergency Coordinators are as follows:

- Headquarters - Captain, Support Services Division
- District 1 - Captain, South Patrol or on duty shift commander
- District 2 - Captain, South Patrol or on duty shift commander
- District 3 - Captain, North Patrol or on duty shift commander
- Annex - Commander, Field Operations Section

If not already on-site when an evacuation is activated, the following will be notified by the Building Emergency Coordinator or a designee:

- the Sheriff;
- Chief of Staff
- the Assistant Sheriffs; and
- all division commanders.

During an evacuation, the Building Emergency Coordinator will be stationed at the front of the facility. This area may serve as a temporary command post until the building is completely evacuated.

Personnel Floor Coordinators:

Each building will have a Personnel Floor Coordinator, whose assignment is to keep a roll call of employees working on the assigned floor. During an incident or drill, it is the Personnel Floor Coordinator who will take roll call and notify the Building Emergency Coordinator of any missing individuals.



The designated Personnel Floor Coordinators are as follows:

Headquarters:

- 1st floor / Basement– Deputy Director, Human Resources Section
- 2nd floor – Captain, Office of Professional Responsibility
- 3rd floor – Captain, Administrative Services Division

District 1:

- 1st floor – South Patrol Administrative Sergeant / Patrol supervisor
- 2nd floor – Commander, Judicial Services Section / Patrol supervisor

District 2: On duty Patrol supervisor

District 3:

- 1st floor – Commander, Homeland Security Section / Patrol supervisor
- 2nd floor – Captain, Criminal Investigations Division / Patrol supervisor

Annex: Commander, Community Relations Section / Property Management Section

Incident Commander:

The Incident Commander shall be a command level officer on the scene, or, in the case of a fire incident, the ranking Fire Official on the scene, who shall be responsible for:

- assisting personnel in exiting the building;
- directing, as safety allows, the closing of all windows and doors, checking all restrooms, copy rooms, etc., making certain that the assigned areas are clear, and reporting to the assigned assembly area;
- obtaining an accounting of personnel from the assigned areas.

Public Meeting and Conference/ Meeting Rooms:

In the various conference and meeting rooms where non-continuous programs and where visitors and persons not normally assigned to work at a facility may be meeting, an announcement shall be made at the start of each program to notify occupants of the location of the exits to be used and the assembly area to which assigned. A diagram of the building with an evacuation route and assembly area will also be placed prominently near the exit.

After Normal Business Hours:

After normal business hours of 5:00 p.m. (1700 hours), responsibility for executing this plan will fall to the ranking Sheriff's Office personnel present in the facility at the time.

Assembly Areas:

Assembly areas are important for locating and accounting for all persons in the building at the time of an evacuation. Assembly areas are identified for each building and are posted in the stairwells, if equipped, or lobbies.

Sprinkler Connection:

In some facilities, the fire department has a connection to a sprinkler system inside the facility. All personnel should be made aware of its location and all personnel should stay clear of this area so as not to impede the actions of the fire department.



6-300.2 EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL

When an emergency evacuation of a Sheriff's Office facility becomes necessary, the following procedures should be observed by all personnel:

- when an alarm sounds, stop all work and turn off all equipment;
- remain calm and help others to remain calm;
- leave immediately, closing all windows and doors along the way;
- do not use elevators during building evacuations;
- exit by the nearest exit door and report to the designated assembly area;
- assist anyone injured and /or disabled in evacuating the building;
- do not run, linger in entrance ways or walkways, and once outside, do not go back into the building for any reason;
- upon arrival at assigned assembly area, stay together as a group and allow area monitors to obtain an accountability report;
- do not leave the area until told to do so; leaving the area without notice may cause unnecessary risk for rescuers attempting to locate those missing; and
- do not re-enter the building until notified it is safe to do so.

General Training:

Supervisors of personnel who are assigned to a facility shall review this plan with them upon assignment. Select personnel shall receive training in the use of fire extinguishers.

Drills:

Fire/ emergency evacuation drills will be conducted at least twice a year for each Sheriff's Office facility. At least once a year the La Plata Fire Chief will be invited to participate and evaluate the building emergency plan.

Fire/ emergency alarms will be tested every two months in each facility.

Building Diagrams:

Building diagrams with evacuation routes and assembly areas will be placed prominently throughout the building.

6-300.3 CRITICAL INCIDENT LIGHT – LOBBY CCSO HEADQUARTERS

All personnel should become familiar with the yellow warning light above the outside front door of the CCSO Headquarters building and the matching warning light within the lobby over the main exit doors. This light is meant to alert personnel entering or exiting Headquarters of a potential security threat or issue within the front vestibule of the building. When the light is activated, sworn personnel should cautiously approach and make observations to assist with the security concern. All non-sworn personnel will not use the entrance when the yellow warning light is activated. Records personnel control the warning system and would be the first contact for sworn personnel to obtain additional information referencing the incident.

6-301 FIRE PREVENTION AND EXTINGUISHERS

All employees shall be on the alert for fires and fire hazards. They shall eliminate such hazards if possible. Extinguishers are a first line of defense for the control of fire in its incipient stage. Should there be any doubt that any fire cannot be controlled with extinguishers, call the fire department and evacuate the building.

6-301.1 FIRE CLASSIFICATION AND EQUIPMENT



Fire protection equipment or devices shall not be tampered with, rendered inoperative, or used for any purpose other than fire protection.

Fire extinguishers of the appropriate type shall be placed where they are highly visible and easily accessible. They shall be prominently marked with their type, directions for their use, and date of last inspection.

All fire extinguishers shall be inspected on a regular schedule. Each shall carry a tag on which is recorded the inspection dates.

Fires are grouped into four general classifications, each of which can be extinguished by a particular agent. Because all types of extinguishing agents cannot be used on all types of fires, this classification makes it possible to determine and use the type of extinguisher best suited for fighting a particular type of fire.

Class A: Fires occurring in wood, paper, and rags are termed Class A fires. Fires in this classification will be effectively and safely extinguished by water or solutions containing water. This classification is primarily concerned with cooling or quenching the fire as water does. Multipurpose ABC or water-containing extinguishers should be used on these fires. Please note that electrocution may be possible if a Class A extinguisher is mistakenly used on an electrical fire.

Class B: Fires occurring in flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, solvents, grease and similar substances are termed Class B fires. The agents required for extinguishing this type of fire are those which eliminate or dilute air by exclusion or blanketing, thereby creating a smothering effect, such as CO₂ or ABC.

Class C: Those fires occurring in electrical equipment and facilities such as motors, transformers, switches, etc., are termed Class C fires. The extinguishers used on Class C fires must be nonconductors of electricity and have a smothering effect such as CO₂ or ABC.

ABC fire extinguishers are your best defense against most fires.

NOTE: *Fire extinguishers should be the first choice for protection of all delicate, sensitive and expensive computers, electrical equipment, tapes and films. The discharged vapor rapidly blankets a fire and quickly penetrates difficult to see and hard to reach places. NOT to be used on Class A fires.*

Class D: Those fires where the fuel is combustible metal such as magnesium, sodium, zirconium, potassium and titanium are considered Class D fires. The extinguishers used must be the application of special powders such as Dry Graphite or Dry Sand.

6-301.2 PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers are primarily of value for immediate use on small fires. They have a limited quantity of extinguishing material and therefore must be used properly so this material is not wasted. Extinguishers are mechanical devices. In most cases they are high pressure vessels and must be treated with respect and handled with care. Fire extinguishers will be kept in their designated locations.

6-301.3 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

Fire extinguishers will be replaced as soon as possible after use.

Maintenance requires a thorough check of the extinguisher. It includes hydrostatic testing (every five years), a thorough examination and necessary repair, recharging or replacement. Maintenance is conducted at intervals of one year or less or when the need is indicated by an inspection or after discharge.

Any fire extinguisher not fully charged or appearing to have some malfunction will be taken out of service



immediately and replaced by one of the same type.

All outdoor fire extinguishers shall be encased or have a weatherproof tag.

Audible fire alarm systems will be checked at least once every two months.

6-301.4 TRAINING

All supervisors shall know the following information and encourage employees to be aware of:

- How to sound the fire alarm;
- The location of the nearest extinguisher to their work area, how to operate it and the type of fire on which it shall be used;
- Location of the nearest exit to their work station.

6-301.5 FIRE ALARM AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

The first act upon discovery of flame, excess heat, or smoke in a building shall be to activate the fire alarm. The sounding of a fire alarm shall be treated as an extreme emergency and complete evacuation of the building is required. Notify 9-1-1.

During any real or practice emergency evacuation, operation of elevators is prohibited.

6-301.6 FIRE PREVENTION HOUSEKEEPING

Good housekeeping is essential to prevent fires. Combustible waste material such as paper, wood, cardboard boxes, oil soaked rags, paint covered rags, packing materials, rubbish, etc., shall not be allowed to accumulate but be disposed of promptly. Oil and paint rags shall be kept in metal containers with self-closing lids and emptied daily.

- Work with flammable liquids outdoors only or in an area that is provided with forced ventilation via enclosed electrical fixtures;
- All flammable liquids shall be stored in OSHA approved containers; AND
- All flammable liquids that are stored indoors are to be in OSHA approved cabinets with adequate ventilation.

One of the most important life safety features of any multi-story building is the closing off of vertical openings, such as at stairways. The vertical opening enclosures serve to delay the spread of fire and are vital in preventing the rapid flow of smoke, death-dealing gases, and super-heated air throughout the building. Such doors and fire doors shall not be blocked or wedged in the open position.

A list of all major fire hazards and potential ignition sources will be kept at all "Right To Know Stations."

6-301.7 EMERGENCY EXITS

To ensure timely evacuation of buildings in the event of an emergency, all interior and exterior exits shall be marked and exit signs illuminated at all times.

- Exterior exit doors must open out, contain panic hardware, and be in proper operating order at all times;
- Landings and stairs must be equipped with hand rails maintained in good condition;
- Exit routes must be adequately lighted;



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- Floor surfaces, especially in hallways, must be kept clean, in good repair, and cleared of all items that may prove hazardous. Keep fire doors and exits free from all obstructions and closed at all times;
- Corridors in buildings are not to be considered as spaces available to any department for expansion or storage.

6-301.8 APPLIANCES

Heavy load appliances, including refrigerators, coffee makers, etc., should be connected directly to permanent outlets by the service cords attached to the appliances. Use of extension cords are subject to Safety and Inspections Officer approval. All coffee makers with automatic timing devices are prohibited.

6-301.9 FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE AND HANDLING

Commercial cleaning fluids may present some fire or health hazards unless proper precautions are taken. Only those solvents which have been approved and recommended for use shall be used for cleaning purposes.

- Cleaning fluids shall not be used in confined areas unless adequate forced ventilation is provided;
- Only OSHA approved safety cans of not more than a five-gallon capacity, having a flash arresting screen, spring closing lid, spout cover, and so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure, should be used for storing and transporting gasoline or other flammable liquids;
- Metallic contact shall be maintained when transferring gasoline or other flammable liquids from one metal container to another via grounding cables or other suitable apparatus;
- No smoking or open flames shall be allowed where flammable liquids are being used;
- Adequate fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available when using flammable liquids;
- Avoid, to the extent possible, contact of cleaning fluids and solvents with the skin. Clothing contaminated by spillage of any cleaning fluid shall be removed promptly. Protective gloves of nonporous material shall be used in cases of excessive exposure and where skin sensitivity is noted. Skin protecting creams are also of value; and
- All parts cleaners shall be equipped with fusible plugs, so lids will close in the event of a fire.

6-310 HAZARDOUS / RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)

Last reviewed: 4/23/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. DEFINITIONS
- C. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
- D. NOTIFICATIONS
- E. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK (ERG)
- F. TRAINING

A. PURPOSE

Exposure to hazardous / radioactive materials and WMD presents potential harm to officers and the public. This policy outlines the responsibilities of officers who respond to these events and the factors that should be



considered while on-scene.

B. DEFINITIONS

Hazardous materials - Substances or materials which, because of their chemical, physical or biological nature pose a potential risk to life, health or property if improperly released. A release may occur by spilling, leaking, emitting toxic vapors or any other process that enables the material to escape its container or otherwise enter the environment and create a potential hazard. Hazards are classified in the following terms:

1. Explosives - substances which release pressure, gas and heat suddenly when they are subjected to shock, heat or high pressure.
2. Flammable or combustibles - substances which are easy to ignite. Included in this category are oxidizers, which lend oxygen readily to support a fire, and reactive materials, which are unstable and may react violently if mishandled.
3. Toxic materials - materials that can cause injury or death when they enter the bodies of living things. Such substances can be classified by chemical nature (for example, heavy metals and cyanides) or by toxic action (such as irritants, which inflame living tissue, and corrosives, which destroy or irreversibly change it). These materials can enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, absorption and open wounds.
4. Biological agents - live microorganisms or toxins produced by agents that are capable of producing disease. These agents can enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, absorption and open wounds.
5. Radioactive materials - materials that release harmful radiation. These materials can enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, absorption and open wounds.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, grenade or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; any weapon involving a disease organism; and any weapon that is designed to release radiation at a level that is dangerous to human life. WMD's are divided into two categories:

1. chemical / biological agents or radiological / nuclear materials (CBRN); and
2. high yield explosive (E) materials.

CBRN weapons are designed to spread toxic chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear contaminants. E weapons are designed to cause massive destruction. Collectively they are known as CBRNE.

C. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

In almost all cases, patrol officers will be the first responders to incidents involving radioactive / hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction. It is essential to quickly identify the problem while maintaining a safe distance until the material involved is identified. Self-protection is also a top priority. A responder who becomes a victim only adds to the problem.

1. While evaluating a scene, officers will consider all possibilities, including the possibility of multiple hazards. Recognizing and evaluating potential dangers is critical. Officers should take the time to adequately evaluate each situation before taking any action.
2. Officers must attempt to isolate the problem and, if needed, request additional assistance immediately. Officers must act quickly to establish an outer perimeter and ensure that emergency access routes are maintained.

The most common type hazardous / radioactive materials incident that an officer is likely to encounter will involve



traffic stops and vehicle accidents involving transport vehicles on Route 301.

1. Only in exigent circumstances will a vehicle transporting radioactive or hazardous materials be stopped in a populous area.
2. When necessary to stop such a vehicle, it should be followed or escorted to a more remote area and, if possible, moved from the highway. Prior to, or as soon as possible after making the stop, Communications shall be advised of the hazardous placard identification number(s) displayed on the vehicle.
3. A supervisor shall be notified of the incident and additional assistance requested as needed.

When responding to any accident / incident involving possible hazardous / radioactive materials or WMD, assume that the area has been contaminated until it is verified that the hazardous material is secure.

1. Considering all possibilities, including that of personal risk and contamination, attempt to rescue and remove persons from the affected area.
2. Administer minimum first aid to sustain life, until professional medical assistance is available.
3. Establish an outer perimeter to restrict public access and to prevent any further damage or contamination.
4. Minimize personal contact with possible contaminated surfaces, objects, clothing, etc.
5. Avoid and prevent public contact with smoke, fumes and dust emanating from the impact area.
6. Avoid eating, smoking or drinking in the contaminated area.
7. As necessary, evacuate the immediate area and arrange for the evacuation of any nearby areas.
8. Make the appropriate notifications and request additional assistance as needed.

D. NOTIFICATIONS

Upon being notified of a verified accident, leak, spill or other incident involving hazardous / radioactive materials or WMD incidents, Communications personnel will immediately notify:

1. the appropriate on-duty supervisor and commander;
2. the Director of Emergency Services (per the MOU with DES); and
3. the County Health Officer.

Additional local and outside agency support will be requested as determined by an on-scene supervisor or commander.

E. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK

Each sworn member of this Agency has access to the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) created by the United States Department of Transportation to serve as a ready immediately following an incident involving hazardous materials. The ERG directs initial actions to be taken to protect emergency personnel and the general public. The guidebook can be accessed in digital format on the intranet under "Resources." Officers can also access the book through an icon on their MDT desktop. The guidebook lists the materials by a four (4) digit identification number (displayed on placards or orange panels on the ends or sides of tanks, vehicles, and rail cars). Once the material is identified by identification number or name, go to the appropriate guide page and follow the information provided as to first aid and possible evacuation steps.



F. TRAINING

Sworn officers receive entry level hazardous material training during recruit training at the Academy and refresher in-service training biennially.

6-315 CHEMICALS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE WORKPLACE

Last reviewed: 4/23/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. PROCEDURES
- C. MSDS / CHEMICAL LIST COMPILATION RESPONSIBILITY
- D. LABELS AND OTHER FORMS OF WARNING
- E. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND RIGHT TO KNOW
- F. MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (MOSH) REGULATIONS
- G. TRAINING

A. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the procedures and safety guidelines the agency must follow to ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials in the workplace and to ensure information about chemicals / hazardous materials in the workplace and associated protective measures is disseminated to employees.

The Hazard Communication Standard (#1910.1200 App. E, OSHA Standards 29 CFR) is based on the concept that employees have both a need and a right to know the hazards and identities of the chemicals they are exposed to in the workplace. They also need to know what protective measures are available to prevent adverse effects from occurring.

The law requires employers to maintain a written plan which best describes how the standard will be implemented in that facility, along with a list of hazardous chemicals handled or stored in the workplace, which must be kept current and maintained for at least forty (40) years. The written plan must indicate who is responsible for the various aspects of the program in the facility, and where and how written materials will be made available to employees (i.e., notebooks in work areas, computer terminal with access). The employees must have access to the Material Safety Data Sheets themselves. The written plan must describe how the requirements for labels and other forms of warning, Material Safety Data Sheets, and employee information and training are going to be met in the facility.

Chemicals / hazardous materials include pressurized gasses, explosives, flammable chemicals, and aerosols, gasoline, organic peroxides, oxidizers, and unstable reactive chemicals.

B. PROCEDURES

A Hazard Communication Plan is made available to each employee upon employment with the Charles County Sheriff's Office. A copy of the plan is available at each Right to Know Station within each of the Agency's facilities and on the Agency intranet. This plan informs all employees how to gain access to the chemical information list and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). It also describes how containers are labeled, an employee training program, the hazards associated with chemicals in unlabeled pipes, and the means the Agency will use to inform employees of the hazards of non-routine tasks.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are provided at each Right to Know Station. An MSDS will be provided by the chemical manufacturer, importer and distributor. Each must obtain or develop a Material Data Safety Sheet for each hazardous chemical they produce or distribute and must submit those to purchasers at the time of the initial shipment. The Hazard Communication Standard also requires that the MSDS be updated by the chemical manufacturer or importer within three (3) months of learning of "new or significant information" regarding the chemical's hazard potential.



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Agency personnel obtaining, ordering or storing materials for which a MSDS is required shall request and obtain the MSDS, which must be in English. Each time a MSDS is received, it should be checked thoroughly to make sure the following information is included:

1. A list of all hazardous ingredients that make up one percent (1%) or more of the substance, or one-tenth percent (.1%) or greater if the chemical is a carcinogen;
2. the physical and chemical characteristics, including boiling point, vapor pressure, water solubility and normal odor and appearance;
3. the physical hazards (i.e., fire, explosion, and reactivity potentials);
4. the primary routes of entry, such as inhalation, swallowing, or through the skin;
5. exposure limits set by OSHA;
6. precautions for safe handling;
7. emergency first aid procedures;
8. the date of preparation;
9. the name, address and phone number of the preparer or manufacturer.

Each MSDS that comes into custody of Agency personnel must meet these requirements. If it does not, a complete MSDS in writing shall be requested immediately from the manufacturer or distributor.

The Commander, Special Services Division, or his designee, shall compile and maintain a Chemical Information List which shall contain the following information in alphabetical order according to common name, for each hazardous chemical stored or used in the workplace:

1. the common name;
2. the chemical name;
3. location where stored or used;
4. date added to list.

The Commander, Special Services Division, or his designee, is responsible for keeping a current Chemical Information List and all MSDS at each Right to Know Station. A master copy of all MSDS forms, chemical information lists and written hazard communication plan will be provided to the Quartermaster's office.

C. MSDS / CHEMICAL LIST COMPILATION RESPONSIBILITY

Whenever substances containing potentially hazardous chemicals are ordered by the Quartermaster, he must obtain the MSDS from the manufacturer, and will maintain all original copies of MSDS. Copies of all MSDS will be supplied to all division commanders / directors. Division commanders / directors will maintain a current Right to Know Station for employee access with all appropriate MSDS. If there is not an MSDS on hand for a particular chemical used in a division, the division commander / director will notify the Quartermaster to obtain a copy, either from an original maintained at the Quartermaster's office or from the manufacturer / distributor.

Any Agency employee who purchases items or sends a purchase order for any item which would necessitate a MSDS, will make the request directly to the manufacturer / distributor for a MSDS for each item. The original MSDS will be forwarded to the Quartermaster.

Within thirty (30) days after a hazardous chemical is introduced into the workplace, the division commander / director shall add the hazardous chemical to the chemical information list. In compliance with Maryland Law, within fifteen



(15) days after a commander / director prepares or revises a chemical information list, he shall submit a copy of the list to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Toxic Information Center.

D. LABELS AND OTHER FORMS OF WARNING

The chemical manufacturer or distributor must ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals is labeled, tagged or marked with the following information:

1. the identity of the hazardous chemical(s);
2. appropriate hazard warnings;
3. name and address of the manufacturer or distributor.

The division commander / director is required to ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked with information giving the identity of the hazardous chemical and appropriate hazard warnings. The commander shall also maintain a description of the labeling system used, along with procedures to review and update label information when necessary. There is no requirement to label portable containers into which hazardous chemicals are transferred from labeled containers, and which are intended only for immediate use of the employee who performs the transfer.

E. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND RIGHT TO KNOW

A Right to Know Station will be established in the immediate area of all copy machines at CCSO facilities. A separate Right to Know Station will be maintained in areas where there is no copier available and hazardous chemicals are stored.

Human Resources shall inform new hires about hazardous chemicals in the workplace and of the locations of the Right to Know Stations and Material Safety Data Sheets during new hire orientation in Agency facilities.

F. MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (MOSH) REGULATIONS

1. An employee or designated representative may request access to the Chemical Information Lists or any Material Safety Data Sheet maintained in the work area;
2. Supervisors will provide access to the requested information within one (1) working day;
3. An employee may request a copy of the Chemical Information List or the MSDS and shall be provided with the copy or the means to make a copy within five (5) days after the request;
4. If the supervisor fails to comply with either of these requests, the employee shall prepare a written request, through the chain of command, to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff requesting the information.

G. TRAINING

Division commanders / directors shall arrange training and education for:

1. each new employee prior to initial assignment;
2. all employees when additional information is made available.

Also, additional instruction will be provided whenever an employee:

1. may be routinely exposed to additional hazardous chemicals;
2. may be required to take special precautions;
3. may potentially be subject to increased exposure due to changes in practices, equipment or the



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introduction of new hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

Sworn officers receive refresher training biennially, as part of hazardous material response in-service training.

6-320 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

The purpose of this policy is to provide training and to establish guidelines to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to blood borne pathogens and to delineate procedures to be followed in the event of an exposure.

The Agency has implemented the Charles County Sheriff's Office Exposure Control Plan for Blood Borne Pathogens, to meet the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards, Codified as 29 CFR 1910.1030. OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards are available upon request from the Exposure Control Officer, Human Resources.

6-320.1 DEFINITIONS

For purpose of this policy, the following shall apply:

- **ASSISTANT SECRETARY:** The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, or designated representative.
- **BLOOD:** Human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.
- **BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS:** Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- **BODY FLUIDS:** Liquid secretions, including blood, semen, breast milk and vaginal or other secretions that might contain these fluids such as saliva, vomit, urine and feces.
- **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:** Those infectious illnesses that are transmitted through contact with the body fluids of an infected person.
- **BIOHAZARD CONTAINER:** A red puncture resistant container which is preprinted with "Biohazard (symbol) - Danger Infectious Waste." This container is leak proof.
- **BIOHAZARD LABEL:** A fluorescent self-adhesive label which is preprinted with "Biohazard (symbol) - Danger Infectious Waste."
- **CONTAMINATED:** The presence or reasonably anticipating the presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on any item or surface.
- **CONTAMINATED SHARPS:** Any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin, including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, etc.
- **CONTAMINATED LAUNDRY:** Laundry which has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or which may contain sharps.
- **DECONTAMINATION:** The use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy blood borne pathogens on a surface or item to the point they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use or disposal.
- **DIRECTOR:** The Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or designated representative.
- **EXPOSURE CONTROL OFFICER (AECO@):** The Deputy Director, Human Resources is designated as the



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Exposure Control Officer for the Agency.

- **EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN PACKET:** Contains written procedures and reports to be completed by the employee, supervisor and attending physician following an exposure incident.
- **EXPOSURE INCIDENT:** A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of an employee's duties.
- **OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE:** Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.
- **PARENTERAL:** Piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts and abrasions.
- **STERILIZE:** The use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life, including highly resistant bacterial endospores.
- **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS:** An approach to infection control. According to the concept of universal precautions, treat all persons as if they may be infected and all human blood and body fluids as if they are infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens.
- **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** The Agency shall furnish, at no cost to the employee, appropriate personal protection equipment such as, but not limited to, gloves, hand towelettes, gowns, face shields or masks and eye protection, pocket masks, mouthpieces, and resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices. Such equipment is deemed "appropriate" only if the equipment does not permit blood or other potentially infectious material to pass through to reach the employee's work clothes, street clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use and for the duration of time which the protective equipment will be used. This equipment will be provided by the Agency to the employee, for protection against a hazard.
- **HEPATITIS B VACCINATION:** The Hepatitis B Vaccination is available to all Agency employees. Vaccinations are highly recommended to all employees who have occupational exposure to blood, within ten (10) working days of assignment, at no cost, at a reasonable time and place, under the supervision of a licensed physician or licensed health care professional, and in compliance with U.S. Public Health Service recommendations. Employees shall sign a declination form if they choose not be vaccinated, but may later opt to receive the vaccine at no cost.
- **LEVEL I PERSONNEL:** Employees who are routinely exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials on a regular basis. Training is mandatory.
- **LEVEL II PERSONNEL:** Employees who may become exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials under certain circumstances. Training is mandatory.
- **LEVEL III PERSONNEL:** Employees who due to their job assignments will not become exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials. Training is offered, but not required.

6-320.2 HIV INFECTION

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by a virus known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The virus is an infectious disease that alters the body's immune system. It infects and destroys certain white blood cells that fight infection and disease, and renders HIV infected persons vulnerable to a variety of serious ailments that thrive in this environment. The disease can be transmitted only through body fluids.



6-320.3 HBV INFECTION

Hepatitis is a disease that is transmitted principally by contact with infected body fluids. Unlike HIV, there is a safe and effective vaccine to prevent this disease. Training on HBV prevention will be given annually to all employees who have occupational exposure to blood.

6-320.4 SMALLPOX INFECTION

Smallpox is a serious, contagious and sometimes fatal disease for which there is no specific treatment. The only known prevention is vaccination. The disease is characterized by raised bumps on the face and body of the infected person. Generally, direct and prolonged face-to-face contact is required to spread the disease from one person to another. It may also be spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids or contaminated objects, i.e., bedding and clothing. Smallpox is not known to be transmitted by insects or animals. Humans are its only known natural host.

6-320.5 GENERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Director, Human Resources is designated as the Exposure Control Officer (ECO). The ECO is responsible for managing the Agency's Exposure Control Plan for Blood Borne Pathogens; he will establish, monitor and ensure compliance with vaccine schedules, post exposure evaluation with follow-up and record keeping, the Sharps Injury Log, and is responsible for the distribution of all plan revisions. In addition, the ECO will meet annually with the Commander, Training to review and update the Exposure Control Plan.

6-320.5.1 TRAINING DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commander of Training is responsible for providing information and training to all employees having the potential of exposure to blood borne pathogens. Annual or additional training required, when modifications to tasks or procedures occur affecting an employee's occupational exposure, will be provided by Training.

6-320.5.2 DIVISION COMMANDERS / DIRECTORS AND SUPERVISORS

Division commanders / directors and supervisors are responsible for compliance with the Exposure Plan. Division commanders / directors will ensure all employees have access to the Exposure Control Plan at all times. Supervisors will ensure proper exposure procedures are followed and a copy of the plan is available for review and use.

6-320.5.3 EMPLOYEES

Both sworn and civilian employees must:

- Know what task or group tasks they perform that may have an occupational exposure risk;
- Attend the blood borne pathogens training sessions;
- Employ good personal hygiene habits and use universal precautions during operational tasks where blood borne pathogens exposure may exist;
- Plan and conduct all operations in accordance with work practice controls.

6-320.5.4 QUARTERMASTER

The Quartermaster will provide the Agency with the required personal protective equipment.

6-320.5.5 AVAILABILITY OF THE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN PACKET TO EMPLOYEES

The Charles County Sheriff's Office Exposure Control Plan Packet will be available to employees at all times on the



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Agency's Intranet site.

6-320.6 EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION LEVELS

Level I Personnel - are those sworn and civilian employees who are routinely exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials on a regular basis (i.e., patrol officers, investigators, Forensic Science Section personnel, correctional officers, etc.). The following job classifications meet the criteria for Level I Personnel:

- Sworn law enforcement officers of the rank of Lieutenant and below, assigned to:
 - Patrol Operations;
 - Special Services Division;
 - Special Operations Division;
 - Criminal Investigations Division;
 - Community Services Division;
 - Court Security;
- Correctional officers, assigned to:
 - Detention Center
- Court Holding;
 - Court Security;
 - Alternative Sentencing;
- Civilian employees, assigned to:
 - the Forensic Science Section as Forensic Science Technicians.

Level II Personnel - are those sworn and civilian employees who may become exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials under certain circumstances. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, assisting with the following: altercations, accidents and crime scenes. These employees are not normally subject to front line exposure, but could be called upon in emergency situations. The following job classifications meet the criteria for Level II Personnel:

- Sworn law enforcement officers of the rank of Lieutenant and above;
- Sworn law enforcement officers assigned to the Office of the Sheriff;
- Correctional officers assigned to the administrative support staff;
- Data Processing Clerk and Administrative Secretary to Corrections Division;
- Latent Print Specialists and civilian employees of the Forensic Science Section other than Forensic Science Technicians.
- Forensic Chemists
- Background Investigators

Level III Personnel - are those civilian employees who because of their job assignments will not become exposed to blood borne pathogens or potentially infectious materials. The following job classifications meet the criteria for Level III Personnel:

- Civilian employees assigned to administrative, administrative support and clerical duties;
- Employees assigned to the Communications section.

Training is offered and encouraged, but it is not mandatory.



6-320.7 TRAINING AND EDUCATION

All Level I and Level II employees shall participate in an additional education and training program.

The education and training program shall include general information regarding Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and other blood borne pathogens.

The training shall be provided within ten (10) days of assignment to tasks where occupational exposure may occur and at annual mandated in-service training.

Additional training shall be provided when modification of tasks or policy occur.

The training programs shall consist of the following:

- A copy of the Agency's policy / exposure control plan to be placed in the Administrative and Operational Manual;
- A general explanation of the epidemiology and symptoms of blood borne diseases;
- An explanation of the modes of transmission of blood borne pathogens;
- An explanation of the Agency's Exposure Control Plan Packet, to include instructions of procedures to follow should an exposure incident occur, and medical follow-up that will be made available;
- An explanation of the appropriate methods for recognizing tasks and other activities that may involve exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials;
- An explanation of the use and limitations of methods that will prevent or reduce exposure, including appropriate engineering controls, work practices and personal protective equipment;
- Information on the types, proper use, location, removal, handling, decontamination and disposal of personal protective equipment;
- Information on the Hepatitis B vaccine, including information on its efficacy, safety, method of administration, benefits of being vaccinated and that the vaccine and vaccination will be offered free of charge;
- An explanation of the signs and labels and/or color coding used to distinguish items contaminated; and
- In accordance with OSHA standards, yearly training with the opportunity for interactive questions and answers with the person(s) conducting the training session.

6-320.8 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The Agency shall provide to all Level I and Level II sworn law enforcement officers a personal protective kit which shall be immediately accessible for use while on duty. The kit will consist of the following items:

- One (1) pair of disposable coveralls;
- Two (2) pairs of latex disposable gloves;
- One (1) pair of disposable goggles;
- Two (2) disposable surgical masks;
- One (1) rescue mask with CPR valve;
- One (1) bottle of liquid germicidal cleaner;
- Two (2) syringe safety containers; and



- Two (2) biohazard bags with twist ties.

The Agency shall provide to all Level I and Level II Correctional Officers a personal protective kit, consisting of the following items:

- One (1) pair of latex disposable gloves;
- One (1) disposable face mask with mouthpiece; and
- One (1) bottle of liquid germicidal cleaner or two (2) antimicrobial towelettes.

The Agency shall provide body fluid spill kits (one spill kit is capable of handling three separate spills) containing the following items:

- Three (3) containers of encapsulating powder;
- One (1) spray bottle containing disinfectant;
- Three (3) disposable face masks with visor;
- Six (6) pairs of latex disposable gloves;
- Nine (9) antimicrobial towelettes;
- Three (3) pairs of disposable coveralls, with hoods and boots;
- Three (3) rescue masks with CPR valve;
- Three (3) 12"x15" zip-lock bags;
- Three (3) biohazard bags; and
- Six (6) scoops.

Spill kits shall be maintained at the following locations or sites:

- Clerk area at the La Plata, Indian Head and Waldorf District Stations;
- Crime Laboratory;
- Holding cell area at Headquarters;
- Work Release facility office;
- Food service area;
- Medical treatment room;
- Booking / Intake area;
- Main housing post;
- Female housing post;
- Corrections reception post;
- Courthouse Security Station;
- Property / Evidence storage areas;
- Quartermaster's Office; and
- Judicial Services.

Disposable equipment shall not be washed or decontaminated for multiple use. Disposable equipment shall be replaced as soon as practical when contaminated or damaged.

Gloves shall be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated the employee may have hand contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces.

Masks and eye protection shall be worn whenever splashes, spray, spatter, or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and eye, nose or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.

Liquid germicidal cleaner or disposable towelettes shall be used when hand washing facilities are not feasible. Hands shall be washed with soap and running water as soon as practical.

Resuscitation equipment shall be used during mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.



Disposable uniforms shall be worn in instances when gross contamination can reasonably be anticipated.

Syringe-safety containers shall be used to secure any syringe or sharp object recovered.

- Only one syringe shall be placed in each container.
- If recovered syringe is evidence, officer shall follow property and evidence procedures outlined in Chapter 4, Section 500 of the Administrative and Operational Manual.
- If recovered syringe is not evidence, the officer shall complete Property Report Form #60 and place property into a sharps biohazard container at any Sheriff's Office facility.

The encapsulating powder and spray disinfectant shall be used to clean up spills.

The spray disinfectant or a mixed solution consisting of one (1) part household bleach to ten (10) parts water is used to decontaminate equipment and work surfaces.

6-320.9 EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND REPLACEMENT

Personal protective equipment for affected employees and all Agency facilities shall be maintained by the Quartermaster.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual employee to contact the appropriate source for equipment replacement.

When equipment is used for the kits maintained at the locations listed elsewhere in this policy, it shall be the responsibility of the employee using the equipment to notify his supervisor, who shall obtain replacements.

6-320.10 STANDARDS FOR WEARING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Prevention:

- In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable disease, employees should assume that all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease.
- All employees shall utilize universal precautions to prevent contact with body fluids.
- Personal protective equipment shall be worn when handling any persons, clothing or equipment with body fluids on them, and /or at any time when the potential of being splashed with body fluids exists.
- Plastic mouthpieces or other authorized barrier / resuscitation devices shall be used whenever CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is performed.
- An employee may elect not to use personal protective equipment under the following circumstances:
 - In the employee's professional judgment, in the specific instance, the use of the protective equipment would prevent the delivery of health care or public safety services or would pose an increased hazard to the safety of the employee or others.
 - If an employee does not use personal protective equipment due to his professional judgment, the circumstances shall be investigated by the employee's on-duty supervisor. The completed investigation shall be forwarded to the Sheriff via chain of command for action and disposition.
- All sharps, such as knives, scalpels and needles, shall be handled with extraordinary care, and should be considered contaminated items.
- Leather gloves should be worn when searching for or handling sharp instruments;



- Employees shall not place their hands in areas where sharp instruments might be hidden. An initial visual search of the area should be conducted, using a flashlight where necessary;
- Needles shall not be recapped, bent, broken, removed from a disposable syringe or otherwise manipulated by hand;
- Needles shall be placed in a puncture-resistant container.
- Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.
- Blood and other potentially infectious materials shall be placed and stored in biohazard containers.
- Employees are prohibited from keeping food and drink in or on refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets, etc., where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.
- All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be performed in such a manner as to minimize splashing, spraying, spattering and generation of droplets of these substances.
- If outside contamination of the primary container occurs or the specimen punctures the primary container, the primary container shall be placed in a second puncture-resistant container, which prevents leakage during handling, processing, storage, transport or shipping. The second container shall be biohazard labeled.

Sanitation Procedures:

- Hand washing facilities are available at all district stations and the Detention Center. Employees shall wash hands and any other affected skin thoroughly with soap and water immediately, or as soon as feasible, following contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- The Agency shall provide antiseptic towelettes or liquid germicidal cleaner for use where hand washing facilities are not feasible.
- When antiseptic towelettes or liquid germicidal cleaner is used, employees shall wash their hands with soap and running water as soon as possible;
- Employees shall wash their hands immediately or as soon as possible after removal of disposable gloves or other protective equipment.
- Equipment which may become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be decontaminated or sterilized as necessary.
- Contaminated work surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant (a diluted household bleach solution of one (1) part bleach to ten (10) parts water) at the following times:
 - After completion of procedures;
 - Immediately or as soon as feasible when surfaces are overtly contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials;
 - At the end of the tour of duty if the surface may have become contaminated since the last cleaning.
- All bins, pails, cans, and similar receptacles intended for reuse, which have a reasonable likelihood for becoming contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials, shall be inspected and



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decontaminated on a regularly scheduled basis and cleaned and decontaminated immediately, or as soon as feasible, upon visible contamination by the responsible employee.

- Personnel assigned to clean up serious body fluid spills should wear disposable uniforms, disposable gloves, eye protection and masks.
- All contaminated clothing should be carefully removed as soon as practical and laundered with detergent in water at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit for twenty-five (25) minutes.
- Patrol vehicles and equipment contaminated with body fluids shall be immediately decontaminated. To accomplish this, the officer will contact Fleet Management to coordinate decontamination services performed by a contracted provider.
- All disposable equipment, cleaning materials or items contaminated with body fluids, shall be placed in a biohazard container and disposed of in accordance with state law provisions for disposal of biologically hazardous waste material.

6-320.11 IMMUNIZATIONS - GENERALLY

Presently there are safe, effective vaccines available for the prevention of certain communicable diseases.

Upon recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service and in coordination with the Charles County Health Department, vaccinations will be made available to the following persons at no cost:

- All Level I and Level II employees after receiving the required training;
- All Level I and Level II employees within ten (10) working days of initial assignment where exposure to blood borne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials may occur; and
- Any other employee who wishes to participate.

EXCEPTIONS:

- The employee has previously received a complete vaccination series against the disease for which the vaccine is being offered;
- The employee has been vaccinated for the particular disease within the recommended time frame, based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.
- Testing has revealed that the employee is immune to the disease being vaccinated against; or
- The vaccine should not be taken for medical reasons.

The Agency shall not make participation in a pre-screening program a prerequisite for receiving vaccinations.

Any employee who declines to receive any vaccination shall complete a Charles County Sheriff's Office Vaccine Consent/ Declination Form #39.

If the employee initially declines the vaccination for a specific disease, but at a later date decides to accept vaccination, the Agency shall make available the vaccination at that time.

If a routine booster dose(s) of any vaccine is recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service at a later date, such booster dose(s) shall be made available by the Agency.

Persons with certain health conditions are at risk of serious side effects from vaccines and should be certain to fully and accurately answer any pre-vaccination questionnaires. The risk from diseases generally far outweighs the risk



from their vaccines. Persons who have been directly exposed should be vaccinated regardless of other health conditions which may be present if post-exposure vaccination is within medical protocol. At no time will the Agency require an employee to receive a vaccination.

Dependent upon the risks involved and the potential contagiousness of a particular disease, the Agency may make the vaccination available to members of the employee's immediate household.

The vaccines and vaccinations shall be administered by a licensed physician or licensed health care professional.

As safe and effective vaccines for serious diseases become available, the Agency will evaluate the advisability of providing them to employees.

6-320.12 BIOHAZARD CONTAINERS, LABELS AND SIGNS

Warning labels shall be affixed to containers of regulated waste, SHARPS containers, refrigerators and freezers containing blood or other potentially infectious materials, and other containers used to store, transport or ship blood or other potentially infectious materials.

The Agency shall post signs at the entrance to work areas where potentially infectious material may be present (i.e., Forensic Science Section, Property Held, Medical, etc.). The signs shall bear the biohazard symbol and contain the following information:

- Name of infectious agent;
- Special requirements for entering the area (i.e., mask, goggles, disposable uniform, etc.); and
- Name and address of responsible person.

Biohazard labels shall be fluorescent orange or orange-red or predominantly so with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.

Blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be placed and stored in a biohazard container which prevents leakage during collection, handling, processing, storage, transport or shipping.

If outside contamination of the primary container occurs or the specimen punctures the primary container, the primary container shall be placed in a second puncture resistant container. The second container shall be biohazard labeled.

All contaminated waste shall be placed in a biohazard bag and deposited in a container located at:

- D1-La Plata District Station – Evidence/ Property Held room
- D2-Bryans Road District Station – Squad room and Evidence/ Property room
- D3/4-Waldorf District Station – One near the interview room, another in the Evidence/ Property Held room and one under the front desk in the Clerk's Office.
- Detention Center - Medical room; and
- Forensic Science Section- Evidence Bay.

A Property Held Form indicating the origin and type of waste should accompany the waste.

6-320.13 DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED WASTE

Contaminated waste located at all district stations will be taken to the Forensic Science Section during the evening shift prior to pick-up day. The appropriate district / shift commander will ensure this task is completed. The Property Held form should be forwarded to the Forensic Science Section Deputy Director.

Contaminated waste will be removed weekly by the contracted certified hauler.

The certified hauler shall provide the medical staff with a receipt and replacement containers. The receipt shall be



maintained on file.

6-320.14 POST EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

If an employee comes in contact with blood, other body fluids, or stuck by a needle he shall:

- Wash the affected area immediately;
- Report the incident immediately to his respective supervisor;
- Obtain an Exposure Control Plan Packet and, together with the Supervisor, complete all appropriate forms.
- Be examined by a licensed medical authority immediately for appropriate medical evaluation, treatment and follow-up.

The Agency shall make available to the exposed employee a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up through procedures and forms as outlined in the Exposure Control Plan Packet.

The Agency shall ensure the health care professional evaluating an employee after an exposure incident is provided the following (forms for the notification are included within the Exposure Control Plan Packet):

- A copy of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 20 CFR, Part 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens; Final Rule. (Upon request made to the ECO);
- A description of the exposed employee's duties as they relate to the exposure incident;
- Documentation of the route(s) of exposure and circumstances under which the exposure occurred; and
- Identification and results of the source individual's blood testing, if available.

The source individual's blood shall be tested as soon as practical and after consent is obtained in order to determine HBV and HIV infection. If the source individual is taken to the hospital, the officer who has the exposure needs to also go and notify hospital staff about the exposure and that the exposure happened to a Public Safety Worker.

If consent is not obtained voluntarily, the Agency shall seek a court order through the State's Attorney's Office, by contacting the Office of General Counsel.

When the source individual is already known to be infected with HBV or HIV, testing of the source individual shall not be required.

Results of the source individual's blood test or previously established status shall be made available to the exposed employee, and the employee shall be informed of applicable laws and regulations concerning disclosure of the identity and infectious status of the source individual.

The exposed employee's blood shall be collected as soon as practical and tested after consent is obtained.

6-320.15 RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Medical Records:

The Agency shall establish and maintain an accurate record for each employee with occupational exposure. They shall be maintained by Human Resources, and shall be kept separate from the employee's personnel file. This record shall include:

- Employee's name and social security number;
- Copy of the employee's Hepatitis B Vaccination status including the dates of all Hepatitis B vaccinations;
- A copy of all results of examinations, medical testing and follow-up procedures;



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- A copy of the health care professional's written opinion; and
- A copy of the information provided to the health care professional detailing the circumstances surrounding the employee's exposure.

Human Resources will maintain a SHARPS Injury Log which documents all injuries incurred by employees who have been stuck with needles or sharp objects possibly infected with a biohazard.

The Agency shall maintain employee medical records for a minimum period of thirty (30) years after the duration of the employee's employment.

Employee medical records shall be kept confidential and not disclosed or reported to anyone without the employee's written consent.

Employee medical records concerning an exposure shall be provided to the following upon request for examination and copying:

- The subject employee;
- The Director;
- The Assistant Secretary;
- Anyone having written consent of the subject employee; and
- The Agency's ECO.

Training Records:

Employee Training records shall be maintained by Training Division in the Employee Training File for a minimum period of three (3) years from the date on which the training occurred.

Program records of training will be maintained at the origin of training. In this case the Program Records will be maintained by the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy, and consist of the content and summary of the training session and the following information:

- Dates of the training sessions;
- Names and qualifications of persons conducting the training; and
- The names and job titles of all persons attending the training sessions.

The employee's training records shall be made available to the following upon request for examination and copying:

- The subject employee;
- Anyone having written consent of the subject employee;
- The Director;
- The Assistant Secretary; and
- The Agency's ECO.

6-350 ANIMAL BITE CASES – RABIES EXPOSURE

Last Reviewed: 8/1/2025

- A. PURPOSE
- B. CUSTODY OF ANIMAL
- C. DEAD ANIMALS – NOTIFICATION

A. PURPOSE



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The Environmental Health Division of the Charles County Department of Health has the responsibility for monitoring incidents of warm-blooded animal bites and/or possible exposures to rabies in order to determine if there has been, or there is a likelihood of, a spread of rabies. Environmental Health is a part of the Maryland Department of Health, with offices in White Plains.

The CCSO will assist Environmental Health by taking a report of the circumstances surrounding an exposure incident. The Health Department's form titled "Animal Contact Report and Rabies Quarantine Agreement" shall be used for this purpose. In addition to reporting animal bites, this form shall be used to report any other case where the rabies virus may have been transmitted.

The patrol officer who responds to the exposure complaint shall initiate the Contact Report. In addition to the report, the responding officer will request the Communications Section dispatcher to forward the call sheet to Animal Care and Control Services.

The report shall be completed prior to the end of the reporting officer's tour of duty and submitted to that District's Police Station Technician. The Police Station Technician will then immediately scan the report and email it to mdh.charlescountyrabiescoordinator@maryland.gov.

In the event the exposure animal, or its owner, cannot be located by the patrol officer, or the owner refuses to sign the report assuming responsibility for confining the animal, Animal Control and the Environmental Health Division shall be notified by the Communications Section, immediately. The Patrol operations commander / designee shall be responsible for record keeping and forwarding of the original report to the Environmental Health Division. The Records Management Section will maintain the Records copy. The Communications Section Supervisor shall maintain current call-out information for the Environmental Health Division in the event an officer needs support or information during non-business hours.

B. CUSTODY OF ANIMAL

When officers are investigating an animal exposure complaint, and the animal is not vicious or dangerous, the officer may elect to allow the owner to quarantine the animal if the owner can provide adequate containment. Quarantine may only occur within Charles County. If the owner cannot provide a quarantine location within the County, the animal must be turned over to Animal Control Services for quarantine. In the case of owner quarantine, the owner must sign the ten (10) day quarantine agreement. The quarantine is then monitored by the Environmental Health Division. If no quarantine containment is available, Animal Control is summoned to take custody of the animal.

C. DEAD ANIMALS - NOTIFICATION

When an officer encounters a situation involving a dead animal (other than roadkill with no human contact), the officer will request notification of the Environmental Health Division, providing the location and description of the animal. Officers will request immediate removal of animals when there is evidence that indicates the presence of rabies. If the property owner is present, the officer will instruct the property owner to keep persons and pets away from the dead animal. During business hours, the property owner should contact the Environmental Health Division. After hours, the officer may request the Communications Section supervisor call the Environmental Health Division call-out number. State Highway Administration or County Public Facilities (Roads) will be notified in the case of dead animals in roadways where no rabies is suspected.

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Germany	9.5%
France	8.5%
Italy	7.5%
Spain	6.5%
Japan	5.5%
China	4.5%
India	3.5%
South Korea	2.5%
United Kingdom	1.5%



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6-500 BUILDING, OFFICE AND CLERICAL SAFE WORKING PRACTICES

6-501 GENERAL RULES FOR SAFETY

The following rules for safety should be followed by all Sheriff's Office employees while at the work place:

1. Tripping hazards such as chairs, waste baskets, cords, etc., shall not be left in aisles;
2. Do not carry pointed or sharp objects such as screwdrivers, open blade knives, pencils, or scissors in clothing pockets with points unprotected;
3. Care shall be used when passing through or closing doors, particularly those with glass panels. Caution shall be used when entering an area marked "Wet Floors";
4. Extension cords, telephone lines, etc., shall not be placed across traveled areas unless covered with an approved device;
5. Employees shall limit the number of horizontally stacked publications and materials, on book shelves: corrective action includes reviewing the materials, discarding the unneeded, and safely stacking retained materials;
6. Planters shall not be hung on overhead lights;
7. Plants, pictures or any other ornaments placed on top of room dividers or walls shall be anchored securely;
8. Utilization of extension cords shall be minimized to avoid electrical fires and/or tripping hazards;
9. Adequate lighting shall be provided for all desks and work areas;
10. Approved type of ladders, step stools or other safe supports shall be used to reach material on high shelves or at other elevations. (All ladders must meet the requirements set forth in OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1050);
11. Employees not physically capable, shall not lift or carry heavy office machines such as typewriters, computer equipment, etc. They shall also not lift or carry large quantities of ledgers, paper or card supplies. Moving carts and tables shall be used and assistance requested as necessary.
12. Portable stands for typewriters or other office machines shall be designed with sufficient size and stability to prevent easy tipping or breakage. Wheels shall be lubricated and replaced when worn;
13. Only space heaters that have been tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory may be used.

6-502 HOUSEKEEPING

Good housekeeping is recognized as being fundamental to safety. It is a very definite factor in the reduction of hazards, in the elimination of accidents and in the prevention of fires.

Good housekeeping requires a place for everything and everything in its place.



6-502.1 SAFE HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES

Good housekeeping practices begin with simple rules which create a safe working environment:

1. Do not allow waste to accumulate on desks, tables, or floors. Deposit trash and refuse into proper containers;
2. Pick up broken glass with a brush and dust pan, not bare hands;
3. When disposing of broken glass, wrap up the pieces in thick newspaper and identify the package;
4. Floors and stairways are to be kept clean and clear of all obstructions;
5. Paper cutters shall be in a locked position whenever they are not in immediate use;
6. Areas having carpet covering will be routinely surveyed for rips, tears or other defects that could cause slip / trip and fall hazards;
7. Cooperate in keeping change rooms, toilet rooms, drinking facilities and areas containing first aid equipment in a clean, dry and sanitary condition. They are provided for your convenience and health;
8. Report all safety hazards, if they cannot be fixed on the spot, such as:
 9. Any broken or loose wire;
 10. Tables or chairs (needing repair or removal);
 11. Broken windows or glass of any kind;
 12. Water pipes or fixtures that are broken;
 13. Wet and/or broken ceiling tiles;
 14. Any strange smells (example: gas leak in kitchen);
 15. Objects stacked near the ceiling or in the area of a sprinkler head.

6-502.2 OFFICE MACHINES

Office machines shall not be placed on the edge of a table or desk. Machines that tend to creep during operation should be secured either directly to the desk or table or placed on a non-slip pad. Heavy equipment shall be placed against walls or columns.

Electrical machines and connections shall not be operated on damp floors.

Make sure the machine is off and unplugged before adjusting, lubricating, or cleaning.

6-502.3 DESKS AND TABLES

1. Only shatterproof glass or plastic with beveled edges shall be used on desk tops.
2. Manual pencil sharpeners shall be mounted on desks or tables so they do not protrude.
3. Desks and tables located on tile floors shall have rubber feet on them to prevent creeping.

6-502.4 CHAIRS

1. Extreme care shall be taken by persons tilting back in swivel chairs to which they are not accustomed.
2. The seats on swivel chairs shall not be raised so high as to contribute to overbalancing.



6-502.5 FANS

1. Check fans regularly to make sure that the guards are not defective and that blades are secure.
2. All accessible fans shall be cover-guarded to prevent injury.
3. Floor fans shall not be placed in locations where they will be present tripping hazards.

6-502.6 FILE CABINETS

Filing cabinets shall be filled from the bottom drawer up or bolted at the back to prevent overbalance. Filing drawers must be closed unless in immediate use to prevent falling over an open drawer or lifting one's head and striking a sharp corner. Desk drawers shall also be kept closed to eliminate accidents.

1. Heavy materials shall be put in the bottom drawers, lighter materials in the top drawers.
2. Pull only one drawer out at a time.
3. File cabinets shall be checked periodically for burrs and sharp edges.

6-502.7 DOORS AND WINDOWS

Every glass door shall have some conspicuous design in paint or decal, about 4 1/2 feet above the floor and centered on the door so that people will not walk into it. Solid doors present a hazard when being approached from both sides at the same time, because one person can be struck when the door opens. Employees shall be aware of this hazard and approach a solid door in the proper manner, that is, out away from the path of an opening door. Any door that opens directly into the path of traffic shall be opened slowly. Operable windows must open and close freely. Do not force open if window is stuck.

6-520 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND SAFE WORKING PRACTICES

An employee may be injured through absorption, inhalation, noise, or physical contact. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office shall provide protective equipment for the eyes, face, head, ears and extremities wherever a hazard exists. Employees shall use personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever a hazard exists or when directed to do so by a supervisor.

When the use of personal protective equipment has been specified for hazardous work, its use is mandatory as a condition of employment. Supervisors will be held accountable for employees allowed to work out of compliance. Enforcement can be made easier by educating employees on the reasons for using or wearing the protective equipment and the possible injuries that can result when the need is ignored. The monthly review of injuries by the Sheriff's Office Safety Officer should place emphasis on those that resulted from failure to use protective equipment.

This equipment shall not be substituted for engineering controls that can eliminate or minimize hazards.

6-520.1 SAFETY PRACTICES

The supervisor shall see that all necessary safety equipment, precautionary devices, flags, signs, barricades and other safety items deemed pertinent to a particular task are available and in use at all times.

All equipment will be operated in a safe manner with regard to operator safety, employee safety and public safety.

Any personal protective safety equipment needed to operate equipment shall be worn: hard hats, ear protection, safety glasses, steel-toed shoes, gloves, etc.

Supervisors will instruct employees in the proper use and operation of equipment before any employee operates such equipment. Equipment use shall conform to that stated in the Operators Manual.



Clean all equipment, assure it is in proper working condition before each use, after each use and before storage.

Every employee shall be constantly on the alert to help locate and report any defects or hazards in connection with Sheriff's Office property. Every employee shall report immediately to the supervisor unsafe conditions found on such premises which involve either our service or the safety of our employees. Any equipment which appears defective or unsafe, shall be removed from service at once and not used until tested, repaired or replaced.

6-520.2 PERSONAL CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES WHILE ON DUTY

Loose or flapping clothing, including neckties, scarves and/or jewelry shall not be worn in the proximity of machinery, motors, engines, etc.

Employees who work with or around electrical circuits which are energized, or moving machinery shall not wear jewelry (i.e. wrist watches, bands, chains, rings, etc.).

Employees shall wear suitable shoes; and, in some assignments, safety shoes are required.

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to provide approved protective equipment. It is the responsibility of both supervisors and employees to see that this equipment receives proper care, is kept available, tested periodically and used when required.

All protective equipment procured and/or used shall fully comply with MOSHA / OSHA standards.

6-520.3 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Individual employees are responsible for wearing clothing that will adequately meet the safety requirements for the general type of work and conditions assigned. Appropriate clothing is required at all times to afford protection from overexposure to toxic materials, weather, and other potentially hazardous situations.

Wear a life jacket when working over or near water where safety rails are not provided and the danger of drowning exists.

Employees shall wear clothing suitable to weather conditions and the work being done. Long shirt sleeves shall be worn rolled down and buttoned at the cuff when working on or near equipment.

6-520.4 HEAD PROTECTION

Head protective equipment (hard hats) must be worn in areas where there is a possible danger of head injuries from the impact of falling objects.

Only approved and issued hard hats shall be worn in accordance with MOSHA / OSHA standards, which states that hard hats must be replaced within two (2) years of manufacture date stamped on bill of hat.

Before each use, the wearer shall inspect the hard hat / helmet / headgear for cracks or punctures which can reduce the degree of protection provided by the equipment. Protective headgear shall be immediately removed from service and disposed of if found defective. Protective headgear shall be clearly marked or stamped with the manufacturer's name.

The wearer shall inspect the suspension system for evidence of material cracking, tearing, fraying, or other signs of deterioration, and replace the suspension system immediately if any of these signs are observed. Suspension systems shall be adjusted so that there is 1 to 1 1/4 inches between the top of the wearer's head and the helmet. Other hats / caps shall not be worn under hard hats. The wearer shall wash a soiled helmet in a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer or in warm, soapy water.



6-520.5 FOOT PROTECTION

Safety shoes have reinforced toes with a cap. The type of protection needed will determine whether the reinforced toes is made of steel, reinforced plastics, or hard rubber. The safety shoe can insulate the wearer from heat and cold, be waterproof or chemical resistant, or provide puncture and instep protection.

Rubber soled shoes or boots do not always provide adequate protection when working on electrical equipment in wet conditions. The equipment must be de-energized.

6-520.6 EYE PROTECTION

Goggles, face shields or safety glasses are required when there is a potential danger from flying particles, flying objects, heavy dust conditions, extreme glare, or the presence of gases, fumes and splashing of hazardous liquids. Eye and face protection used by Sheriff's Office employees shall:

- Provide adequate protection against the particular hazards for which they are designed;
- Be comfortable, fit properly, and not interfere with the movements of the wearer;
- Be durable;
- Be cleaned and disinfected easily;
- Be clearly marked to identify the manufacturer.

Safety glasses / goggles provide adequate protection from hazards such as sparks, dusts, chemical splashes, and flying objects. Glasses / goggles shall resist impact and have side shields for additional protection. They can be worn over corrective lenses or spectacles as long as they do not disturb the way the spectacles fit.

The face shield protects against chemical or molten metal splashes, heat radiation, light impact and other hazards. A face shield shall be worn during operations when the entire face needs protection. If the shield becomes warped or scratched to the point that it impairs vision, it must be replaced. For increased protection from chemical splashes, goggles shall be worn under a face shield.

It is important that goggles and other eye protective safety equipment fit properly and be kept clean. Cracked or broken lenses should be replaced promptly.

6-520.7 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Respiratory equipment protects employees from toxic and abnormal atmospheric conditions by giving them clean air to breathe. Respirators shall be worn where hazardous fumes, vapors, and gases are evident or suspected, or when oxygen may be insufficient. The proper selection of a respiratory device depends on the type of substance encountered or being used and the current condition of the air.

The SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) allows the user to carry a portable air supply, usually in a compressed air cylinder, on his back and provides 30 - 60 minutes of protection. This type of respirator is used where the atmosphere is immediately dangerous to life or health. The SCBA provides the highest level of protection when protection is needed for a short time.

Self-contained breathing apparatus should be provided and their use required when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employees from poisonous and suffocating gases. Supervisors must ensure that the respirator provided is suitable for the purpose intended. Employees required to wear respiratory protection must be fitted properly and must have passed the required medical evaluation, as outlined in OSHA Regulation 1910.134. Employees currently required to wear this respiratory protection are assigned to the Corrections Division, EST, and SERT. Records of their training will be kept with their respective sections. All medical evaluations will be forwarded to the Human Resources Administrator to be stored within the employee's medical file.

Air purifying respirators protect the wearer from organic vapors and particulates. They filter or purify the air that the



wearer breathes. This type of device does not provide breathing air and shall not be used in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. There are two types of filters and cartridges. Mechanical filters protect against particulates such as dusts, mists and metal fumes by physically trapping the contaminant in the filter material. Chemical cartridges are filled with a highly absorbent activated carbon. Gases and vapors passing through chemical cartridges are attracted and held to the surface of the carbon.

NEVER WEAR CONTACT LENSES WITH A FULL FACE RESPIRATOR.

Dust masks shall be worn for protection from such airborne particles as dust. For extreme cases where employees are exposed to large amounts of dust, dirt, paint spray or chemicals, a cartridge respirator shall be used with the proper cartridge.

Respirators shall be stored in an area accessible to employees that is clean and sanitary to protect the respirators from heat, sunlight, extreme cold, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.

6-520.8 HAND PROTECTION

Employees shall wear approved work gloves on jobs where gloves will help prevent hand injuries. Appropriate hand protection shall be worn when dealing with hazardous or infectious conditions or substances.

6-520.9 HEARING PROTECTION

Exposure to excessive noise levels can result in hearing loss or damage. The loudness and the duration of sound determine whether the noise is harmful. Working daily in an area where there is steady noise greater than 90 decibels (dB) is considered hazardous, and hearing protection must be worn.

Earplugs or earmuffs must be worn by all employees who work at the maximum allowable exposure time and at the maximum sound level.

Earplugs, if properly fitted, inserted, and used, may reduce the noise reaching the ear by 25 - 30 dB in higher, more harmful frequencies. Earplugs have several advantages. They are small, comfortable when worn for a long time, and suppress noise equally at all frequencies. Earplugs made of substances other than rubber or plastic shall not be used because they tend to lose their effectiveness during the workday.

Earmuffs surround the entire external ear with a shell to provide a barrier to the sound. The effectiveness varies with the size, shape, seal material, shell mass, and the suspension of the muff. When properly fitted, earmuffs can lower noise by an additional 10 - 15 dB more than the earplugs, making them effective against sound levels of 130 - 135 dB. Earmuffs are easy to use and may be used by more than one person if the earmuffs are properly cleaned after each use.

Protection against the effects of noise exposure should be provided when the sound levels exceed those which are deemed safe by OSH standards. A detailed explanation and the specific regulations can be found by referring to the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR Ch. XVII - Section 1910.95). The Safety Officer shall be consulted when any issue regarding hearing conservation is in question.

6-520.10 WORKING AROUND MACHINES

Machinery can be inherently dangerous due to multiple moving parts. Employees required to operate any type of machinery will follow the below listed guidelines:

- Protect long hair by a hat, cap, net, etc.;
- Use rubber or other nonskid material on the floor around machines;
- Be familiar with your machine and its safety precautions before you try to operate it;
- Operate all machinery according to instructions;



- Make sure all guards are in place before starting the machine;
- Never reach through, over, around, or under a machine in motion.
- When stopping a machine, never attempt to brake it with your hands or any makeshift braking device;
- Turn off all defective machines at once, and report them to your supervisor. Do not try to operate them;
- Do not try to repair any machine unless you are qualified and authorized to do so;
- Never try to repair any machine unless it is turned off and either locked or disconnected from its power source; and
- Use only designated safety solvent to clean machine parts.

6-520.11 LADDERS

- Only use OSHA approved ladders for climbing;
- Set up ladders so that the distance from the feet to the wall is approximately 1/4 the height of the ladders;
- Ladders shall extend at least three feet beyond the object they are resting upon;
- Do not work above the third rung from the top of a straight ladder nor the second step from the top of a step ladder;
- Do not try to work at more than an arm's length from each side of the ladder. Relocate the ladder;
- In climbing up or down ladders, always face the ladder and grasp the rails or the rungs firmly;
- Do not place ladders in blind corners or in front of unlocked and unguarded closed doors;
- Do not use metal ladders near electric wires or equipment;
- Ladders must be inspected regularly for defects (broken or bent steps, rungs, or rails). If a ladder is dropped, it must be inspected at once. If determined to be defective, take out of service, and either repair at once or destroy, as the supervisor decides;
- Do not paint wooden ladders. Paint may hide defects;
- Only one employee shall work on a ladder at one time.

6-525 LIFTING AND CARRYING TECHNIQUES

The lifting and carrying of equipment, boxes or other sizable loads can cause significant injury if an employee fails to take safety precautions.

- Size up the load. Do not attempt to lift it alone if there is any doubt in one's ability;
- Make sure footing is secure. Get a proper balance. This means feet fairly close together (10 to 12 inches apart);
- Place feet close to base of the object to be lifted. Placement of feet is important because this prevents the back muscles from taking all the load;
- Bend the knees and squat. Do not stoop. Keep the back straight and as nearly vertical as possible. If necessary, spread the knees or lower one knee to get closer to the object;
- Push with legs, thereby using the strongest set of muscles and keeping the load close to the body;



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- Lift objects to the carrying position. If it is necessary to change direction when in the upright position, be careful not to twist the body. Turn the body with changes of foot positions;
- When putting the load down to the floor surface from a waist-high position, bend the knees and with a straight back, lower the load with the arm and leg muscles;
- To place an object in a tight space, it is safer to slide it into place with hands in the clear, than to try to lift it and set it down;
- If a load is deposited on a bench, table, truck, etc., place it on the edge so the landing point takes part of the load, and then push forward with arms, or if necessary with part of the body in a forward motion.

6-525.1 PULLING AND PRYING

When pulling or prying objects be sure to be properly positioned, balanced and in the clear so as not to be caught between or thrown off balance if the pry slips or the piece suddenly gives. Wear proper protective equipment, i.e., gloves, eye protection (if needed).

6-530 COLD WEATHER AND HEAT MANAGEMENT PLANS

(Last Reviewed: January 15, 2026)

COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

Cold weather safety should be of concern to all who work outdoors during the winter months. According to the National Safety Council, knowing how to recognize, prevent and field-treat frostbite and hypothermia might protect the well-being of employees over winter months.

Frostbite is the actual freezing of a part of the body due to exposure to temperatures below freezing. It is common on the face, hands and feet, and the onset may be signaled by a tingling sensation in the affected area. The first external sign of frostbite is the appearance of white waxy spots on the effected body part. Early detection of these spots can minimize tissue damage. The hands and feet present a more difficult problem, but, if hands and feet have been feeling the effects of the cold and then suddenly stop hurting, frostbite has probably set in.

Frostbite can be prevented by implementing some easy safety measures. The National Safety Council suggests protecting the face and head with a wool stocking cap pulled down to cover ears and the nape of the neck. Since wool is not windproof, additional head and face protection, such as a face mask, may be necessary on extremely cold, windy days.

Do not let the hands get wet with gasoline, kerosene, alcohol or any other fluid which freezes below 30-degrees F. These fluids will cause instant frostbite in sub-zero temperatures. Also, remember to wear boots that are roomy enough to permit movement of toes with no feeling of tightness.

If light frostbite is suspected, there are immediate measures to be taken to care for it:

1. Cover the face with warm hands until the pain returns.
2. Fingers are best heated by placing them under the opposite armpit next to bare skin.
3. Place bare feet under the clothing of a friend, if one is with you. Do not massage your feet, nor expose them to open fires, heat from vehicle mufflers, cold water soaks, immersion in petroleum liquids, or rubbing with snow, etc.
4. For treatment of deep frostbite, try to get a medical facility as soon as possible instead of treating it in the field. Thawing of deep frostbite in the field increases pain, invites infection and, possibly, the onset of



gangrene.

Hypothermia is the loss of heat from the body's vital inner core. The condition occurs when the loss of body heat is greater than the body heat produced. The National Safety Council points out that people can lose body heat in many ways, including:

1. Sitting on snow or cold vehicles or becoming wet from rain or sweat.
2. Uncovered areas of the skin surface, especially the head and neck, can suffer heat loss.
3. A certain amount of heat is lost through the evaporation of sweat from the skin.
4. Hypothermia can be prevented by wearing protective clothing. Eat three well-balanced meals a day, drink plenty of fluids, and work at a slow but steady pace.
5. Symptoms of hypothermia may include mild depression, lack of enthusiasm for simple tasks, inability to concentrate, fatigue, difficulty in walking, violent shivering, staggering and falling.
6. To treat hypothermia in the field, try to reduce heat loss by replacing wet clothing, drinking warm, non-alcoholic beverages, and seeking shelter from wind, wetness and cold.

Working safely during winter is possible if precautions are taken against the cold wind and snow. Being familiar with terminology used by the Weather Service will help to know what to expect when weather warnings are issued. The following terms are used frequently in winter weather releases:

Freezing Rain: Occurs when temperatures are below 32° F and rain freezes on impact. This causes an ice coating on all exposed surfaces. If the coating is heavy, falling trees or wires can be additional hazards.

Ice Storm: Freezing rain may be called an ice storm when a substantial glaze layer accumulates. In some parts of the country, ice storms are called "silver thaws" or "silver frosts."

Sleet: Frozen rain drops (ice pellets) which bounce on surface impact. Sleet does not stick to objects, but sufficient accumulations can cause dangerous driving conditions.

Travelers' Advisory: Falling and/or drifting snow, strong winds, freezing rain or drizzle will make driving hazardous.

Heavy Snow Warnings: Issued when 4 or more inches are expected during a 12-hour period, or when 6 inches or more are expected during a 24-hour period.

Blowing and Drifting Snow: Results from strong winds, blowing falling snow, or loose snow on the ground and can produce sizeable drifts.

Blizzard: Warnings are issued when wind speeds of 35 miles per hour or more are expected with blowing or drifting snow.

Snow Squalls: Brief, intense snowfalls accompanied by gusty surface winds.

Wind Chill Factor: the combined effect of wind and cold. A very strong wind combined with a temperature below freezing can have the same chilling effect as a temperature nearly 50 degrees lower with no wind. For example, if the outside temperature is 20° F and the air is calm, the wind chill temperature is the same, 20° F. But with the same temperature and a 30 mph wind, the effect on your body is the same as if the temperature were 18° F. A strong wind can make any winter temperature "chilling." Anyone who is outdoors exposed to low temperature and strong winds will be more easily exhausted and more subject to frostbite or even death.

HEAT MANAGEMENT PLAN



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The Agency has established a heat management plan in accordance with Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) guidelines. The plan can be located in the Heat-Related Illness Prevention, Management and Response Plan SOP. The SOP is maintained by the Commander, Administrative Services Division, and reviewed annually.

6-540 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR DOWNED ELECTRIC LINES**(Last Reviewed: February 26, 2026)**

All sworn officers shall abide by the following safety precautions concerning “downed electric lines.”

1. Never touch or go near downed electric lines or allow anyone except the utility company employees to touch or go near the lines.
2. If officers arrive on the scene of down lines and do not know if they are electric lines, phone lines or cable TV lines, treat them as electric lines and call for Southern Maryland Electric.
3. Do not attempt to move downed lines. Many materials conduct electricity and could cause electrocution.
4. The road surface / ground may become an electrical conductor. Officers will maintain a minimum safe distance of thirty (30) feet from the downed electrical line. If an officer feels that they have come into contact with an energized surface, they will keep both feet on the ground and shuffle away from the downed electric line. This will minimize "step potential," which is a dangerous voltage difference between their feet that can cause fatal electrocution.
5. Although some transmission lines for electricity may appear to have insulation around the copper conductor, it is not actually insulation. It is weather proofing and will also conduct electricity.
6. If officers arrive on the scene of a motor vehicle crash and electric lines are laying on or around the crashed vehicle, ensure the occupants stay in the vehicle. If the vehicle is still operable, have them drive their car away from the downed electric lines. If officers arrive on scene and observe downed electric lines near their patrol vehicle, back the vehicle away from the down electric lines to a safe distance before exiting the vehicle.

6-600 AGENCY VEHICLE CRASHES

The procedures and reports specified hereafter shall apply to any crash involving Agency vehicles. Agency vehicles, in this regard, include vehicles that are owned, leased, rented, or acquired in any manner by the Agency and which are used by Agency personnel.

An Agency vehicle crash occurs when:

- An Agency vehicle collides with another motor vehicle, object, natural force or person, or catches fire on a public roadway, and damage, injury, or death occurs; and
- The Agency vehicle crash meets the criteria for documentation on the Maryland Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS).

An Agency vehicle crash does not include:

- an Agency vehicle, not in transport, struck by an object such as a tree limb, shopping cart, or object moved by forces of nature (note: an Agency vehicle is in transport when occupied and running, regardless of physical vehicle location);
- damage to an Agency vehicle during a single vehicle incident limited to the vehicle tire only;
- an incident which damages an Agency vehicle, or where damage is done by an Agency vehicle, but does



not meet the requirement for reporting in the Maryland Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS).

A serious physical injury for the purpose of this section is defined as a physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

6-600.1 NOTIFICATION OF INVOLVEMENT

Agency personnel involved in an Agency vehicle crash shall:

- immediately notify Communications via police radio, or cellular telephone if the police radio is inoperable or inaccessible, of the crash and type of crash (PD, PI, Hit and Run, or Fatality);
- request the Communications Section notify either the Traffic Operations Unit and/or an on-duty supervisor to respond;
- if needed, request Emergency Medical assistance for all parties involved;
- in cases occurring within Charles County, Maryland, request notification be made to the CCSO shift commander;
- in cases occurring outside of Charles County, Maryland, contact the nearest police agency having jurisdiction (in these cases, the driver shall also notify Communications as soon as possible).

The Communications Section will make the following notifications through the CAD Alert Notification System:

- the Fleet Manager;
- the Commander, Property Management Section;
- the Commander, Special Services Division;
- the Commander, Field Operations Section;
- the Executive Command Staff.

6-600.2 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

If the Agency vehicle crash occurred within Charles County, Maryland:

- during regular on-duty hours, Traffic Operations officers will respond and investigate all Agency vehicle crashes. When off-duty, they will respond, on an on-call basis, to all crashes involving injury to any Agency personnel or any departmental crash involving injury to a civilian. The Traffic Operations Unit will also investigate all Agency crashes that involve a serious life-threatening injury or a fatality;
- if the crash involves death, personal injury, or there are unusual circumstances, the shift commander or Commander, Field Operations Section shall, if practical, assume command of the scene and meet with the original incident commander or supervisor directing the investigation;
- the on-duty commander shall notify the involved personnel's commander or director as soon as practical;
- all crash reports will be reviewed and approved by the Traffic Operations Unit Supervisor or his designee;
- a completed Report of Agency Vehicle Damage form (CCSO Form #843) will be emailed to the email group departmentals@ccso.us for appropriate disposition;
- in cases involving serious life threatening injury or fatality, the Traffic Operations Supervisor will notify the



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Commander, Field Operations Section, the Agency General Counsel, the Media Relations Office and the Charles County State's Attorney.

If the crash occurred outside of Charles County, Maryland:

- if the crash occurred within a reasonable distance of Charles County, Maryland, the shift commander or his representative may respond to the scene to gather information and provide liaison between the investigating police agency and the CCSO;
- the district / shift commander shall obtain, or have the involved personnel obtain, a copy of the police investigation and report;
- The Shift Commander, or investigating supervisor, shall document the crash on a Report of Agency Vehicle Damage form (CCSO Form #843) and submit the form via email to the email group departmentals@ccso.us prior to the end of the duty shift during which the crash occurred.

6-600.3 CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION

The crash investigator will conduct a thorough and complete investigation of all crashes involving Agency vehicles. The investigator shall review all recorded video footage if available, interview witnesses, examine physical evidence and document the crash appropriately in the Maryland Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS). The Agency crash investigator shall determine contributing crash factors, investigate for signs of impairment in all involved parties and take appropriate action, determine traffic and/or criminal charges, and provide an opinion as to the preventability of the crash on the part of the Agency vehicle operator.

The results of the crash investigation will be provided in written format to the Command Staff through use of the appropriate forms including the Report of Agency Vehicle Damage form (Form #843), Maryland Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS), and/or other required documents.

The crash investigator, or his immediate supervisor, shall provide notification to the CCSO Command Staff and Media Relations Specialist by completing a Commander's Information Report immediately following the initial investigative phase.

Except for crashes involving serious life threatening injury, fatality, or possible driving while under the influence or criminal charges incurred by an Agency driver, crash investigations are considered administrative in nature.

6-601 DOCUMENTING DAMAGE TO AGENCY VEHICLES

Damage to an Agency vehicle which does not meet the criteria referenced in AOM 6-600 as an Agency Vehicle Crash will be documented on the Report of Agency Vehicle Damage (Form #843) only. A separate Report of Agency Vehicle Damage (Form #843) must be completed for each damaged Agency vehicle even if multiple Agency vehicles were damaged during the same event. This form will be completed for any vehicle damaged during an event or in any instance where an Agency vehicle causes damage to another vehicle, structure, or other object. The completed form will be emailed to the email group departmentals@ccso.us prior to the end of the investigator's tour of duty.

Damage to an Agency vehicle which meets the criteria as an Agency Vehicle Crash as defined in AOM 6-600 shall be documented in the Maryland Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS). All vehicles and property involved in an Agency Vehicle Crash will be recorded within the single ACRS Report for a single incident. A separate Report of Agency Vehicle Damage form (Form #843) will be completed for each Agency vehicle damaged during the Agency Vehicle Crash. The Agency vehicle information will be included on each Report of Agency Vehicle Damage. However, information for non-Agency vehicles or property documented in the ACRS Report will not be entered onto the Form #843. The completed form will be emailed to the email group departmentals@ccso.us prior to the end of the investigator's tour of duty.



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6-602 DISPOSITION OF INOPERABLE AGENCY VEHICLES

When an Agency vehicle is rendered inoperable because of a collision, the CCSO investigator will consult with a representative of Property Management for towing instructions. The vehicle will be towed to a location most advantageous for appraisal, examination, and protection of the vehicle and its contents.

After any investigative examination, the Commander, Property Management will assume the control of the vehicle until repair or disposition is made of the vehicle.

In the event an Agency vehicle was involved in a collision which rendered it inoperable outside of Charles County and the distance is so great an Agency representative could not respond, a district / shift commander will contact the investigating agency and arrange for the secured storage of the vehicle. Property Management will then arrange for the return of the vehicle to Charles County.

6-605 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Responsibility for the CCSO property and equipment carried within CCSO vehicles is the responsibility of the Agency driver of the vehicle. If the driver is unable to fulfill this responsibility because of injuries sustained in the collision, the CCSO supervisor at the scene is responsible for making security arrangements. Lacking a CCSO supervisor on the scene, the CCSO investigator shall assume responsibility for the security and disposition of property contained in the vehicle at the time of the collision. If the collision occurred outside of Charles County, and the involved employee is unable to secure the CCSO property, the district / shift commander shall arrange to secure the property.

6-607 AGENCY VEHICLE REPAIRS

When an Agency vehicle has been damaged and the vehicle is:

- in the custody of the Commander, Property Management, the Fleet Manager shall secure estimates of the cost of repairs and cause the vehicle to be repaired or replaced in a timely fashion; or
- in the custody of other CCSO personnel, the person in custody of the vehicle shall contact the Commander, Property Management within 48 hours for direction to obtain two estimates of the cost of repairs to be forwarded to the Commander, Property Management, who shall authorize and direct repair or replacement in a timely fashion.

Only the Commander, Property Management shall authorize and secure the repair of damaged CCSO vehicles. All inquiries concerning such repairs shall be directed to the Commander, Property Management. The Fleet Manager shall be responsible for tracking the performance of various vendors who repair vehicles for the CCSO.

The Fleet Manager shall provide the Commander, Property Management with all appropriate information, such as the history and performance evaluations of vendors, so as to allow the Commander, Property Management to direct repairs to the most qualified and cost-effective vendors. The Commander, Property Management shall also track the economy of using particular vendors and shall direct repairs in such a manner as to provide repairs at the most cost effective vendors consistent with excellence of the repair work.

6-608 OPR INVESTIGATION

In case of any life threatening injury or fatal Agency vehicle collision involving a CCSO driver, the Commander, OPR shall cause a separate administrative investigation to be completed.

6-608.1 DETERMINATION OF PREVENTABILITY

Preventable Collision - As used in this section, a preventable collision is a collision which occurred because the



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driver of any vehicle failed to take any action which would have prevented the damage and injury, or the driver of any vehicle took a course of action which was the cause of any damage or injury.

Non-preventable Collision - As used in this section, it means any occurrence involving a collision in which everything that could have been reasonably done to prevent it was done and the collision still occurred.

Excusable - As used in this section, it means that which can be excused, is pardonable, or possibly justifiable. Also, it could mean a finding that an employee involved in an unintentional collision may be partially or wholly at fault; however, the collision may be excusable when considering exceptional circumstances surrounding the incident.

6-608.2 PREVENTABLE COLLISION FACTORS

It is expected, because driving a vehicle is such a significant part of many of the Agency's employees' jobs, they will become safe driving enthusiasts. Employees should always drive defensively, attempting to anticipate wrong moves on the part of other drivers and thereby avoiding collisions which might otherwise result.

Employees should always drive within the confines of their personal capabilities and the limitations imposed by each vehicle's design and handling characteristics. In order to define a defensive attitude and the nature of preventable collisions, employees shall consider the following situations developed by the State Fleet Safety Committee in conjunction with the National Safety Council:

- **Intersections** - It is the responsibility of Agency vehicle drivers to approach, enter and cross intersections prepared to avoid collisions which might occur through the actions of other drivers. Complex traffic movement, blind intersections, or failure of the "other driver" to conform to laws or traffic control devices will not automatically discharge a collision as "not preventable." Intersection collisions are sometimes preventable even when the favored driver has not violated traffic regulations. His failure to take precautionary measures prior to entering the intersection is a factor to be studied in making a decision. When a driver crosses an intersection and the obvious actions of the "other driver" indicate possible involvement, either by reason of his excess speed, crossing his lane and turning, or coming from behind a blind spot, the decision, based on the favored driver allowing such entrapment, should be "preventable."
- **Vehicle Ahead** - Regardless of the abrupt or unexpected stop of the vehicle ahead, a driver can prevent front-end collisions by maintaining a safe following distance at all times. A safe following distance is one which allows the driver sufficient time, distance, and vision requirements to avoid a collision and to reduce traffic conflict. This includes being prepared for possible obstructions on the highway, either in plain view or hidden by the crest of a hill or the curve of a roadway. Over driving headlights at night is a common cause of front-end collisions. Night speed should not be greater than that which will permit the vehicle to come to a stop within the forward distance illuminated by the vehicle's headlights.
- **Vehicle Behind** - Investigation often discloses drivers risk being struck from behind by failing to maintain a margin of safety in their own following distance. Rear-end collisions preceded by a roll-back, an abrupt stop at a grade crossing when a traffic signal changes or when the driver fails to signal a turn at an intersection should be considered preventable. Failure to signal intentions or to slow down gradually should be considered preventable.
- **Passing** - Failure to pass safely may indicate faulty judgment and the possible failure to consider one or more of the important factors a driver must observe before attempting the maneuver. Unusual actions of the driver being passed or of oncoming traffic might appear to exonerate a driver involved in a passing collision; however, the entire passing maneuver is voluntary and is the passing driver's responsibility.
- **Being Passed** - Sideswipes and cut-offs involving a driver while he is being passed are preventable when he fails to yield to the passing vehicle by slowing down, moving to the right where possible, or maintaining speed, whichever action is appropriate.



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- **Oncoming** - It is extremely important to check the action of the Agency driver when that driver is involved in a head-on or sideswipe collision with a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. The exact location of a vehicle prior to and at the point of impact must be carefully verified. Even though an opposing vehicle enters the Agency driver's traffic lane, it may be possible for the Agency driver to avoid the collision. For example, if the opposing vehicle was in a passing maneuver and the Agency driver failed to slow down, stop or move to the right to allow the vehicle to re-enter his own lane, he has failed to take action to prevent the occurrence. Failing to signal the opposing driver in an appropriate manner should also be taken into account.
 - **Fixed Objects** - Collisions with fixed objects are preventable. They usually involve failure to check or properly judge clearances. In some cases they involve a failure to properly divide driver attention between an Agency specific task and the driving task; i.e., running into a pole while checking for broken windows in a T/A at night. An Agency driver must be constantly vigilant for conditions which may lead to collisions with fixed objects and make the proper adjustments in vehicle speed and position to avoid such collisions.
 - **Pedestrians** - Traffic regulations and court decisions generally favor the pedestrian hit by a moving vehicle. Where pedestrian traffic can be anticipated, whether signs are posted or speed limits reduced, speed too fast for conditions may be a factor in the collision. School zones, shopping areas, residential streets and other areas with special pedestrian traffic concerns must be traveled at reduced speeds compatible with that particular environment. Bicycle, skate and skateboard traffic requires special vigilance due to the youth and inexperience of those operators. Agency drivers who fail to reduce speed in the face of this kind of traffic have failed to take the necessary precautions to prevent a collision. Driving at the speed limit is not in itself a defense for a collision in these circumstances.
 - **Passenger Collisions** - Agency drivers are responsible for passenger use of restraint devices. Drivers must be alert to traffic conditions which pose hazards to embarking and disembarking passengers and take care to alert passengers to such hazards.
 - **Non-Collision** - Many collisions, such as overturning or running off the road, may result from emergency action by the driver to preclude being involved in a collision. Examination of driving actions prior to the incident may reveal speed too fast for conditions or other inappropriate action in the face of developing driving conditions ahead. The Agency driver's actions prior to involvement will be examined for possible errors in judgment and failure to maintain a defensive driving attitude.
 - **Backing** - Many Agency collisions result from backing vehicles into unobserved objects. Therefore, drivers will, in every instance possible, park vehicles by backing them into a parking area. In those instances when it is necessary to back from a parking space, the driver will, before moving the vehicle, visually inspect the area to the rear of the vehicle to eliminate the possibility of striking unseen objects. When using another person to direct the backing movement of a vehicle, the driver still retains responsibility for the movement. It is incumbent on the driver to be certain the path for backing is free from obstacles.
 - **Division of Attention** - The police tasks which are necessarily accomplished during the operation of a vehicle require a practiced application of dividing the attention of the Agency driver between the vehicle's operation and the police tasks. Examples of some, but not necessarily all, of these tasks are: the use of the police radio and other communications devices; the observation of surrounding activities for signs of danger or criminal actions; the evaluation of the roadway for need of repair or removal of debris; observation of people surrounding the path of travel of the vehicle for evaluation as wanted or otherwise person of interest; and so forth. This task of division of attention can cause an operator to fixate upon a single task to the detriment of others. The operator must keep the driving task as paramount and limit other tasks to a degree which does not compromise safe operation of the vehicle. When necessary for safety, the vehicle shall be stopped out of harm's way when a greater concentration is needed for other police tasks. Agency operators must continually force themselves to avoid fixation on a particular circumstance, even in times of stress.



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It is not necessary to describe in detail the many ways a driver might prevent a collision without being primarily or legally responsible. Agency drivers are expected to be defensive in their driving. A defensive driver is one who commits no driving errors himself and makes all possible allowances for the lack of skill and improper driving practices of the other drivers. A defensive driver adjusts his own driving to compensate for unusual weather, road and traffic conditions, and is not tricked into a collision by the unsafe actions of pedestrians and other drivers. By being alert to collision-inducing situations, he recognizes the need for preventive action in advance and takes the necessary precautions to prevent the collision. As a defensive driver, he knows when it is necessary to slow down, stop, or yield his right-of-way to avoid involvement.

6-610 AGENCY COLLISION COMMITTEE

In order to evaluate each incident of a collision involving an Agency vehicle uniformly and effectively, an Agency Collision Committee has been established. The Committee shall be comprised of the commander / director of each of the Agency's divisions. Should a commander / director need to delegate this duty for a particular meeting of the Committee; his choice will be approved by his respective Assistant Sheriff. The Committee Chairman shall be the Commander, Special Services.

In reviewing each incident of a collision involving an Agency vehicle, the Committee shall use the Collision Committee Guidelines, Work Sheet, and Committee Report as established by the Committee. The Guidelines, Work Sheet and Report will be published on the Agency Intranet for ready use by the Committee and for information and review by all employees.

The Committee should meet weekly to review all Agency collisions whose reports have become available within the previous 7-day period. The Commander, Special Services Division may cancel or reschedule a meeting if there were no new collision reports for the previous 7-day period or if additional time is needed to gather the required information and complete a Work Sheet.

The intention of the Guidelines is to provide for equitable actions to be taken and recorded from one case to another. In order for the process to be effective, the Guidelines should direct the proceedings of the Committee. However, the Guidelines are not intended to strictly limit the courses of any action which might be taken by the Collision Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- increasing vehicle operation safety awareness within the Agency;
- making safety recommendations to the Sheriff;
- identifying collision reduction strategies, techniques and training;
- defining methods of collision reduction for specific employee vehicle operators;
- recommending remedial vehicle operation training;
- reviewing statistical collision cause indicators for groups and individuals; and
- providing for the uniformity of actions through the use of these Guidelines and discussion and consensus of the Committee.

As part of the Committee's commitment to making the best determinations possible in each incident and for making recommendations on training and reducing Agency vehicle collisions, the Committee will use all available resources to evaluate data on the operation of vehicles by employees of the CCSO. Data may be gathered from, but is not limited to:

- Human Resources
- Property Management
- Records Management
- (Budgeting / Accounting)
- Local Government Insurance Trust (LEGIT)
- Training Division



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6-610.1 COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Before each meeting, the Committee Chairman will prepare a Work Sheet for each incident. The Committee Chairman will notify each involved employee by agency email of their scheduled accident review and provide them the opportunity to appear in person if they wish to provide a personal statement regarding the incident. During each meeting, the Chairman will present the results and any other information or materials that may be relevant. The members of the Committee present will deliberate and reach an agreement on actions for each case. It is expected that any preventable collision will result in some corrective and / or punitive actions from the Committee.

The Committee shall have the prerogative of directing the investigating officer to appear before it for the purpose of clarifying or obtaining information. All email correspondence between the Chairman and employees will be copied to all persons in the chain of command. Supervision, management and command levels will allow employees, who are scheduled to work when their appearance is needed before the Committee, to attend without use of leave. Investigators who are required to appear will be compensated if they are off-duty.

The Committee will make every effort to reach a conclusion for each collision within forty-five (45) days from the date of the collision. Employees will be sent written notification of the Committee's decision within ten (10) calendar days of the finding.

Employees shall sign a copy of the Collision Committee Report and return that signed copy to the Collision Committee Chairman.

6-610.2 WORK SHEET INSTRUCTIONS

The Collision Committee Work Sheet is to be used for each Agency vehicle collision. The sheet is laid out with space for the involved officer's name, ID, date and an I.R. number. The next items are check boxes for Preventable or Non-preventable incidents. If Non-preventable is selected and there are no extenuating factors, such as the in-car video was not in use as required by Agency policy or the seat belt was not used by the involved officer, the Chairman will move on and complete the Collision Committee Report. If there are extenuating factors involved in a non-preventable collision, the appropriate points will be recorded and a recommendation for action will be made.

For preventable events, the Chairman will review the collision report and circle the appropriate points for each applicable section of the Work Sheet.

- a primary cause;
- if there were injuries to the employee or others;
- civilian vehicle damages;
- other property damage; and
- seat belt use.

The Chairman will also utilize other available information such as:

- Agency vehicle damage estimates;
- prior preventable collision damages information for prior 3 years or 100,000 miles;
- prior good Agency driving record; and
- information about any other mitigating factors.

The Chairman will record the plus points and minus points and reach a total point value for the incident. If the point total is equal to five (5) points or less, or if in the opinion of the Chairman there are exceptional circumstances surrounding the incident that favor the employee, the Chairman may conclude that the collision is an excusable event. All findings of the Chairman will be recorded on the Work Sheet.

6-610.3 DISPOSITION OF AGENCY COLLISIONS



Because of the Committee's deliberations over the Chairman's presentation, one of the following determinations will be agreed upon:

- Non-Preventable;
- Preventable; or
- Excusable.

The Committee may then deliberate about the points assessed and, if all are agreed, the Point System Guide will be used to determine what actions are to be taken. Once the points for each incident are decided, there should be no deviation from the Point System Guide. By following the Guide, actions taken will result in more equitable treatment from one case to another.

The Point System Guide provides for the following actions to be taken:

First collision within 3 years or 100,000 miles:

6 or Less Points:

Corrective Action Form.

7-15 Points:

Corrective Action Form + Remedial Training-policy review, with Supervisor/Commander.

16 or More Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driver, with certified instructor + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 10 days (mandatory), Fitness for Duty Exam, loss of leave, a fine, or possible loss of employment (discretionary).

Second collision within 3 years or 100,000 miles:

6 or Less Points:

Formal Written Counseling + Remedial Training-policy review, with Supervisor/Commander.

7-15 Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driver, with certified instructor + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 15 days (mandatory), Fitness for Duty Exam, loss of leave, a fine, or possible loss of employment (discretionary).

16 or More Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driver, with certified instructor + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 30 days (mandatory), Fitness for Duty Exam, loss of leave, a fine, or possible loss of employment (discretionary).

NOTE: If your first collision within 3 years or 100,000 miles was 8 points or less, your second collision within 3 years or 100,000 miles will be counted as the first.

Third collision within 3 years or 100,000 miles:

6 or Less Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driver, with certified instructor + Fitness for Duty Exam + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 30 days (mandatory), loss of leave, a fine, or possible loss of employment (discretionary).



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7-15 Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driving, with certified instructor + Fitness for Duty Exam + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 45 days (mandatory), loss of leave, a fine, or possible loss of employment (discretionary).

16 or More Points:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training-Driving, with certified instructor + Fitness for Duty Exam + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for 60 days + a loss of leave or a fine (mandatory), and a possible loss of employment.

Four or more preventable collisions within 3 years or 100,000 miles:

Letter of Reprimand + Remedial Training + Fitness for Duty Exam + Loss of Take-Home Car Privileges for six months + a loss of leave or fine (mandatory), and a possible loss of employment.

NOTE: Loss of employment may be recommended when an employee has a collision involving gross negligence, alcohol or drug use or has repeatedly been shown to not respond to remedial and punitive measures. Additionally, court sanctions where an employee loses their driver's license may translate to a loss of required skills and abilities to retain a position with the Agency.

The Committee's actions will be recorded on the Collision Committee Report. A copy of the Report will be provided to the employee and the employee's division commander / director within five (5) working days of the finding. The employee and the division commander / director will return a signed copy to the Committee Chairman. The Chairman will keep a copy of the Report on file for a period of three years.

Disciplinary and remedial actions taken shall be administered at the direction of the employee's division commander / director using OPR's forms in the manner of all disciplinary actions. Division commanders / directors shall consult with the Commander, OPR upon initial receipt of the Collision Committee's findings in order to make a determination of how to proceed relative to the recommended actions.

A final determination and implementation of administrative or disciplinary action shall occur within 30 calendar days of the Collision Committee's decision, unless extenuating circumstances prevent this. In these cases, the involved division commander / director shall generate a memorandum to the Commander, OPR describing the circumstances preventing the disposition and a projection of the expected disposition date.

Any appeal or grievance of an action taken as a result of the decisions of the Collision Committee will be made as outlined elsewhere in the AOM.

6-610.4 COLLISIONS INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

In collisions involving a member of the public, if the Collision Committee reaches a determination that the collision was preventable and that a sworn police officer was at fault, the Collision Committee's worksheet and report will be forwarded to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee by the Office of Professional Responsibility.

If the findings of the Collision Committee are endorsed by the Administrative Charging Committee, the Sheriff, through his designee, will offer the officer the recommended discipline. If the officer declines the offered discipline, the matter will be assigned to the Office of General Counsel for prosecution at a Charles County Trial Board in accordance with the procedures outlined in this manual.

6-611 QUARTERLY AGENCY COLLISION REPORT

The Commander, Special Services shall generate a quarterly report regarding all Agency vehicle collisions. Refer to the Administrative Reporting Program policy for specific reporting requirements.



6-612 AGENCY COLLISION FREE DRIVING AWARDS

The Charles County Sheriff's Office has established the Agency Collision-Free Driving Award Program to recognize employees who operate agency vehicles safely and avoid preventable collisions.

Vehicle collisions result in significant costs — including lost work hours, medical expenses, property damage, legal fees, and liability costs. By avoiding collisions, employees help the Agency direct those resources toward more productive uses that benefit both the Agency and the citizens of Charles County.

This program acknowledges those efforts through public recognition and tangible rewards.

Miles Driven Without a Preventable Collision	Award
50,000 miles	Certificate of Achievement
100,000 miles	2 Days Administrative Leave, Safe Driving Ribbon (with 1 star), and Certificate
Each Additional 50,000 miles	1 Day Administrative Leave, Certificate, and an additional star added to the Safe Driving Ribbon

Note: Any preventable collision resets the mileage counter to zero.

Employees become eligible to participate in the program once they have driven **at least 50,000 miles** without a preventable collision.

Tracking and Award Process

1. Employee Responsibility
 - a) Each employee is responsible for tracking their own mileage driven in agency vehicles.
 - b) Once eligible, the employee must request an award by submitting a memorandum to the Fleet Manager and a memorandum cover sheet (Inter-Office Memorandum, Form #144)
2. Verification
 - a) The Fleet Manager will verify the total miles driven without a preventable collision.
 - b) Once verified, the memorandum will be returned to the submitting employee.
3. Chain of Command Submission
 - a) The employee must then forward the verified memorandum through their chain of command to their respective Assistant Sheriff for approval of administrative leave.
4. Award Presentation
 - a) After approval, the Division Commander or Director will coordinate and present the award and any associated recognition.
5. Records
 - a) All records from this submission will be placed in the employee's Personnel File.

6-613 ARRIVE ALIVE PROJECT

The Arrive Alive Project was implemented in October of 2013 to focus attention on dangerous driving behaviors and to increase officer safety awareness. This project is organized and managed through the Traffic Operations Unit. This project entails, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- covert surveys of seat belt use;
- roll call training videos;
- Arrive Alive stickers placed in all Agency vehicles;
- weekly public safety radio messages;
- one hour class during annual in-service training;



- line of duty death notifications emailed to all sworn and corrections officers; and
- whiteboard displays with number of days since last department collision posted at each station.

6-700 WORK SITE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

In order for the Sheriff's Office Risk Management and Safety Program to be effective, it must provide for the regular inspection of all work sites.

Authorization for the Safety Officer to conduct internal Sheriff's Office safety inspections is granted by the Sheriff.

Inspections are important as they serve to:

- Identify safety and health hazards before accidents occur;
- Stimulate interest, and encourage active participation in the Risk Management and Safety Program through personal contact between the inspector and individuals on the job. Employees are frequently able to point out unsafe conditions that might otherwise go uncorrected; and
- Determine necessary changes in the program, e.g., revisions to procedures, changes in the training program, and improvement in supervisory practices.

6-701 TYPES OF INSPECTIONS

The following inspections are carried out under the Sheriff's Office Risk Management and Safety Policy:

Safety Audit: Regular inspections that are to be conducted by the Safety Officer at all work sites. Their purpose is to determine whether the Sheriff's Office is providing a safe and healthful place of employment in compliance with the MOSHA Law, and the Risk Management and Safety Policy, and whether employees are performing their duties in a safe manner.

General Inspections: It is the responsibility of division commanders to perform regular inspections and document unresolved safety hazards and develop a plan of corrective action.

Special Inspections: Special inspections are limited in scope and conducted for a special purpose, or in special areas. Examples of situations requiring special inspections are:

- Changes in working conditions, e.g., occupancy of new buildings, use of new or different equipment, and assignment of new activities;
- In response to a report of a safety or health hazard;
- As a part of special campaign such as Fire Prevention Week;
- In the course of an accident investigation;
- As a follow-up to a previous inspection.

Special inspections may be conducted by the Safety Officer, supervisors, and representatives of management.

In the event of a safety hazard, an employee shall immediately notify both the individual in charge and any employees whom they consider to be in imminent danger, and shall request that they be removed from the area. The Safety Officer, if necessary, shall have the authority either to remove employees or suspend operations.

All employees shall assist in eliminating the danger, although the ultimate responsibility for this lies with division



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commanders.

The employee shall remain at the establishment or area until the danger has been eliminated, either by removal of the hazard or suspension of operations.

When the Safety Officer discovers a violation of imminent danger, and the supervisor refuses to comply with the recommendations of the Safety Officer, the Safety Officer shall inform the division commander of the alleged violation. The following action shall be taken:

- Review the alleged violation, and, if they concur, again request to suspend operations until the hazard has been eliminated;
- If the commander refuses to take corrective action, the Safety Officer will report the alleged violation to the appropriate Assistant Sheriff.

6-702 SAFETY INSPECTION GUIDELINES

Safety inspections shall be performed on a schedule that will be convenient to the division commander concerned. Individuals within the division shall fully cooperate with the inspection to ensure that all areas are covered and all hazards are itemized.

Those conducting a safety inspection shall utilize check lists appropriate for each area being inspected, and emphasis shall be placed on standards established by the division.

Emphasis will be placed upon the condition of the facility. Equipment and machines as well as implementation of the overall safety program such as:

- Good housekeeping;
- Use of prescribed protective equipment;
- Compliance with safety rules and regulations;
- Qualification of drivers and condition of vehicles;
- Condition of ladders;
- Proper storage of flammable / combustible liquids;
- Portable firefighting equipment, first aid kits and emergency lighting;
- Condition of power and hand tools;
- Proper guarding of powered equipment and machines;
- Excessive noise levels.

Supervisors shall inform all employees of any unsafe conditions that cannot be immediately corrected and ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

Deficiencies shall be posted for review by all employees and corrected as quickly as possible. Corrections requiring special monetary funds or those beyond control of the division should be presented to the commander for resolutions.

NOTE: The Safety Officer is charged with the responsibility to note any deficiencies that exist, document those deficiencies, and recommend the necessary corrective action. Should a situation arise whereby the division commander determines that the corrective action is not warranted, not cost effective, or funding is not available, the final determination will be made by the appropriate Assistant Sheriff.

6-703 INSPECTION RECORDS

Upon completion of an inspection, a brief memorandum reporting the inspection and any pertinent information, shall be forwarded to the Agency Safety Officer.



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All inspection reports shall show the following:

- Date of inspection;
- Inspector's name(s);
- List of deficiencies discovered; and
- Recommendations for correction of deficiencies.

A copy of the report will be maintained by the affected division commander for a period of three (3) years.

6-704 NOTICE OF SAFETY VIOLATIONS

The Safety Officer, making inspections under the Risk Management and Safety Program, reports inspections with a brief memo to the division commander. Violations are reported by means of the Notice of Safety Violation Form #939. Notices shall be used to educate and evaluate Sheriff's Office personnel.

6-705 JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS FOR HAZARDOUS WORK

To eliminate accidents in high hazard areas, it is mandatory that each supervisor thoroughly check his workers on the hazards that exist and ensure that they understand the methods of doing each job safely when such hazards cannot be eliminated.

Relying on memory alone during the instruction of an employee is assurance that some important items will be overlooked. It is therefore essential that the supervisor use published work rules which define the correct work procedures. This enables him to attain a consistent quality of instruction that instills employee confidence in his own capabilities and those of management. By providing employees with a copy of the work rules after instruction, he has a ready reference for review. Procedures for job safety training are as follows:

- The job is broken down into basic steps. These steps describe what is to be done in sequence;
- Each step is analyzed for possible hazards that could cause an accident. The purpose is to identify as many hazards as possible whether created by the environment or connected with the mechanics of the job;
- When the hazards and potential accidents associated with each step are identified and their causes understood, ways of eliminating them shall be developed. There are four ways in which this can be handled:
 - Eliminate the process or operation, or provide a substitute which can be done without the hazard; or
 - Isolate the process or operation so as to eliminate or minimize the hazard; or
 - Provide guards or automatic devices to eliminate or minimize the hazard; or
 - Provide personal protective equipment and enforce its use to eliminate the possibility of injury.

By using the information gathered, division work rules shall be written, made available to employees and maintained on file for periodic review. This becomes a document to assist the supervisor in instructing his employees in safe methods of performing their jobs and what protective equipment will be required.

6-706 JOB SAFETY TRAINING

Supervisors must not assume that a newly hired, newly assigned or reassigned employee thoroughly knows all the safe job procedures. The employee must be trained. The four-point method of job instruction has been found to work best: Preparation, presentation, performance, and follow-up.

Preparation:



- Put the employee at ease;
- Define the job and find out what the employee already knows about it;
- Get the employee interested in learning the job;
- Place the employee in the correct position to do the job.

Presentation:

- Tell, show and demonstrate one important step at a time;
- Stress each key point;
- Instruct clearly, completely and patiently, but cover no more than the employee can master each time.

Performance:

- Have the employee do the job, coach him while he works;
- Have the employee explain each key point while performing the job;
- Make sure the employee understands all safe job / work procedures;
- Continue until you know the employee knows.

Follow-up:

- Put the employee on his own;
- Designate to whom the employee goes for help;
- It is the responsibility of the supervisor to frequently check the employee's safe work procedures and to continuously encourage safe work practices.

To document job safety training program participation, an Employee Training Record must be completed for all Sheriff's Office employees participating in training programs. This written documentation will reflect the employee's signature and date, and shall detail the training topic(s), presenter / instructor, and any audio / visual aids used. This documentation must be forwarded to Human Resources within 30 days for filing.

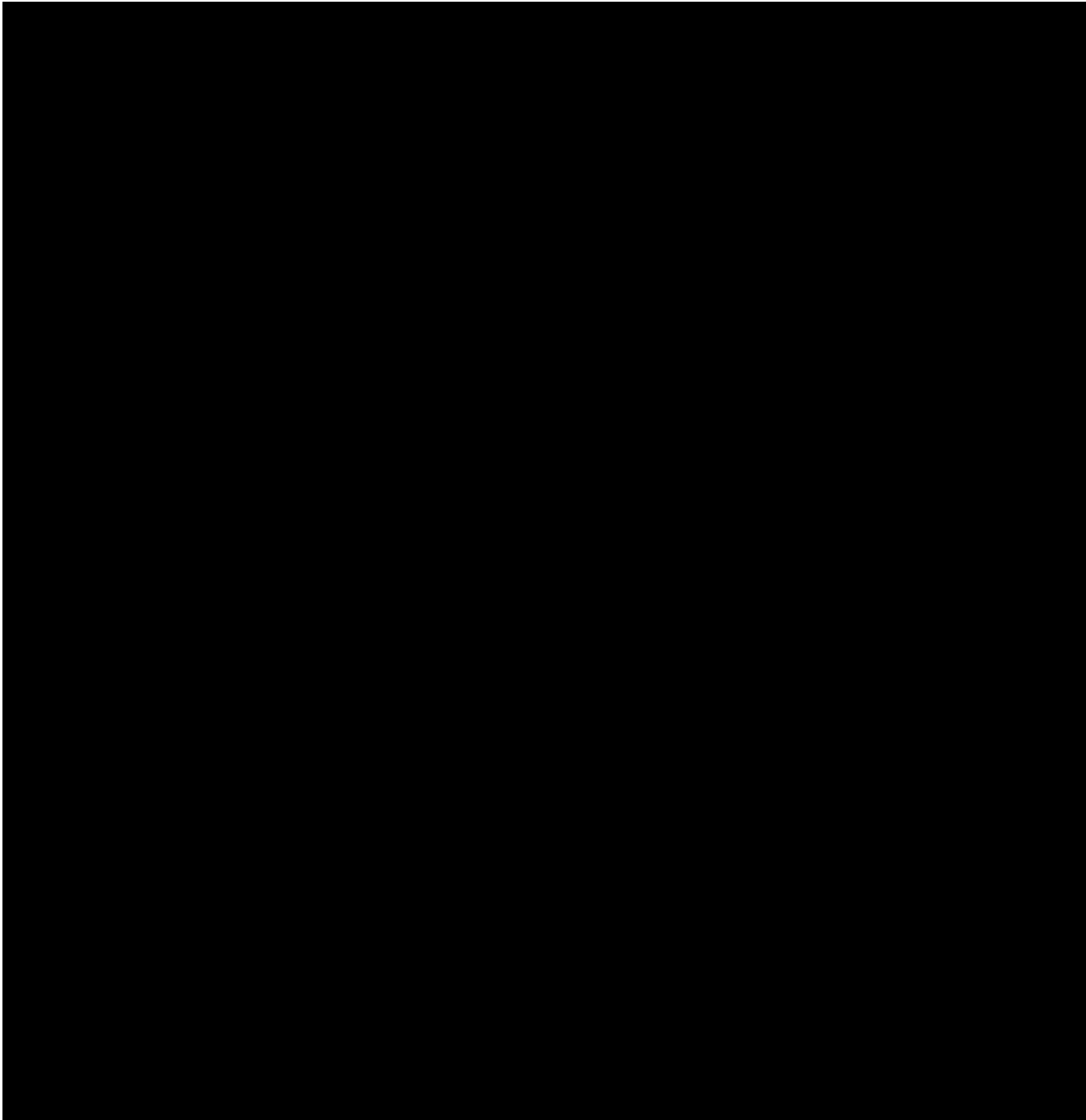
SO/14-2 RULES AND REGULATIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

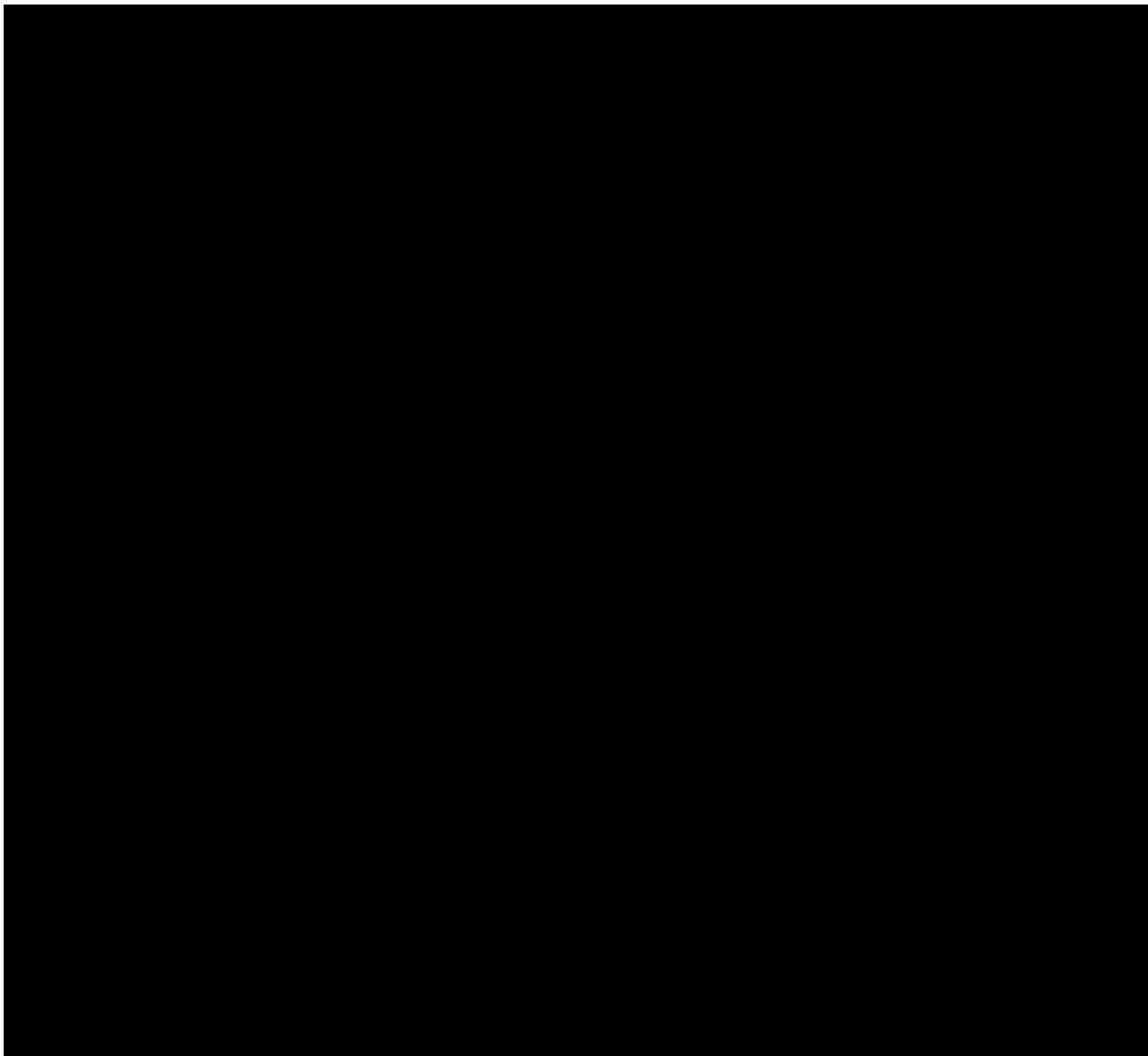
You are hereby notified that all Agency rules and regulations, orders, instructions, directives, memoranda, etc., issued by Rex W. Coffey shall remain valid until otherwise rescinded.

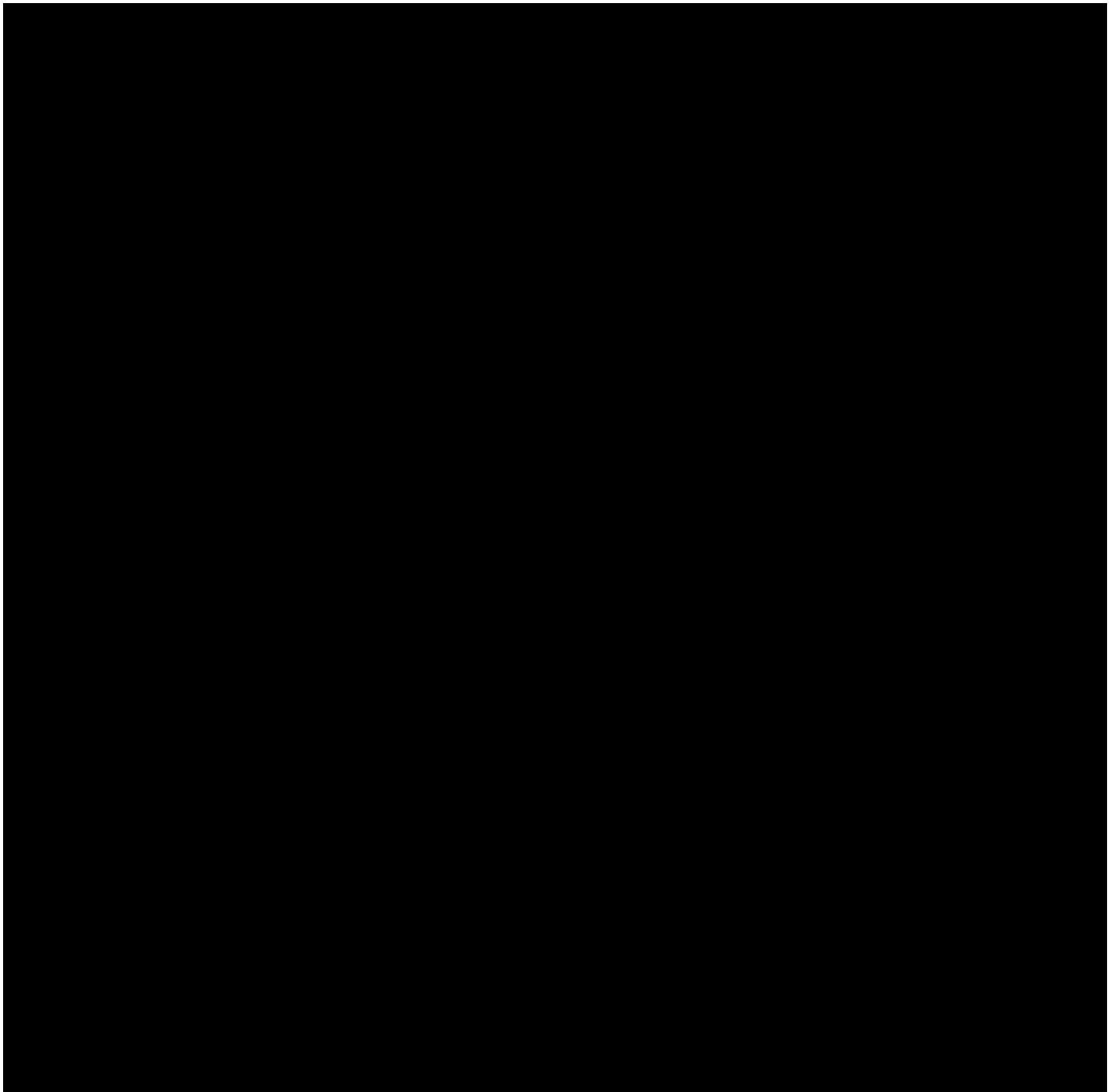


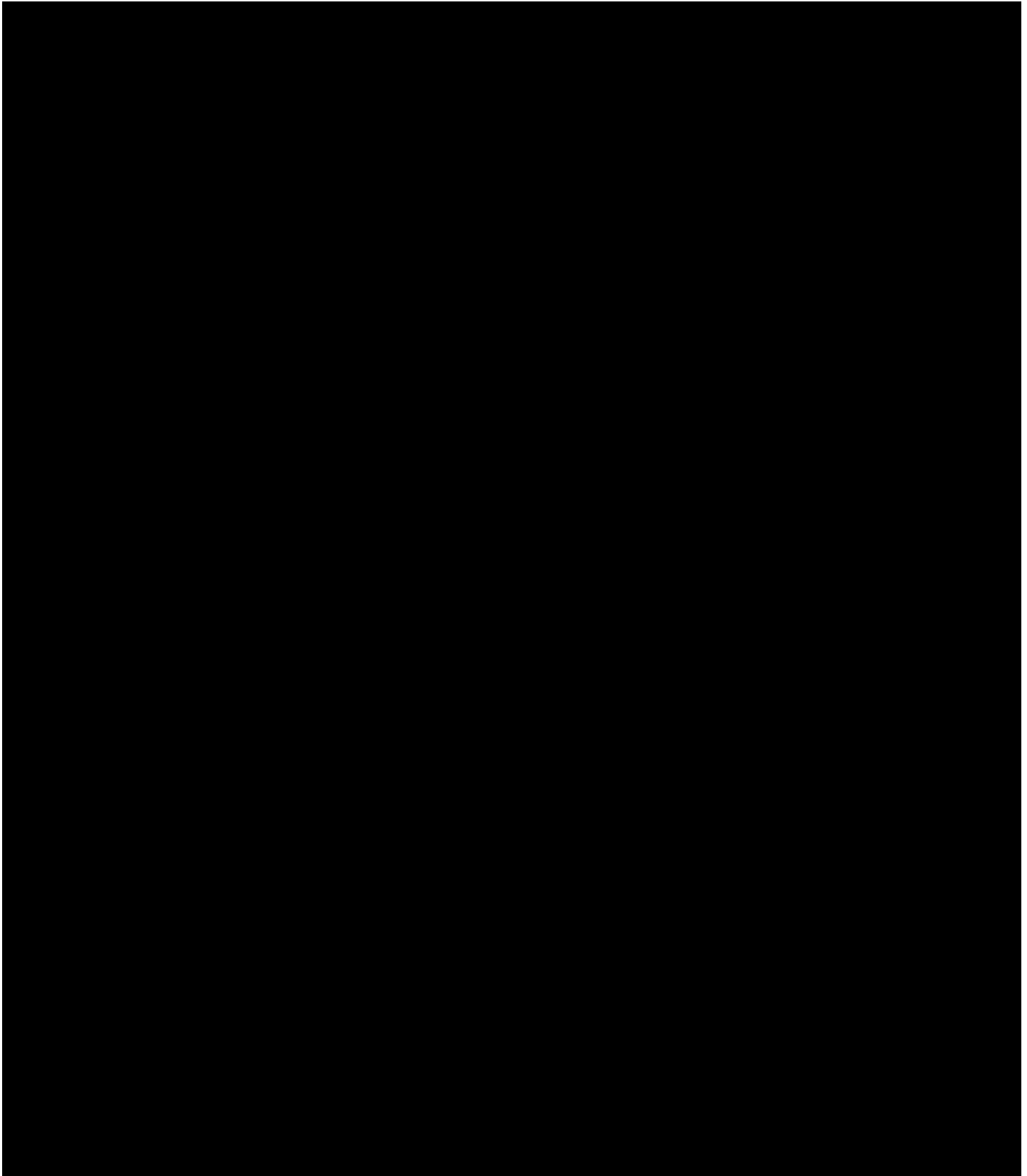
Troy D. Berry, Sheriff
Charles County, Maryland

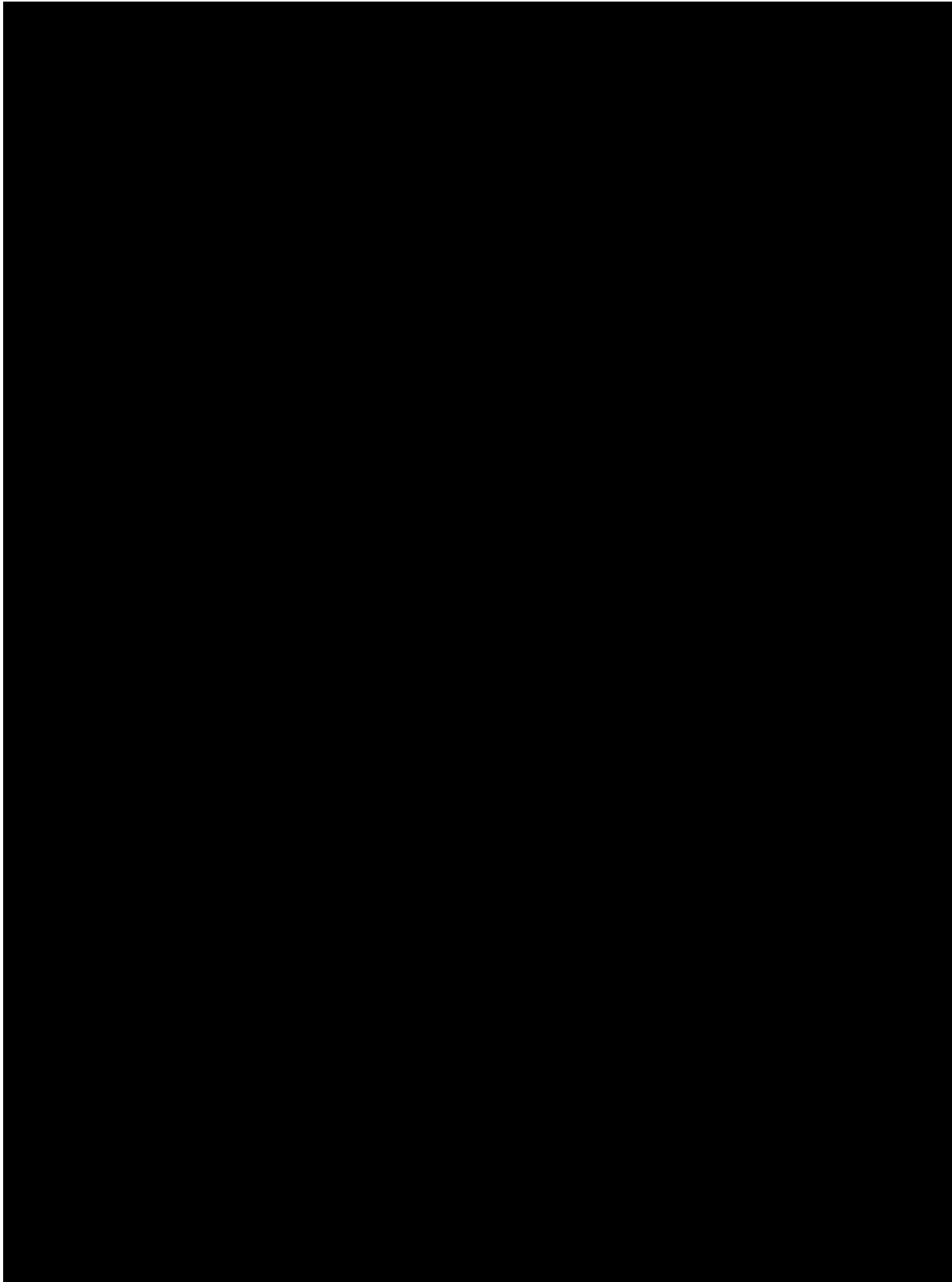


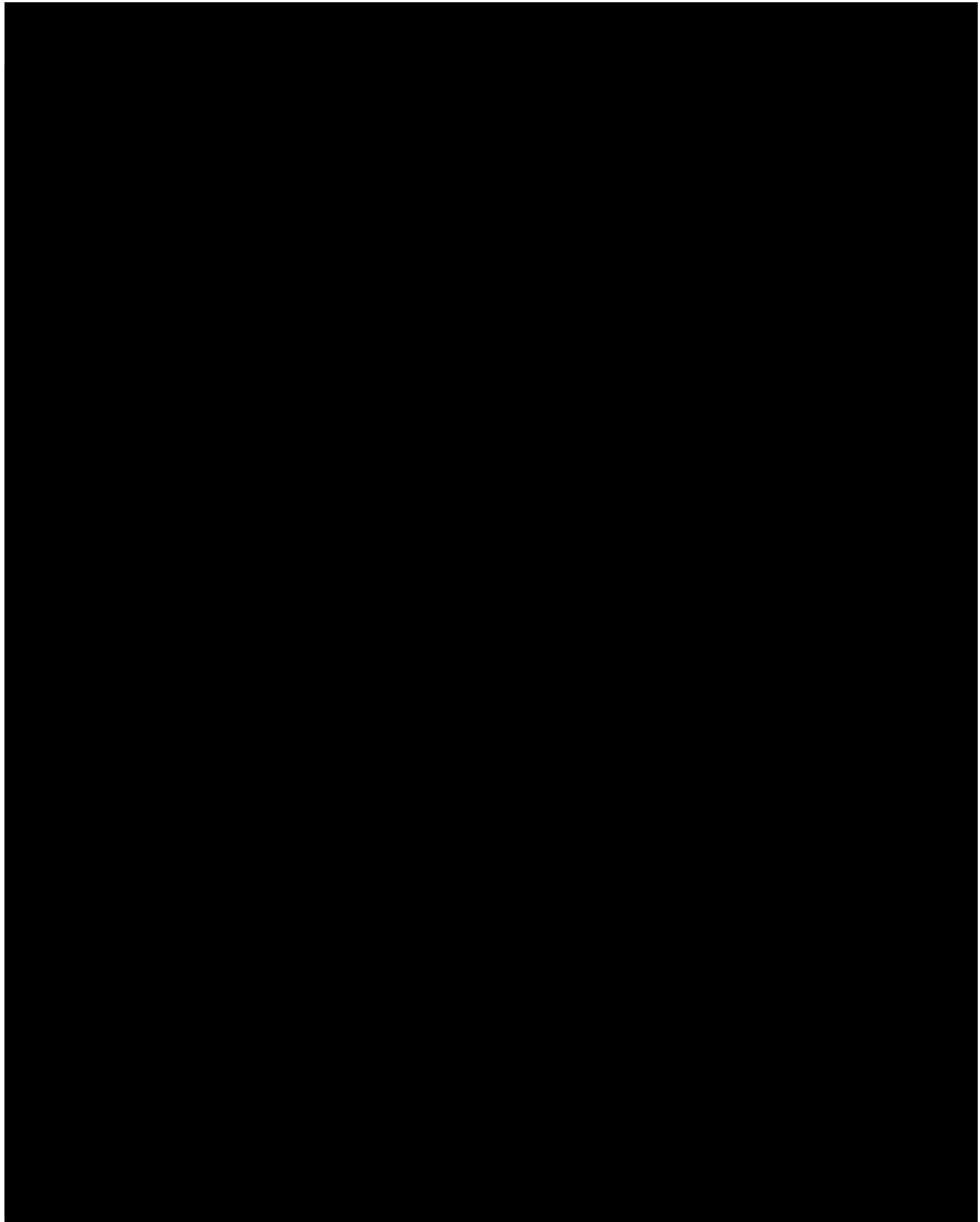


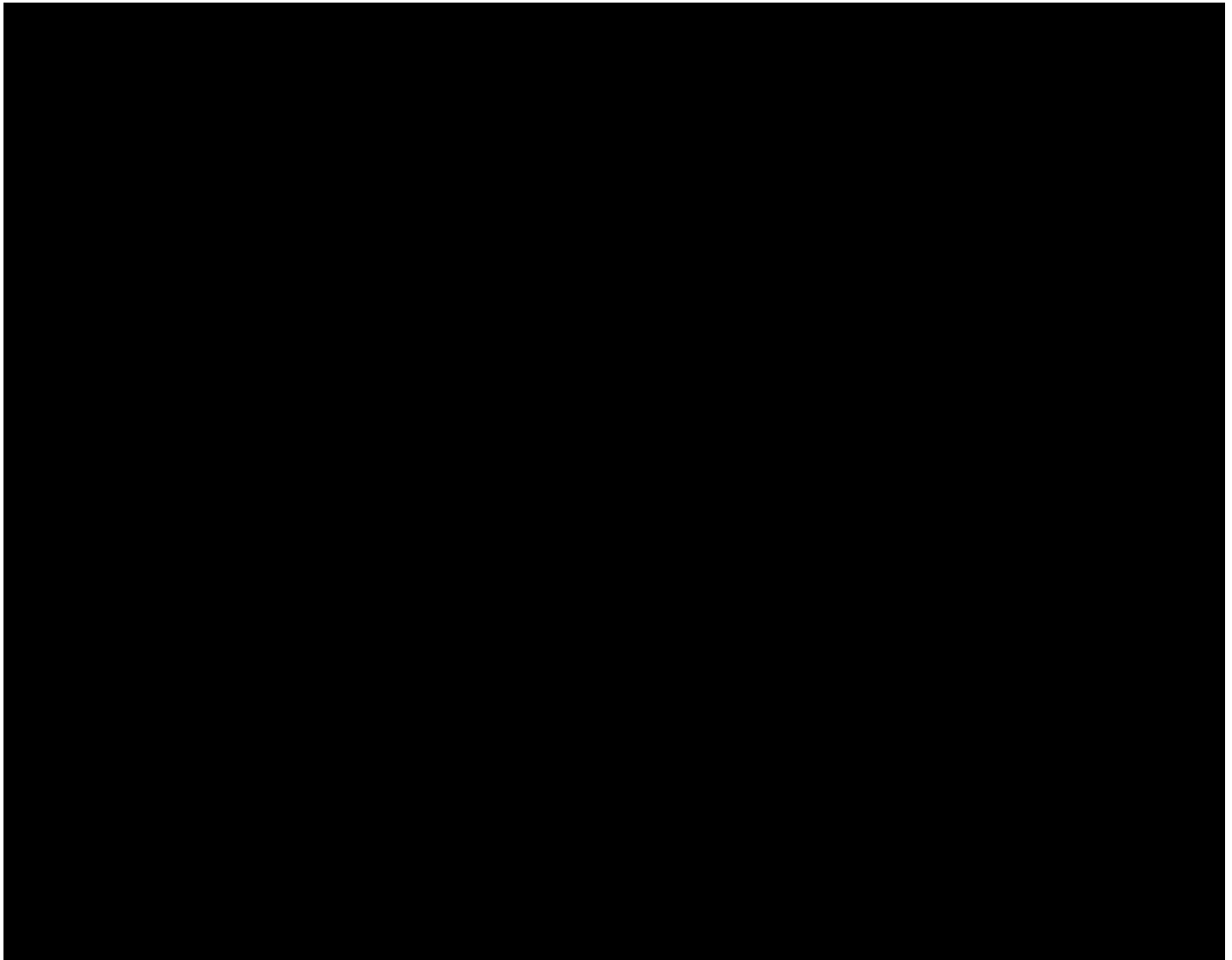


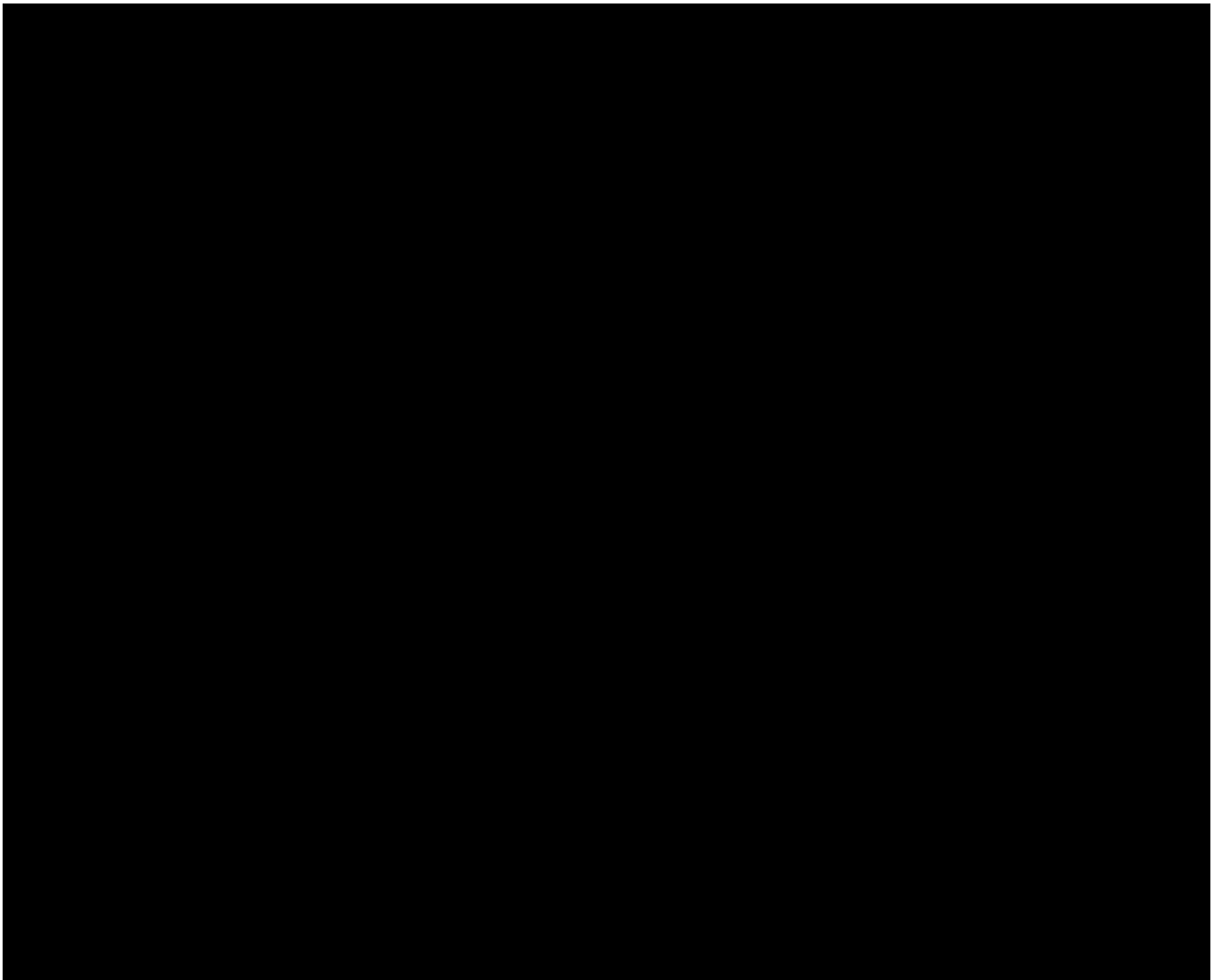














SO/21-02 UPDATE - SWORN/CORRECTIONAL OFFICER BONUS PROGRAMS **(Updated 10/7/2025)**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the programs outlined in this special order are intended to aid the Agency's recruitment efforts by attracting qualified sworn and correctional officer applicants to the Agency. The programs offer financial incentives to current employees through referral bonuses, as well as new employees through sign-on bonuses (for all new sworn / correctional officers) and relocation bonuses (for new correctional officers). The details and requirements for each of the programs are listed below.

SCOPE:

This program will continue until the number of sworn and correctional officer vacancies reaches an acceptable level or as the budget permits.

Sworn Police Officer Programs

Sign-on Bonus Program:

- Police Officer Sign-on Bonus: \$2,100 (Paid in 3 installments)
 - \$700 when hired;
 - \$700 upon academy graduation;
 - \$700 upon completion of probation.

Lateral / Comparative Compliance Police Officer:

- Lateral/ Comparative Compliance Police Officer Sign-On Bonus: \$2,100 (Paid in 3 installments)
 - \$700 when hired;
 - \$700 upon completion of the FTO program and released as a solo officer;
 - \$700 upon completion of probation.

Correctional Officer Programs

Sign-on Bonus Program:

- Correctional Officer Sign-on Bonus: \$10,000 (Paid in 3 installments)
 - \$3,333 when hired;
 - \$3,333 upon academy graduation;
 - \$3,334 upon completion of probation.

Lateral / Comparative Compliance Officer:

- Lateral/Comparative Compliance Correctional Officer Sign-On Bonus: \$10,000 (Paid in 3 installments)
 - \$3,333 when hired;
 - \$3,333 upon completion of the FTO program and released as a solo officer;
 - \$3,334 upon completion of probation.

Relocation Bonus:

- Re-location bonus for newly hired Correctional Officers moving from a residence located at least 50 miles from the Charles County line.



- Re-location bonus of \$5,000 if the employee re-locates to Charles County or within a 25-mile radius of the Charles County line;
- Employee will receive the bonus upon showing proof of address change;
- Re-location bonus benefit expires one year from the date of employment.

Employee Referral Bonus

- Employee Referral Bonus for a Sworn Officer or Correctional Officer: \$1,000 (2 installments)
 - \$500 when hired;
 - \$500 after the referred employee graduates the academy; or
 - \$500 upon completion of probation for a lateral officer.

Terms & Conditions:

- Only one employee will be eligible for the referral bonus per newly hired employee.
- The applicant will provide the Agency with the name of the employee who has referred them. This will be accomplished during the new employee orientation and will be documented via Sign-on Bonus / Employee Referral application.
- Employees not eligible for the referral bonus are as follows.
 - Employees of the Pre-employment and Recruiting Section.
 - Employees acting in the capacity of a recruiter or attending recruiting events on behalf of the agency at the time an applicant is recruited.

Recruiter Bonus

Agency employees who participate at recruiting events will be entitled to a bonus of \$100 per every five (5) prospective employees they are responsible for recruiting to the formal background phase of the pre-employment process.

Terms and Conditions:

- The employee must be a certified recruiter through the Background / Recruitment Unit.
- The prospective employee must reach the point in the pre-employment process where they are assigned a background investigator.
- The prospective employee must have had a recruitment interaction with the recruiter (for example, attended a recruiting event the recruiter was assigned to, interacted with the recruiter outside of an event where the recruiter's advice led to the prospective employee applying to the agency, etc.).
- Bonus criteria will be tracked in collaboration between the Backgrounds / Recruitment Supervisor and the Recruiting Officer/Coordinator.



SO/24-01 SECURITY AND TRANSPORT OF ADMITTED PRISONERS TO THE HOSPITAL

(Updated 1/16/2026)

Purpose:

The purpose of this Special Order is to provide relief to Detention Center due to their current manpower shortage, by assisting with the security and transport of prisoners admitted to the hospital. When Corrections is unable to fill the assignment through on duty or overtime, the responsibility of staffing these assignments will transfer to the Judicial Services Section during specific hours (0700-1900), Monday through Friday. All hours outside of this will be the responsibility of the Patrol Divisions for up to 72 hours. See Process for further details.

Scope:

This order will continue until the number of correctional officer vacancies reaches an acceptable level and the Corrections Division can comply with section 4-609.5 SICK OR INJURED PRISONERS and 4-609.7 SECURITY OF ADMITTED PRISONER of this manual.

Process:

1. **If correctional officers are not available**, Correctional Staff will notify the on-duty Patrol Shift Commander to inform them of the need for a prisoner transport to a hospital.
2. The Patrol Shift Commander will obtain the incarcerated individual's name, date of birth, reason for transport, charges, and the inmate's level of cooperation. This will help in determining the number of officers needed to safely monitor the individual while away from the Detention Center.
3. A. During the regularly scheduled hours of the Judicial Services Section, Monday through Friday from 0700-1900 hrs., the Judicial Commander will arrange for judicial officers to fulfill this the request.
B. If Judicial Services is unavailable or the transport is requested outside of their regular working hours, it will be the responsibility of the Patrol Divisions to fulfill the request.
4. Patrol Shift Commander will, if manpower permits, staff the assignment with an on-duty patrol officer.
5. Patrol Shift Commander will, if manpower does not permit, request that the CCDC Shift Commander start an overtime assignment via agency email to fill the assignment. Sworn officers or firearms certified correctional officers may fill the assignment. If no volunteers are located, the Patrol Shift Commander will call in officer(s) from the incoming shift and / or hold over officer(s) at the end of their tour of duty to fulfill the assignment.
6. Once it is reasonable to believe the prisoner will remain at the hospital, CCDC staff will create and maintain an overtime list using CCDC hours (0700-1500, 1500-2300, 2300-0700). If CCDC is unable to fill the overtime, the Patrol Shift Commander will be contacted.
7. In the event, the assignment goes for an extended period (72 hours) or has multiple subjects involved (more than one incarcerated patient), additional support will be provided by the Criminal Investigations Division, the Special Operations Division, the Community Services Division, and the Special Services Division.
8. If it is likely the prisoner's stay will extend to 72 hours, the on-duty CCDC Shift Commander will notify the South Patrol Division Commander the day prior to reaching 72 hours to allow for proper planning. The South Patrol Division Commander will make notifications to the Commanders of the Criminal



Investigations Division (CID), Special Operations Division (SOD), Community Services Division (CSD) and Special Services Division (SSD) for assistance in fulfilling the assignment.

9. The CCDC Shift Commander will continue to send out agency emails requesting volunteers to fill the assignment. Volunteers must be located at least 8 hours prior to the needed shift. If none are located by this timeframe, Division Commanders from CID, SOD, CSD, and SSD will provide manpower to fill the assignment.
 - a) If the Patrol Division is contacted and is above minimum staffing levels, these assignments will be staffed with on-duty patrol officers.
 - b) During the assignment, overtime volunteers will be used first, and the assisting Divisions will be provided with the date and time which needs to be filled.
 - c) The Divisions will rotate in the below order throughout the assignment. Once the assignment is completed, a new order will be created based on the last Division to fill the assignment.

Based on the number of sworn officers in these divisions, the following schedule was created.

1. CID
2. CSD
3. CID
4. CSD
5. SSD
6. SOD



SO/24-02 COMMUNICATIONS STAFFING CRISIS – OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Effective April 12th, 2025, the Communications Staffing Crisis-Overtime Compensation section of the AOM in reference to overtime compensation for communications staff during a staffing crisis is in effect.

Effective: 12/14/2024

Rescinded: 1/27/2025

Effective: 4/12/2025

Rescinded: 6/13/2025



SO/25-01 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PART-TIME POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER POSITION

The temporary position of Part-Time Police Communications Officer (PCO) is officially established within the Support Services Division, Communications Section. This role is created to supplement full-time staffing by providing trained personnel capable of performing essential dispatch and communications duties on a part-time basis. Part-time PCOs will adhere to the same operational standards and training requirements as their full-time counterparts and will work under the direct supervision of the Police Communications Supervisor. This position operates as a contractual, year-to-year program subject to annual review and renewal based on operational needs, performance, and budgetary considerations. The program is contingent on the existence of vacancies within the Communications Section, Police Communications Officers. The program will be terminated, or number of participants reduced, as full-time positions are filled. It aims to enhance scheduling flexibility while ensuring the continuity of 24/7 emergency communications coverage.



SO/26-01 CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SYSTEMS

SUBJECT: Directives Governing the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Police Report Writing and Research

PURPOSE

This Special Order establishes clear guidelines and restrictions on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by agency personnel for assisting in police report writing and research. The purpose is to promote efficiency while protecting the integrity of investigations, ensuring compliance with all legal and privacy requirements, and safeguarding sensitive information.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Charles County Sheriff's Office that sworn and civilian personnel may use AI tools to assist in report writing and research only under the strict conditions outlined below. Personnel remain personally and professionally responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and legality of all work products. AI is a drafting and research aid only; it does not replace human judgment, verification, or accountability.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems:** Any publicly available or open-source generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, Claude, Copilot, or similar platforms).
2. **Open-Source AI Systems:** Any AI platform that is not hosted on a agency-controlled, secure server.
3. **Closed-System AI:** Future agency-approved AI platforms that operate entirely within a secure, agency-controlled environment with no external data transmission.
4. **Confidential or Personal Information:** Any data protected by law, agency policy, or privacy regulations, including (but not limited to) names, addresses, dates of birth, case numbers, victim / witness / suspect identifiers, statements, evidence details, body-worn camera footage descriptions, or any information that could identify individuals or compromise investigations.

PROCEDURES AND DIRECTIVES

1. Permitted Uses

- a) AI may be used for general, non-case-specific tasks such as grammar and spelling assistance, formatting suggestions, or summarizing publicly available statutes, case law, or agency policies.
- b) AI may assist in drafting initial report templates or outlines provided no confidential or personal information is entered.

2. Strict Prohibitions

- a) **No personal or confidential information shall ever be entered into any open-source AI system.** This includes copying and pasting narrative text, evidence summaries, witness statements, suspect descriptions, or any case-related details.
- b) Personnel shall not use open-source AI for any research or drafting that involves active cases, ongoing investigations, or protected data.

3. Review and Accuracy Requirements



- a) All reports, drafts, or research summaries that receive any AI assistance must be thoroughly proofread, edited, and verified for factual accuracy, completeness, legal compliance, and proper grammar by the authoring employee **before submission or approval**.
- b) AI-generated content is considered a first draft only. Employees must independently confirm every fact, citation, and detail against original sources (e.g., body-worn camera footage, incident reports, witness statements, or official records).
- c) Supervisors shall verify that the proofreading requirement has been met prior to report approval.

4. Future Agency AI Systems

- a) The Agency recognizes the potential value of secure AI technology. In the future, the agency may evaluate, approve, and deploy specific closed-system AI platforms designed exclusively for law-enforcement use. These systems will incorporate enterprise-level security, data retention controls, and no external transmission of agency data.
- b) Until such closed systems are officially implemented and authorized by written directive, personnel shall limit AI use to the restricted guidelines in this order.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) **All Personnel:** Must comply fully with this order. Any suspected violation must be reported immediately to a supervisor.
- b) **Supervisors:** Shall ensure subordinates understand and follow these directives and shall audit reports for evidence of improper AI use.

- 6. **VIOLATIONS** Violation of this Special Order may result in progressive discipline as defined by the AOM, in addition to any civil or criminal penalties that may apply under state or federal law.

- 7. **EFFECTIVE DATE** This order is effective immediately upon issuance. All personnel shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of this directive.

This Special Order shall remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.